

Capt. Gus. O'Brien Writes Newsy Letter

Writing to a Friend Here Says all Our Boys Are Well—All Experts Now With Pick and Shovel

Yesterday we referred to the narrow escape which Capt. Gus O'Brien of "Ours" had recently while fighting the Turks at Gallipoli. Gus writes an interesting and optimistic letter to a friend here and it was our privilege yesterday to take a few extracts from it. When writing, he had just come out of the trenches for a wash-up and rest after eight days of action. He and high appreciation of humour, and he says in his letter that all men and officers of Ours are now expert welders of the pick and spade, as they have had lots of experience in trench digging; so that he observes, when the boys get back to St. John's if no other news is available they will be eligible for foremost places on the streets in working with the Municipal Council.

He speaks in the highest terms of the Chaplains of the various denominations with the Army and says that two Catholic Priests are attached to the division of which the Terra Novans form a part. They give all the attention possible to the Catholic lads of our regiment and the men are much attached to them. One of them, Gus says, has already covered himself with glory in performing acts of supreme heroism. They celebrate mass behind the firing line.

The night before he wrote he went down to the beach to hear the roar of the sea and get a whiff of the ozone off the waters, and this greatly reminded him of the old homeland. He however, says, that this must not lead to the conclusion that he is homesick. Since going to Gallipoli from England he has had three watches broken up on him and the day before writing he had to borrow Jack Fox's tucker, so that he might have the time while on duty. He says all the boys were in good health and spirits when he wrote and the word fear is unknown amongst them.

MR. MCCARTHY TAKES UP NEW DUTIES

This morning at the Central District Court, Mr. F. J. Morris, K.C., J.P., presiding, inducted J. J. McCarthy, Esq., J.P., Barrister at Law, in the position of Clerk of the Peace for the Central District. He spoke of Mr. McCarthy's long and successful experience with the Newfoundland Bar and the many years he pleaded in the Central District Court, and believed that the profession would be pleased to welcome Mr. McCarthy back again. Mr. L. E. Emerson, Barrister at Law, who was present on behalf of the Members of the Bar expressed the pleasure the Profession would experience in the return of Mr. McCarthy to professional life, and believed he would have many years of usefulness in his new office and that his past record gave abundant assurance of his future success.

MAN VICTIMIZED

Considerable Money Stolen From His Person—Police Are Investigating

Within the past two days or so a resident of this city who does business in a nearby outport was the victim of a thief who relieved him of a large sum of money. While away from the city he remained in a certain house and the cash was stolen from his person. We could give other facts in the matter but as the police are investigating we do not wish to place any hindrances in their way.

BEAN SUPPER TO-NIGHT.

This afternoon the annual Cake and Pudding Sale will open at the Presbyterian Hall. It will conclude to-night with a bean supper, and being held as it is, for a very worthy object, should be largely patronized.

SCHOONER REPORTED LEAKING

Yesterday telegrams were received in the city, saying that the schooner "Malign" had put into Shamblers Cove in a leaky condition. She left Little Bay Islands for St. John's with a cargo of codfish and must have sprung a leak in recent storms.

INFLAMMABLE OILS ABOUT

We hear to-day that on some premises in the city there is a deal of lubricating oil which is considered to be highly inflammable and which has been recently landed. The authorities we also hear are taking steps to compel the owners to have it taken delivery of immediately and placed in the oil house.

SHIPPING

The Prospero sails North at 10 a.m. to-morrow.

The Portia left Trepassy at 9.55 to-day and is due here at 7 this evening.

The schooner "Tattler" left Bonne Bay yesterday for the Gorton Pew Co., Gloucester, with 2268 brls. herring.

The Sagona yesterday brought over a considerable foreign mail to Port aux Basques which will arrive by the express this evening.

The "Ocean Ranger" reached port from Hr. Grace last evening and will load codfish here for Brazil.

The schr. "Loretta Frances" left Ramea yesterday taking 3388 qtls. codfish shipped by Moulton, Penny & Co. for Oporto.

The schr. Molega, which took shelter at Loo Cove, and is leaking, will be towed to this port to discharge her fish and get repairs.

The schr. "Miss Morris" has left Hr. Grace for Gibraltar for orders, taking 4600 qtls Labrador codfish, shipped by Munn & Co.

The S.S. Stephano left New York for this port via Halifax at 6 p.m. yesterday and is due Monday next.

The schr. St. Joseph, bound from Sydney to Hr. Grace, coal laden, put in here yesterday evening out of the storm and will resume her voyage when the weather clears.

