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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 24, 1915.

THE DARDANELLES.

London heard Thursday that the operations for the penetration of the Dardanelles are now approaching the final phase, which includes mine-sweeping sufficient to permit the great battleships to get the range of the last of the formidable forts, after the reduction of which the way will be clear to Constantinople.

Recently in the British House of Commons when the war was under discussion it was noted that the Prime Minister devoted a large portion of his speech to the attack on the Dardanelles and the important consequences likely to follow success in that direction. An English reviewer indicates that with the fall of Constantinople the way to a victory in Hungary will be open. The extensive invasion of Hungary would have the greatest possible effect on the whole war.

"It is difficult to imagine any cost that would be too high to pay for the forcing of the Dardanelles and the occupation of Constantinople that would follow. Not only would it relieve the blockade of Russia, which there is reason to think is beginning to have a very serious effect on her military operations, but it would ruin all Germany's Turkish ambitions, which were the most important cause of the European war. The fall of Constantinople would have moral effects as great as the fall of Antwerp, and its military and political consequences would be far greater. With European Turkey in their hands, the Allies ought to be able to call their own tune in the Balkans, and the dream of another war-front against Germany on the south ought to become a reality. Hungary is still, after all the counter-preparations made by Germany, the weakest area in the German military system of defences. And the surest way to victory in Hungary is through the Dardanelles."

It is well within the possibilities that Constantinople will be reduced during the next three weeks.

AN UNEASY AUTHOR.

The author of that famous book "Pan-Germanism," Professor Roland G. Usher, is warning Americans of the dangers that will confront them after the present war. His new book, "Pan-Americanism," just issued by the Century Company, contains the prediction that after the war the United States will have to enter into a struggle either with Germany or with Great Britain for the mastery of South America, and as Professor Usher expects Great Britain to win he believes that it will be the British Empire that the United States will have to face. Professor Usher's first book made him famous. His fame is not likely to be increased by his new book, for although he virtually predicts victory for the Allies he apparently entertains the idea that Great Britain is likely to seize Alaska, and perhaps use force in an attempt to shut the United States out from trade in South America. First, as to the present war:

"Prof. Usher asserts that from present indications most critics conclude that the end of the war will find England still supreme upon the sea. They point to the natural ability of the English as sailors, to the preponderance in size of the English fleet over the German, to the centuries of successful experience behind the English leaders, to the possibility of another Nelson or a new Drake. Victory will not change our fundamental relations to the sea power nor yet the fundamental premise that the sea power itself is for England a defensive arm of the sea of which for aggression would endanger its own existence. The same considerations which have hitherto made it a political England's generous use of her authority would still dictate little if any interference with other nations. Nevertheless, the defeat of the German navy—and in all probability its defeat will mean its destruction—will affect a substantive change in these factors of the situation most essential to the safety and prosperity of the United States."

When he speaks of "Latin America" Professor Usher evidently includes Mexico, as otherwise his figures would be incorrect. As to Latin America:

"Professor Usher points out the great advantages of Latin America for colonization by any European Power. He asserts that these advantages are but little if at all realized by Americans who never stop to consider that a vast country it is in square miles alone. It has three-quarters of the population of the United States, with three times its area. The natural resources of this country, he asserts, are vast almost beyond belief and the land is excessively fertile. More than that, it is almost virgin soil, as the resources have been

scarcely uncovered and the ground has been barely scratched."

As to Alaska, he says that geographically it is a part of Canada and not of the United States, and that the United States' title to it rests upon purchase rather than upon conquest or discovery, and upon a purchase made at a time when the mineral deposits were scarcely suspected. He adds:

"The simplicity of the operations required to add Alaska to Canada will be apparent to the least informed. Separated as it is from the United States proper, easily approached from any part of Western Canada, and inhabited at present by a sparse and cosmopolitan population, it would be difficult indeed for us to defend."

