

MONTREAL TALKS TO VANCOUVER

Demonstration Last Evening When Prominent Guests Con- versed with Friends on the Coast 4,227 Miles Away.

Montreal, Feb. 14.—The Bell Telephone Company this evening successfully demonstrated the Montreal-Vancouver line, said to be the longest ear-to-ear circuit in the world, 4,227 miles, the New York-San Francisco line, recently opened, being 3,400 miles in length. The demonstration took place in the Ritz-Carlton ball room, where more than 100 prominent citizens were seated as guests of the Bell Telephone Company, with C. E. Sise, general manager, presiding. A small telephonic receiver was placed at the disposition of the guests at the head table.

Lord Shaughnessy, president of the C. P. R., had a short conversation with F. W. Peters, superintendent of the C. P. R. in Vancouver; Sir Frederick Williams Taylor, manager of the Bank of Montreal, talked to Douglas R. Clarke, at the Vancouver branch of the Bank of Montreal, and Ald. Leslie Boyd, of Montreal, congratulated Mayor McBeth on his elevation to the chief magistracy of Vancouver.

The demonstration included chats with San Francisco, and concluded with God Save the King, being given by a gramophone at Vancouver, while the Bell Telephone Company's guests in the Ritz-Carlton in Montreal were standing.

CANADIAN CASUALTIES

FOURTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Frederick S. Jackson, Mount Dennis (Ont.).
Died of wounds—William C. Peppell, England.

Previously reported missing, now reported buried in Germany—Walter Latimer, England.

NINTH BATTALION.

Seriously ill—John Lester, Edmonton (Alb.).
Wounded—Edward Grey, Edmonton (Alb.); STEPHEN P. BROWN, HILLTOWN (N. B.); William Thomas Madge, England; Roland Ardill, England.

Suffering from shell shock—Frank Booth, England.

FOURTEENTH BATTALION.

Wounded—James Davie, Scotland.

TWENTY-FOURTH BATTALION.

Died of wounds—Corporal Arthur Cook, England.

Wounded—Arthur G. Wilde, England; John L. Breston, England.

TWENTY-FIFTH BATTALION.

Wounded—GEORGE SHARPE, MACCAN (N. S.).

TWENTY-SIXTH BATTALION.

Wounded—GUY R. McLAY, MOORES MILLS (N. B.).

TWENTY-SEVENTH BATTALION.

Slightly wounded—George R. Scott, Kenora (Ont.).

TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION.

Killed in action—Corporal Stewart Collin, Red Deer (Alb.).

TWENTY-NINTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Sergeant Stanley Palmer, England.

FIRST CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Wounded—Sergeant John W. Plimmer, England.

SECOND CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Died of wounds—James Bartlett, England.

Wounded—Henry G. Hawkins, Medicine Hat (Alb.); Harold A. Blakey, England.

FIFTH CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Wounded—William Bradley, Ottawa.

FIRST FIELD COMPANY, FIRST CANADIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS.

Wounded—Corporal John O. Brown, England.

HOPEWELL HILL NOTES

Hopewell Hill, Feb. 13.—A stranger recently spent the night in the school house here, occupying the rooms of the advanced department, where he secured cozy quarters by the liberal use of the janitor's kindling wood. Entrance was made at one of the windows, the stranger snoring in the hall of learning, the wayfarer, it is understood, called on a nearby resident for his breakfast. On account of some uneasiness among the residents along his route the stranger ran into the arms of the law at Hillsboro and was taken before the police magistrate and an investigation held with the result that the traveler, who claimed he was engaged in honing razors, was allowed to go on his way, it being considered there was no evidence on which to detain him.

Private Joe E. Smith of the 104th Battalion Sussex, spent a few days at his home here last week.

Walter E. Morris, railway mail clerk of St. John, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morris, Albert.

A. W. Bray, judge of probate, and M. B. Dixon, K.C., returned on Saturday from a business trip to St. John.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Irving, regret to learn of the illness of their son, Paul, 19 years of age, who has developed serious tubercular trouble.

FAMOUS YORK MIDGET DEAD

New York, N. Y., Feb. 14.—Relatives of Edmund Newell, Jr., a famous midget, who was widely known in the circus and theatrical worlds as "Major" Newell, have received news of his death in Liverpool last week. He was a son of Mrs. Sarah E. Newell, of Newark, N. J.

Newell was twenty-four inches in height, and carried twenty-seven pounds when he married Minnie Warren, another famous midget. At thirty-five he attained a height of four feet. His first wife having died, he married again, this time a woman of ordinary height. He leaves wife and two children, the latter well-known on the English stage. Newell was sixty years old.

Bitter Fighting Saw Russian Capture of Erzerum; Canadian Loss Small in Repulse of German Attack

MINING AND ARTILLERY FIGHTING RELIEVING INFANTRY IN THE WEST

Estimates from Petrograd place the number of troops in the Turkish garrison at Erzerum, the capture of which has been announced, at 100,000 men. The guns numbered more than 1,000. But it has not yet been officially stated that all of these troops and guns were taken by the Russians.