The schr. "Hazel Ritchy," Capt. Young, on her way to Green Bay to load herring for Gloucester, put in here out of the weather yesterday. She is commanded by Capt. Young of St. Jacques.

The S.S. Earl of Devon arrived here last evening from White Bay. She, like the Fogata and Prospero, had a very stormy voyage going and coming. She brought a full freight and a few passengers.

The S.S. St. Kilda, ashore at St. Pierre, was surveyed yesterday and the general belief is that she will be declared a total wreck. The tug "Douglas H. Thomas" arrived at St. Pierre from Halifax last night and will work at the wreck. The wrecked crew will go to Halifax.

At last night's meeting of Lodge Dudley the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

- W. P. P.—Bro. W. P. Butler. W. P.—Bro. W. T. Quick. V. P.—Bro. S. Merrills. Secretary—Bro. C. W. Udle. Fin. Secretary—Bro. Wilson Clarke. Treasurer—Bro. G. P. Hutchings. 1st. Guide—Bro. R. Pike. 2nd. Guide—Bro. C. Puddister. 3rd. Guide—S. Taylor. 4th. Guide—J. Bishop. 5th.—Bro. Reg. Dowden. 6th. Guide—Bro. E. Ebsary. Inner Guide—Bro. M. Spurrell. O. G.—Bro. W. Thistle. Lodge Surgeon—Bro. Dr. Anderson. Vice-President C. W. Udle was elected to represent the lodge at the Grand Lodge Session to be held in August 1916 at Halifax, N.S. The election was conducted by Vice-President Goodland, assisted by Bros. Dowden, Hierlihy and J. S. Noonan.

THE ILLUSTRATED CHRISTMAS TRIBUNE, ALL SOLD OUT—The Publisher of The Illustrated Christmas "Tribune" wishes to announce that the first lot is sold and that no books can be had from Plaindealer Office before Saturday, when the second instalment will be ready. Copies can still be had at the Tobacconists and Bookstores.

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.

The Department of Mines and Agriculture will be closed to-morrow afternoon as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Thos. Long, for years Deputy Head of the Department.

NOTICE

CLARKE'S BEACH COUNCIL intend holding their Annual Meeting, MONDAY, December 20th. All members in place at time are requested to attend.

S. J. WELLS, Chairman.

Catalina Notes

CATALINA, Dec. 13.—On Thursday evening last during a Southerly gale about 25 schooners took shelter here on their way from St. John's. Four or five, however, passed along, which, according to reports received a severe drubbing before they reached their destination. The schooner Drummers Tax, Capt. James Murphy, also arrived with a load of supplies for the firm of McCormack & Walsh and the F.P.U.

Two or three schooners on their way to St. John's from the North side of Bonavista Bay, have to-night in Trinity Bay, having to run here for shelter from the storm as soon as daylight broke.

Saturday morning we experienced a severe snow storm which lasted all day. The train being about thirty hours late. Mr. A. Targett, M.H.A., also came from Trinity by the train, and he will remain here for a few days.

Skipper Samuel Bishop from St. Jones Within is now here with his summer's voyage. He is discharging at P. Templeman's wharf.

THE PROSPERO ARRIVES.

The S.S. Prospero arrived here at 2.30 p.m. yesterday from the Northward. The ship had one of the most stormy trips since she was commissioned for the Northern service. The weather was particularly severe on the run North, when gales of N. E. wind prevailed and a very heavy sea, the same prevailing on the return run. Her passenger list was a large one. There came in the saloon:—

- Messrs. H. Heller, A. Bussey, J. Bussey, Dr. Dilatour, T. Ollerhead, H. Dean, Rev. Vivian, A. Parsons, J. J. Norris, W. H. Reid, E. W. Breen, P. Martin, A. Tilley, A. Michael, S. Locke, P. Burke, P. Budgett, Rev. Fr. Nolan, R. Boyde, S. Knight, J. B. Osmond, J. Winsor, J. Hawkins, E. Roberts, J. Clark, E. Hawkins, A. Samson, J. Cook; Master Dewling, T. Banfield, B. Tarville, J. Lannon, P. Mullett, W. Bungay, D. Hall, W. Wicks, A. Elliott; Misses Pye, Breen (2), Lyver, Maunder, Roberts, Diamond, Earle, Short; Mesdames Dean, Maunder, Hann, Kean, Diamond and 56 steerage.