Presumably it is the vast power Great Britain will have after the present war that makes Professor Usher uneasy. He asks his fellow countrymen to consider the situation:

"Our whole foreign trade is in her hands, all our approaches at the mercy of her fleet once that fleet is victorious over its present enemies, and an army could invade the United States from Canada with ease and probably with success. It could not, indeed, hope to hold the country or conquer it, but a dash at New York, Chicago or Seattle is eminently feasible."

After the war, he goes on to say, British capital will no longer be invested in Germany, and the only country sufficiently large and rich in resources to attract the immense amount of money which Great Britain will desire to invest abroad is South America, and in that direction, he asserts, British commercial expansion must be at the expense of the United States.

South American countries have long been suspicious of the United States, fearing, as they do, that the Americans desire to establish some form of control over them. They have hitherto shown an inclination to trade more largely with Europe than the United States, and the effect of this inclination has been greatly increased by the absence of an American merchant marine. After the war the struggle for South American trade will presumably go on by free competition, and the best-equipped nation will get the bulk of the trade, without fighting for it. As to British designs upon Alaska they are probably not sufficiently serious to keep even an uneasy person like Professor Usher awake at night.

THE KING OF THE NACKAWICK.

"If Mr. Pinder's own sense of what is right does not determine him to refuse the position of Chairman of the Public Accounts committee, it is hoped his fellow members will be sufficiently impressed with the importance of the position to demand a new Chairman. Mr. Pinder should no longer be Chairman of the Public Accounts committee. Connection of his name with a public transaction of unsavory odor is sufficient to impress that fact on the government, the Legislature and the country," St. John Globe.

Quite true. And, of course, all this was known and well recognized before the reform administration of Premier Clarke made up the list of committees with Mr. Pinder at the head of the Committee on Public Accounts.

As the pressure of political necessity was sufficient to cause Hon. Mr. Clarke to embrace Mr. Pinder officially, there is likely to steal into the public mind some question as to the efficacy of Mr. Clarke's efforts, or his fitness, to carry through successfully the uplift movement in provincial politics which was supposed to be his mission when he consented to fill the shoes of Mr. Flemming. Whatever Mr. Clarke may be moved to do now concerning Mr. Pinder's position, it will be unfortunately obvious that he has lost caste by failing to prevent Mr. Pinder from reoccupying the position of chairman, even temporarily. As to all of these matters, Mr. Pinder, of course, has his own opinions, and a fair inference from the facts is that he has imposed his own views upon Mr. Clarke.

And by the way, if the "connection of his name with a public transaction of unsavory odor" is sufficient to deprive a man like Mr. Pinder of the confidence of the government, the Legislature, and the country, what is to prevent the application of that ruling to the Conservative candidate in Carleton-Victoria, who was formerly the Premier of this unhappy province?

THREE BATTLESHIPS SUNK.

The irresistible and the Ocean, British battleships sunk by drifting mines in the Dardanelles on March 18, along with the French battleship Bouvet, were first-class ships of the formidable and Canopus class respectively, old but powerful. The earlier reports last evening indicated that the crews were lost, but fortunately this was incorrect. The Admiralty announces "that practically the whole of the crews were removed under a hot fire," and that good news does much to reduce the gravity of the disaster. It appears that the brave seamen of the French ship were not so fortunate. It is feared most of them were lost.

The irresistible was thirteen years old, a 15,000-ton ship of eighteen knots, with a battery of four 12-inch and twelve 6-inch guns. The Ocean was built in 1900, and was a vessel of 12,950 tons. Her battery was the same as that of the irresistible.

The old battleships were lost at the conclusion of a terrific bombardment of the most powerful forts which began at 10.45 a. m. and lasted until after six o'clock. The Queen Elizabeth and five other British ships of the newer types silenced the forts, which had at first made a fairly effective reply. Early in the afternoon the irresistible, the Ocean and four other British ships went in to relieve the French squadron which had been hearing the brunt of the enemy's fire. As the French ships withdrew the Bouvet struck a mine and went down—"in less than three minutes." The forts re-opened their fire on the relieving British ships and the action was con-

tinued hotly until a little after four o'clock, when a drifting mine struck the irresistible. She sank in about an hour. The Ocean encountered a mine a little later, and eventually sank more quickly than the irresistible, yet not before her crew could be taken off. "The loss of the ships," says the Admiralty report, "was caused by mines drifting with the current, which were encountered in areas hitherto swept clean, and this danger will require special treatment." The British fleet, and the French Gascals were damaged by gun-fire during the action, and other ships were hit but apparently without much effect.