That the fighting before the fortress fell was terrific is indicated by a Constantinople report, which, although not announcing the capture of Erzerum, says that in the last three days before the communication was issued the Russians had lost 5,000 men killed.

Both Berlin and Paris report that there have been no important developments on the battle line in France and Belgium. On the Russian front there have been artillery engagements and isolated infantry actions at various points. In East Galicia hostilities have almost ceased for the present.

The Italians are still engaged in shelling the positions taken from them recently by the Austrians on the Bombon sector, and also are keeping up their artillery actions against the bridgeheads at Tolmino and Gorizia. An infantry attack against Monte San Michele is reported by Vienna to have been repulsed.

There still remains a hitch in the negotiations between the United States and Germany over the sinking of the Lusitania.

The state department has announced that the controversy is not susceptible of settlement while Germany's memorandum regarding armed merchantmen remains inconsistent with the assurances previously given by the government by Germany with regard to the sinking of vessels by submarines.

ADDITIONAL PRISONERS IN PORTS.

Petrograd, Feb. 17, via London, Feb. 18.—The following official statement was issued tonight:

"Caucasian front: It has been learned further that twenty-five more guns have been seized in the Erzerum first line forts, and that thirty-nine officers and 1,413 Ankaris prisoners were taken in the region of Fort Taft, twenty versts from Erzerum. Our troops occupied the Erzerum fortress.

"The registration of prisoners and taking stock of the booty is proceeding."

"Erzerum is on fire in many places."

ON THE ROAD TO TEBRIZ.

London, Feb. 18.—The Russian forces have reached the town of Baiburt, according to an Athens despatch to the Daily News. Baiburt is 75 miles northwest of Erzerum, on the road to Tebriz.

BRITISH HOLD RIM OF CAESAR.

London, Feb. 17.—The British official statement on the campaign in the western zone, issued tonight, says:

"Early this morning the enemy sprang two mines, one near Ypres, the other south of Loos. After the explosion of the latter the enemy attempted to occupy the crater, but was driven back by our fire. We held the near rim of the crater."

"Today our artillery bombarded the enemy trenches near the Hohenzollern railroad, east of Arras. Between the Ypres-Comines canal and the Ypres-Comines railway, the situation is unchanged."

Moving Troops Under Fire.

Paris, Feb. 17, via London, 10:45 p. m.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

TWO ZEPPELINS WERE LOST IN LAST GERMAN RAID ON ENGLAND

London, Feb. 18.—That one of the Zeppelins in the recent raid on England was damaged by the British gunfire and later lost at sea, and that there is good reason to believe another had been damaged, and put out of action, was the statement made in the house of lords by Earl Kitchener, the British war secretary.

Earl Kitchener announced in the house of lords today the British accounted for one ship, which was lost at sea, and that there was good reason to believe a second airship had been put out of action.

Lord Kitchener added:

"Up to the present time a hostile air invasion of England has had no influence whatever on the military conduct of the war, and regrettable as is the loss of citizen life and damage to private property, I do not believe the people desire to give too great importance to these attacks or to allow them to affect military operations."

"It must be realized that in war it is not always possible to insure safety everywhere and some risks must be accepted in order to be strong at important points."

"It is beyond our power to guarantee these shores from a repetition of these air incursions but we shall make them more costly each time."

THREE-FOLD DEFENCE.

Outlining the system of air defence in Great Britain, Lord Kitchener said:

"The defence is three-fold: First, good advance information regarding the movements of hostile aircraft; second, defence by anti-aircraft artillery; third, attacks on raiders by aeroplanes."

"As regards the first, we now have a system which gives us sufficient warning of impending arrival and probable movements of the enemy. As to artillery, the construction of aircraft guns now has precedence over other ordnance, and now the guns as fast as produced will be distributed to the best advantage throughout the country."

"Attack by aeroplanes at night is attended with great difficulties, but I believe that with more extended practice, we shall overcome the difficulties."

"The government will leave no stone unturned in efforts to improve to the utmost our defence against Zeppelins," declared Lord Kitchener. "The responsibility for defence will be in the hands of Viscount French, with Sir Percy Scott as his chief adviser."

In reply to a question regarding the use of aeroplanes at night, Lord Kitchener said no order had ever yet been sent to a pilot of the royal flying corps to make an ascent at night to attack a Zeppelin. He added:

"Notice is given to each station when the time comes to ascend to intercept a Zeppelin. The decision as to whether to fly or not is left to the senior officer on the spot. It is decided that the weather conditions are favorable, he is the first to ascend."