THE BULLDOG OF 'EM ALL.—The Newfoundland Illustrated Christmas "Tribune" is now on sale. The largest number issued—40 pages with colored cover, 18 contributions and a supplement of 16 pages containing 100 pictures. Send one to your soldier friend. Sale price 20 cents. Newsboys wanted to make big money.

LOTS OF HERRING IN GREEN BAY.

As we stated recently there are lots of herring in Green Bay, a fact which is confirmed by the Prospero. The fish are of very large size and excellent quality and Mr. Doggett and others are putting them up after the Scotch manner.

The weather of the past ten days or more has been a set back to the fishermen, and if fine weather soon prevails a large catch may be expected. Good prices are being paid the fishermen for catching the herring.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

In the Police Court to-day F. J. Morris, K.C., presided and discharged a drunk. Mrs. O'Brien of Adelaide Street summoned her son for disorderly conduct in her house on the 11th inst. From her evidence it appeared that he entered the house drunk, kicked up a row and smashed the furniture. He was asked to give his own bonds in \$50.00 to keep the peace or go down for 30 days.

HOLLWEG SEES KAISER, GETS POINTS ON SPEECH

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 8.—Despatches from Berlin state that Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, has gone to confer with Emperor William at army headquarters. It is said that the purpose of his visit is to discuss with the Emperor the details of the Chancellor's coming speech in the Reichstag, which is awaited with feverish interest by the public.

Seldom has there been such a demand for seats in the galleries of the Reichstag, and the coming statement is the subject of universal speculation. Germany's intention regarding the Balkans and the possibilities of peace are the chief topics upon which the Chancellor is expected to give light.

OTTAWA, Dec. 9.—A particularly striking example of self-patriotism is given by an aged officer of the Marine and Fisheries Department in Nova Scotia. He writes Hon. J. D. Hazen: "I beg to inform the Department that I am an aged man now, too old to go to the battle field, but I shall be pleased at any time to tender my resignation from the position that I now hold, in favor of any disabled soldier, returning from the front."

LOCAL ITEMS

Mr. Jonas Clarke arrived by Prospero last evening seriously ill and was taken to Hospital in the ambulance by Mr. Eli Whiteway.

Owing to the wet weather yesterday the Volunteers had drill in the armory. Quite a number of the men of the city are now on leave.

Yesterday two cases of diphtheria were reported from a residence on Blackmarsh Road. Both patients were sent to Hospital.

The Prospero, this trip, brought up from Green Bay 500 brls. Scotch cured herring which were packed there and which are of excellent quality.

According to a message received yesterday by A. J. Harvey & Co. the S.S. Bonaventure has arrived at Naples o.k.

There was a rumour about the city to-day that the embargo on our fish entering Greece had been raised. The mercantile people, however, gave it no credence.

There was a big rain and wind storm along the railway line yesterday and the Reid-Nfld. Co's wire were interrupted. To-day it is raining on this end of the line and fine west.

The Messrs Roberts and Capt. Burgess were in court to-day, their bonds having expired, when the preliminary enquiry into the charge of barratry preferred against them was continued and had not concluded up to 1 p.m.

A little girl aged 3 1/2 years, ill of diphtheria, was sent to hospital from Pennywell Road last evening. There had already been a case of the disease there.

Several salmon were taken in nets at Bay Bulls and other parts of the Southern Shore Monday and were brought to the city yesterday. One fine fish weighing 25 lbs. taken at Mobile, was sold to Mr. W. Campbell, butcher.

The assertion that the "Senlac" had poultry on board made by a contemporary yesterday is incorrect. The first shipments of Xmas poultry will come here by the Stephano, which is due Monday next.

The officers and members of the Salvation Army are now busy preparing to secure the annual Christmas dinner and supplies of good things for the poor of the city. The collection pots will be about again as usual and every deserving case irrespective of creed will be supplied. We believe that our people will respond this year as generously as in the past to this worthy movement.

Detective Sgt. Byrne who had been at Clarendville investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of the man Baker who fell into the hold of a steamer, returned by last night's train. The man fell 16 feet and was killed instantly.

Mr. Dan Delmar sings an Irish Ballad at the Crescent Picture Palace to-day. A special three-part feature: "The Blessed Miracle" is the headline on the picture programme. This great drama is produced by the Lubin Company and features the Lubin Stars, Edith Clayton and Joseph Hanftin. "The Bandit and the Baby" is a class comedy. Go to-day and see this big picture show and hear Mr. Delmar sing "When its Moonlight in Mayo."

Toronto (Noon)—Mild with occasional rain. Thursday, west winds.