The receipt of the news in London was followed by characteristic British action. Two more powerful ships were despatched to replace those lost, and it was announced that the operations in the Dardanelles would be continued without delay and with good prospect of success. The forts are proving formidable enough, but evidently the ships will pound them into submission once they have overcome the danger from the drifting mines. The loss of the three ships will give momentary encouragement to the enemy, but the Allies expect losses, and will not be discouraged or halted by them. They are going through.

"UNSAVORY TRANSACTIONS."

Mr. Pinder is one of York County's representatives in the local Legislature. Mr. Flemming is the Conservative candidate for the House of Commons in Carleton-Victoria. The Globe recently laid down the rule that the connection of Mr. Pinder's name with a transaction of unsavory odor should be sufficient to disbar him from being made chairman of the public accounts committee. But he has been made chairman of that committee, and it remains for the Globe to convince Premier Clarke that this sort of thing will not do.

WAR COMMENT.

The heavy fighting around Neuve Chapelle by the British and in the Champagne district by the French is accepted in many quarters as indicating that the Allies are testing the German line for the purpose of ascertaining how strongly it is held and what it will cost in men to break through when the time comes. It is suggested that the Germans in the East will be content from now forward to hold the Russians on approximately the present line, in order that the bulk of their strength may be used against Joffre and French in the west. For a long time past the Germans have remained from attempts to hack their way through in force in Belgium and France, and one observer who believes that the Allies are now ready to advance reminds us that "there are no trenches so powerful but that they can be taken at a price." What that price is has been shown by the recent battles on the British and French fronts. This observer argues that the Allied attack is bound to fall in two areas in the West, and that Belgium may at least hope that the principal struggle will not be decided in her shattered territory. He says:

"It is plain from the enormous efforts and small gains entailed by French warfare that the Allies, if they are to clear the Germans out of France and Belgium, cannot hope to do so by pushing tactics. They must break through; they must select the vital points; and they must make the attempt at places as far removed as possible from Paris, and as near as possible to the main German lines of communications. Two areas of concentrated fighting are thus indicated. For the British armies the line of advance must be from between Arras and Amiens against the German position between Lille and Douai. Success along this front would threaten the German line from Valenciennes to Cambrai, and with that the entire German position along the Oise and the western stretches of the Aisne. For the French, the most promising area lies between the Argonne and Verdun. Such a move would threaten the great east and west line of German communications from Metz to the region north of Rheims. For unhappy Belgium there is the consolation that if her redemption is to be effected, the decision will not be fought out on her soil."

The Russians are coming back again, and as a decision in the near future is to be expected in the Dardanelles, it is unlikely that Germany will be able to hold the Russians where they are today. It is more likely that as the ground hardens the Grand Duke will be able to invade Austria-Hungary more seriously than at any time since the beginning of the war, and if Roumania enters the conflict, as seems highly probable, Germany will soon be confronted by a desperate situation on the eastern front.

NAVAL LOSSES.

At the beginning of the war it was estimated that Great Britain, France, Russia and Japan had on the seas a total warship tonnage of 5,000,000 tons, while Germany, Austria and Turkey had 1,750,000 tons. Up to the first of March all of the losses during the war amounted to two and one-half per cent for Great Britain and its allies, and seven per cent for Germany and its allies. The losses are thus tabulated:

	Great Britain and Allies.	Germany and Allies.
Battleships	13	2
Cruisers	13	19
Gunboats	5	11
Destroyers	2	9
Submarines	4	6
Torpedo boats	4	1
Armored merchantmen	5	16

Totals—Great Britain and Allies, 35 vessels of about 185,000 tons; Germany and Allies, 62 vessels of about 175,000 tons.