The Best American Mayo's... 15c Plug. At the Royal Cigar Store, Bank Square, Water Street.

War Messages.

View Ford Party With Indifference

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The steamer Oscar II, which has on board Henry Ford and his peace advocates, has not yet been reported. It was learned from official sources, however, it is hardly likely the ship, which is destined for Christiania, will be taken into Kirwaall. It is believed the Oscar II. has no cargo aboard.

Following the policy outlined recently in the House of Commons it is not expected the Government will bring the passengers any nearer the British coast than necessary. The Government views the enterprise of Ford with indifference.

The policy which official circles believe can be followed with the greatest advantage is by keeping the Ford part as far as possible from the British shores.

FOR HOW LONG?

SOFIA, Dec. 15.—It is announced here that the Sobranje will meet on Dec. 28th. The Government will be supported by all parties, except the Socialists. At a meeting of the Ministry at which it was decided to convene the Sobranje, it was announced that Bulgaria had enlarged her territory by over thirty-one thousand miles.

THEY CAN A-FORD

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from its correspondent at Zurich says:—"I am assured that local pacifists have asked Germany to permit the Ford peace party to reach Switzerland by way of Germany without passports or any formality in order that they may co-operate with the peace colony here."

TURKISH FORCES ESTIMATED AT 650,000

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Replying to a question in the House of Commons to-day, Harold T. Tennant, Parliamentary Under Secretary of War, said it was calculated that Turkey had 650,000 men in the field, and that this force, under certain circumstances, might be increased to a million.

KEEPING UP THEIR COURAGE

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent telegraphs the following, basing it on information received from Berlin:—"More than 10,000 machine guns have been completed to strengthen the German Eastern front. The Bulgarian and Turkish armies have recently been plentifully supplied with machine guns from Germany. All trains from Germany to Constantinople, since the railway has been repaired has been used in transporting ammunition and machine guns, as well as great quantities of rails for Palestine."

MOULDERS STRIKE

PITTSBURG, Dec. 14.—Pickets to-day watched the sixty-seven foundries where fifteen hundred moulders and core makers struck to enforce their demands for an 8 hours day for a four dollar rate, which they now receive for 9 hours.

WAITING FOR HINT FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES

ZURICH, Dec. 14.—A Vienna despatch says the American Ambassador Penfield presented the United States Government Ancona Note to the Austrian Foreign Office on Saturday.

The despatch adds that in Austrian political circles it is considered the Note goes much too far, but the Press refrain from commenting on it until a hint is received from official sources.

RESULT DERBY'S PLAN

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Between two million and 2,500,000 men have enlisted under the plan of Earl Derby, according to the Daily Sketch. This paper says this figure may be reduced under analysis and that it is quite possible that the figures relative to single men may prove to be below the required standard.

NEW YORK STORM SWEPT

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The centre of one of the heaviest snow storms this section of the country has experienced in several years passed north-east of New York to-day leaving in its wake a tangle of broken telegraph poles and wires.

Fresh Troops Pour Into Saloniki

ALLIES RETIREMENT WAS MADE IN PERFECT ORDER—All Stores Saved and Secured—Large Herds of Sheep and Cattle

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Reviewing the past week's operations, Reuter's correspondent at Salonika says that fighting during the week did no serious harm to the Allied forces. The Bulgarians have shown no desire to come to close quarters since Monday of last week. The British casualties on that day, says the correspondent, although severe, totalled less than a thousand, but during the rest of the week a few dozen would sum up the total casualties along the whole Franco-British front.

During the week the Allies retired about fourteen miles by gradual stages, removing all their own stores and absolutely denuding the country of everything valuable to the enemy. An unusual sight that was witnessed was herds of cattle and sheep being driven ahead by the Allied soldiers, who greatly enjoy this novel fatigue duty.

On Saturday the rearguard of the Allies was only two miles from the Greek frontier, and the town of Doiran had been completely stripped. The British recognized numerous German uniforms among the Bulgarian troops.

Meanwhile reinforcements continue to pour into Salonika, including several Scotch regiments, and on a semi-circle of hills surrounding the town, fortifications are rapidly nearing completion. The soldiers are confident, and many of them express the hope that they will soon be able to test the strength of these works against the enemy.

New Orders Restrict Couriers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The State Department announced to-day that Germany would no longer permit American diplomatic couriers travelling between Berlin and London, to carry merchandise, but that couriers would be allowed passage as heretofore for the conveyance of diplomatic exchanges only.