To the Allies' loss must now be added the battleships lost by mines in the Dardanelles on Thursday, as reported in this morning's despatches.

The largest ship the Allies lost by gun-fire alone was the British armored cruiser Good Hope, of 14,100 tons. That instead of parrying the Russian Army, they made that advance as a preliminary for the sake of the general cause before their whole armies were ready. Then they have seen how they swept backwards and forwards—these two long lines in Poland and Galicia, and after all these months the Russians hold their ground and the Germans hurl themselves against it apparently to very little purpose, so that you have for the moment what is sometimes described as a deadlock on both fronts.

Germany's losses in ships of war would have been infinitely greater had she not withdrawn her principal ships to the shelter of her fortified harbors. Her naval authorities seem to have decided not to risk the main German fleet unless the British fleet can be greatly reduced in fighting power by means of submarines and mines, which seems most unlikely, judging by the losses during

seven months of war. In merchant ships Great Britain has lost heavily, and more losses are to be expected; but Great Britain is building merchant vessels faster than she is losing them, and the First Lord of the Admiralty recently reminded the world that even after Trafalgar Great Britain lost on an average more than 500 merchant ships each year for five or six years. Her losses will be relatively less than that now, and she will be able to maintain her food supply, convey her troops, keep up her trade to a great extent, and still banish German ships from the sea. In addition to these things it is now expected that the British and French fleets will force the Dardanelles and reduce Constantinople in the near future. Truly, the British navy has been the biggest force in the war.

THE FIGHTING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

General Botha has a hard task on his hands in dealing with German Southwest Africa. For the last thirty years Germany has granted 40,000,000 marks a year to that colony, and nearly all of this money has been applied to military purposes. To-day the colony is described as a vast armed camp. Its frontiers are protected by chains of block houses, all having telephonic and telegraphic connections with one another and with the capital. A great belt of sand and desert lies between the interior of German Southwest Africa and the South African Union. The latest estimate of military strength of the German colony gives it two field regiments of mounted infantry, thirty-six field batteries, sixteen machine-gun detachments, a railway corps, two field telegraph divisions, and a reserve of about 6,000 farmers, most of whom are trained shots accustomed to fighting after the Boer fashion. There is an aviation section too, a camel corps and a large force of mounted police. It is believed that the Germans have four Taube monoplane, and some of these have already been used for scouting over the British lines. The European soldiers number about 16,000 men, in addition to which there are several divisions of native troops. General Botha is said to be handicapped by a lack of aeroplanes and proper artillery, but he has a formidable force of good fighting men, and seems confident of his ability to conquer the German colony. Evidently this will not be accomplished without much stiff fighting. An English observer says of Botha's plan:

"The very cautious advance of the Union forces along the two dismantled railway lines that lead from the coast to the heart of German Southwest Africa has now enabled the southern contingent, operating from Luderitz Bay, to conquer seventy of the hundred miles or so of desert that faces them, and the northern body, whose base is at Swakmund, to push forward twenty-three miles. General Botha has reviewed the southern force and taken personal command of the northern. The men are in good health and spirits, and the burgher commandos which General Botha wisely called into being in addition to the regular force are finding even the appalling country in which they are working no fatal obstacle to a swift series of manoeuvres that disconcerts the enemy outposts with whom they come in contact. They have not, however, yet had to deal with more than outposts, for the main German army, which is of great strength for the size of the colony, remains based on its central line of railway. It is, no doubt, the German plan to let General Botha's forces spend themselves on the desert, and then to fall on them separately. Not only, therefore, must each step of the Union advance be most carefully secured, but such a co-operation and convergence of the two arms of the attacking force must be arranged as will ensure that one half of it shall not be compelled alone to withstand the full onslaught of the Germans when that is made. It is a problem that will try even the skill of General Botha."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Saskatchewan is going on the water wagon.

A report is in circulation that the provincial prohibition law, that would be a very interesting sort of war measure. The Mounted Rifles have gone to Amherst, and St. John is sorry to lose them but confident that they will prove to be fine soldiers. They are a likely lot of men, and when the time comes they will give a good account of themselves. The heartfelt good wishes of the community go with them. They are doing the utmost that lies in their power to make our cause victorious and for that we honor them.

Apparently some of the Conservative newspapers, led by the Standard, are trying to drive Mr. J. L. Stewart, M. P. to cover by a fire of explosives. It is most unlikely that Mr. Stewart will be discouraged from frank criticism of the administration by such tactics on the part of the government press. It is more likely that Mr. Stewart will persist in the attitude of independent critic, and if he does so the results will be interesting.

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of attack, and I am sure the Germans will make violent attacks on one side and another in the hope of breaking through one army or the other. But I think the time is quickly approaching when that will be very difficult. It seems probable that in the west it may already be too difficult. The best opportunity for Germany, I suppose, would be before our own new armies are quite ready and in the field. It is not, we hope, a very long time before that will happen, while the Germans appear to be growing stronger from week to week. It seems to me, therefore, that though we are far removed from being without anxiety as to the future, we may feel, that so far as this war has gone, terrible as it is, it has come in circumstances far more favorable than we were entitled to expect, and that, as regards its course hitherto, we have much for which we can be thankful and little to regret."

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THE B. C. ELECTIONS.

The indefinite postponement of the British Columbia elections, which Sir Richard McBride once announced for April 10, is leading to an examination of the administration's troubles. It is now said that had Sir Richard insisted upon going to the country on the date originally selected some of his followers would have run as independent candidates opposed to his proposed railway subsidies. Much publicity has been given the opinion recently expressed in an interview by Sir Hilbert Tupper. In the course of that interview he said: "I believe this Province has been shamefully misgoverned since the last Provincial election. In my opinion the government is largely responsible for the serious financial condition which existed in this Province long before the war. I believe their defeat would greatly assist in bringing about a sane administration of our public affairs and in restoring confidence in British Columbia."

The time when Sir Richard McBride had everything his own way in British Columbia is past. The railways and land companies have been his favorites, and the province has been mortgaged very heavily. Under the pressure of bad times the people have begun to examine what the government has been doing. Sir Richard may win again, but for the moment even he is in doubt about it.

The Liberal Manchester Guardian believes the people of the United Kingdom ought to have more real news of the war. It says:

"The sound general rule that Englishmen, being a self-governing people, have a right to know what is happening in all parts of the world for which they have any sort of responsibility is of course subject to the exception that nothing should be divulged which might be useful to the enemy in prosecuting the war. But that sound general rule is in danger of perversion into a general official prejudice in favor of secrecy where and so long as it can be kept up. That is to defeat the whole object of a censorship in a free country, and to introduce a poison into politics which if left unchecked would end by destroying popular government. As surely as this country lives on the fresh air that blows in from the open sea, popular government depends on candor in its rulers and full publicity in its news. The exceptions should be to the rule of candor, not as they are threatening to become, to the rule of secrecy."

A few months ago, says the New York Journal of Commerce, Archibald Hurd, the naval writer, figured out the weekly bill which the British people escaped owing to the success of their navy in keeping open the trade routes of the world for British commerce. For one thing, the cost of food would have been 50 per cent greater had the British navy failed to accomplish its full task, and that would have meant a weekly outlay, above the normal, of \$48,000,000. Added to this, he figured a decline in the wages bill of about \$10,000,000 a week; an increase in the cost of various necessities and luxuries of another \$10,000,000; a loss of shipping equal to \$5,000,000, and a decline in national income from investments of \$10,000,000. Here was a total of \$80,000,000 a week which is saved to the nation because of the completeness of the protection which the navy has been able to render to its commerce.

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able to reach port. The chief loss of life was caused by the sinking of the auxiliary cruiser Bayern, with over 170 men, and the Tangistan, with 97. All told, about 220 lives have been lost. Neither the destruction of life nor of vessels has been great enough to constitute a serious peril, or to make the feeding of the people of Great Britain a much greater problem than it was before the blockade was instituted. The wiping out of British shipping will be a slow process if the Germans destroy on an average but one vessel daily while British ships are launched on an average two ships every working day of the year."