The restrictions imposed by Germany, the department officials said, would not prevent or delay communication by courier between American Embassies at London and Berlin.

DONE GOOD WORK

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Since the system of inspection of British prisoners' camps in Germany was instituted, the staff of the States Embassy in Berlin have paid 155 visits to the camps, said Lord Robert Cecil in the Commons to-day. By their untiring efforts they have secured improvements, though even now conditions in some camps are far from satisfactory.

ITALIAN DEPUTIES GREET BROTHER SOLDIERS

ROME, Dec. 14.—The Chamber of Deputies has been adjourned until March 1st. The adjournment was taken after an imposing demonstration in tribute to the King and Army.

IMPRISONED

LONDON, Dec. 14.—It was announced in the House of Commons to-day that the number of Alien enemies interned in England is:—

BULGARS CLOSING IN

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A despatch filed at Salonika on Monday by Reuter's correspondent, says that the Bulgarians have occupied positions, formerly held by the Serbians along the Graeco-Serbian frontier.

The last report was that all was quiet there.

NOTICE

THERE will a meeting of the Patriotic Association of Newfoundland at the Board of Trade Rooms, Water Street, on THURSDAY, the 16th inst., at 8 p.m. V. P. BURKE, Hon. Sec'y.

Japanese Fleet Reviewed by Emperor

YOKOHAMA, Dec. 10.—Emperor Yoshihito reviewed the Japanese fleet here last week, in connection with the celebration of his coronation. From the heights surrounding the bay hundreds of thousands of persons witnessed the demonstration of Japan's sea power and heard the roar of guns, which, firing simultaneously, discharged about 8000 shots in giving the Imperial salutes. There were 125 warships in line.

The Tsukuba, escorted by the armored cruiser Tokiwa and the cruiser Yahagi, steamed through the fleet, formed in five lines, each five miles long. The crew of each warship, manning the rail, shouted "Banzai" as the Emperor passed by.

FRENCH AVIATORS BRILLIANT FEAT

PARIS, Dec. 10.—Details of the aerial duel in which a German aeroplane was brought down into the sea, off the Belgian coast, on Nov. 28, are given by the French aviator who performed the feat.

"Although it was very cold on that Sunday morning," said the aviator, "I set out on an aeroplane of the latest model, having with me as observer Lieut. M— just recognized as one of our best marksmen. Regardless of the cold wind, we flew at a high speed.

"As we approached the Dixmude-Ypres sector, my attention was attracted to a German aeroplane of the albatross type. I made for it, with all haste, but seeing itself discovered the enemy machine turned about and headed towards the sea."

The two machines were soon engaged high above the sea, each using machine guns. Describing his manoeuvres during the duel, the aviator continued:

"I flew straight for a hundred yards and then dropped thirty yards under the albatross, manipulating my machine so that the speed conformed to that of the enemy. My observer was prepared to rise on our adversary, when bullets from the albatross whizzed past our heads. I made another defensive movement, a little to the right. Just then my observer let go fifty cartridges.

"The effect was immediate. I had just time to move out of the way when the albatross gave a lunge. Was it hit, or was it simply another manoeuvre? I had hardly asked myself this question, however, when I noticed that the momentum of the albatross in its descent seemed to be increasing.

"At this moment we were 4,200 yards up. German anti-aircraft guns, which had previously fired at us, again sought our machine with their fire, but I had other things to think of than enemy shrapnel, namely, whether the enemy machine was yet effective and would put us out of action if we flew a little higher.

"We were relieved to see the albatross drop yet more speedily, until finally it was engulfed by the waves. In the clear weather, through our glasses, we observed oil from the motor of the enemy machine spreading over the surface of the water, making a large spot on the immense field of blue.

"For five minutes we circled above our victim, careless of the firing of the German anti-aircraft guns, which failed to reach us. We could see the boats leaving Middlekerke, hastily making for the spot where the machine fell. We returned to our own lines. An hour later my observer, with another pilot, Captain X., went back to the scene, and succeeded in procuring a good photograph of the wrecked albatross."

This is the second machine brought down by a French aeroplane under this pilot. He already has been awarded the war cross, and has been proposed for the military medal.

Peeved notes from Fort Bliss imply that Huerta is one of the worst callers in the country.

Still, no more bombs will be placed in the capitol until a way has been tunnelled thru the surrounding watchmen.

"America must make good," cries Gus Gardner; wouldn't it answer as well if the other countries would only go good?

WANTED—Immediately, a General Servant for a family of two. Apply this office. dec11,tf