So the duty is to come off fertilizers and chemicals used in their manufacture after all. Those Conservative partisans who attacked Hon. Mr. Fugley and other New Brunswick members because they criticized the duty on fertilizers now have their answer. If the new tariff had been reduced in other directions in which it taxes the consumer unnecessarily, and without prospect of raising much revenue, if its purely protective features had been eliminated, the country undoubtedly would have received the announcement with pleasure.

The case of Mr. J. K. Pinder is becoming more complicated. The Globe on Saturday said, editorially, "Mr. Pinder has not been made chairman of the Public Accounts Committee." In its Frederickton despatches of Friday the Globe said:

"It is said that Mr. Pinder, of York, will speak to a question of privilege and will make a statement declaring his position in regard to several matters which have been commented upon of late by various newspapers. It is understood that he will also inform the House that he will not continue as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee."

He must have the job if he is going to give it up. If he didn't have it the great reformation would not be necessary. So much for the King of the Nackawick. And now, about the Hon. James Kidd Fleming—Is he in view of the Royal Commission's report, a proper person to represent Carleton-Victoria in the House of Commons?

"The blunt, legal words have finally been adopted," says the New York Evening Post. "The British fleet has established an effective blockade of all German ports. On the main question, this is the end of controversy. England has the right to exert her sea-power to the full in blockading Germany. It does not lie in the mouth of America to object to this. The United States maintained a blockade which injured British trade and industry much more than this British blockade will injure ours. The American blockade lasted for four years. The present one may not be maintained more than six or eight months."

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J. L. STEWART, M. P., PAYS HIS RESPECTS TO HIS CRITICS

Government and Its Newspapers the Subject of Sharp Rejoinder from the Chatham World.

(Chatham World.) Local government organs, big and little, are attacking Mr. Stewart because he criticized the speech from the throne and asked the government for some information that the people want to know usually performed by the leader of the opposition." Well, in the absence of an opposition, that necessary work had to be done by somebody, and why not by one of the public chest every year.

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Is Stumpage to Be Increased?

(Chatham World.)

Premier Clarke did not deny, in reply to Mr. Stewart's inquiry, that the lumbermen contemplated an increase of stumpage, but simply said that it could not frame an intelligent land policy until the proposed survey and classification were made. But there is the Gleaner, which is chiefly owned by members of the government, lives on government patronage, and could not open its mouth on a question of government policy without having been instructed to do so, and told what to say, clearly forecasting an increase of stumpage, regardless of the order-in-council. It says:

"That due regard should be paid to the interests of the lumbermen in any measure that the government may devise, there will be no desire to deny, but the lumbermen cannot be allowed to have matters run to suit themselves only. The lumber trade has seldom been in a much better state than is the case at the present time, and the prospects are that it will in the near future be much better. With the province needing all the revenue it can reasonably produce to properly carry on the work of development, it is the height of folly to farm out its greatest revenue producing asset on terms as will not bring in reasonable returns. That the present and prospective price of lumber justifies an increase on the rates of stumpage at present being paid is an assertion that can be successfully contradicted, and in view of present conditions the government would be lacking in its duty as trustees of the public interests if it did not take such steps in this regard as the situation demands."

Give Us Men.

(By the Bishop of Exeter.)

Give us Men!
Men from every rank,
Men of brain and frank;
Men of thought and reading,
Men of loyal breeding.
The Nation's welfare speeding;
Men who strike for some action,
Men who lift him in action;
Give us Men—I say again,
Give us Men!

Strong and stalwart ones;
Men whom highest hope inspires,
Men whom purest honor fires,
Men who tramp self beneath them,
Men who make their country breathe them.

As her noble sons,
Worthy of their sires;
Men who never shame their mothers,
Men who never fall their brothers,
True, however false are others;
Give us Men—I say again,
Give us Men!

Give us Men!
Men who when the tempest gathers,
Grasp the standard of their fathers
In the thickest of the fight;<