British Campaigns In Africa Prosper

London, Feb. 17.—The British official statement issued tonight on the African campaign says:

"The general officer commanding the British forces in East Africa states that on the 12th inst., a reconnaissance in force was carried out against Salaita Hill (to the east of the enemy's position) and ascertain his strength. The hill was found to be strongly held, and the main German reserves were ascertained to be in the neighborhood."

"One casualty amounted to 172, of whom 139 were in the Second South African Brigade, which had their first experience in bush fighting."

"The branch railway has now been carried to Njoro, two and a half miles from Salaita."

KAMERUN CONQUERED.

The following official communication referring to the operations in the Kamerun region of Africa was issued tonight:

"A telegram, dated Feb. 16, from General Dobbell (the French commander-in-chief) states that he has received information from General Aymard that the French have closed the frontier up to Njoro and all east thereof. The camp region contains a few miles to traverse to close the line from the sea."

"The operations are proceeding rapidly and the conquest of Kamerun is complete, with the exception of the isolated position of Moore Hill. The German commandant Zimmermann succeeded in making his escape into Spanish territory."

NEWFOUNDLAND ALSO ADOPTS POLICY OF DOUBLING FORCES

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 17.—Plans for a campaign to double Newfoundland's complement of soldiers and sailors in active service were completed tonight. So far 1,200 naval reservists and 2,000 soldiers have been enlisted and sent to England.

Owing to the difference in pay between the naval and the military branches of the service, more difficulty is anticipated in doubling the number of naval reserves than of soldiers, notwithstanding that this is essentially a maritime community. The blue-jackets are controlled directly by the British naval authorities, and receive the regular pay of sixty cents a day, while the soldiers, on the other hand, are maintained by the colony, and are paid \$1.10 a day, like the Canadian troops.

This discrepancy tends to diminish naval enlistments, although Newfoundland sailors are greatly in demand by the naval authorities because of their knowledge of the coast, which makes them especially valuable for the auxiliary work of the trawling fleet, such as minesweeping and submarine chasing.

KING PETER HAS NO REPROACH FOR FAITHFUL ALLIES

Athens, Feb. 17, via London, Feb. 18.—King Peter of Serbia, at present in virtual exile on the island of Embosco in the Aegean Sea, in a statement to an Associated Press correspondent expresses his great gratitude to the people of the United States for the relief work done by Americans among the sick and wounded and starving Serbian people.

King Peter also took occasion to say that for those of Serbia's allies who had remained faithful he had no reproach. "They came to our aid too late to save us," he said, "but they came."

A Leak Through Holland.

London, Feb. 18.—The Daily Mail declares that the failure of the Netherlands Overseas Trust to prevent supplies from reaching the enemy has become so apparent that a new arrangement to control supplies through Holland will be shortly announced.

Argentine Holds Segs.

Buenos Aires, Feb. 17.—The government has decided to prohibit the exportation of sugar.

NO OFFER MADE BY GERMANY TO RESTORE BELGIUM

Sir Edward Grey Disposes of This Story by Blunt Answers in House

POLISH RELIEF AT MERCY OF GERMANS

First Lord of Admiralty Balfour Answers Criticisms of Government's Handling of Shipping—Should Owners Complain With Rates Exorbitantly High?

London, Feb. 17.—Great Britain has not refused to allow food to reach Poland, according to a statement made by Sir Edward Grey, British foreign secretary, in reply to a question in the house of commons today.

The foreign secretary added that the Entente Allied governments had been approached with a request to permit food to be sent to Poland under neutral control, but that the Allies had replied they could not consider the question until the various "methods of spoliation" employed by the Central Powers had expired. Otherwise, he said, it would be merely to supply food to the Germans.

Belgian Story Discussed.

Laurence Ginnell, Nationalist member of parliament for the north division of West Meath, made the allegation that pressure has been used by the Entente Allies to dissuade the Belgian government from accepting from Germany an offer to re-establish the integrity of Belgium, to restore her independence and fully compensate her for damages sustained.

This brought a blunt answer from the foreign secretary, who said: "The statement made in question is entirely untrue."

Sir Edward added that he believed the statement of an offer being made to Belgium was also untrue.

Shipping Management Discussed.

Debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was continued by Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, who said: "The shipping situation has not been economically well managed, and consequently vast numbers have been sent to the bottom."

Mr. Peto asserted that the gigantic profits being made by shippers were also the outcome of mismanagement by the British shipping companies. Two-thirds of the tonnage had been requisitioned, and the remaining third had been allowed to proceed on the ordinary lines of supply and demand. He said that shippers which were absolutely absurd, he insisted.

Arthur S. Benn, member for Plymouth, seconded the amendment.

Mr. Balfour's Reply.

A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, in replying, said he thought the shipping situation was not only high, but preposterously and dangerously high.

He denied that Great Britain was making selfishly regarding tonnage or making money out of the war. He said that a country which prepared to deprive its people of certain imported goods in the interests of an efficient working merchant fleet could not be accused of acting selfishly.

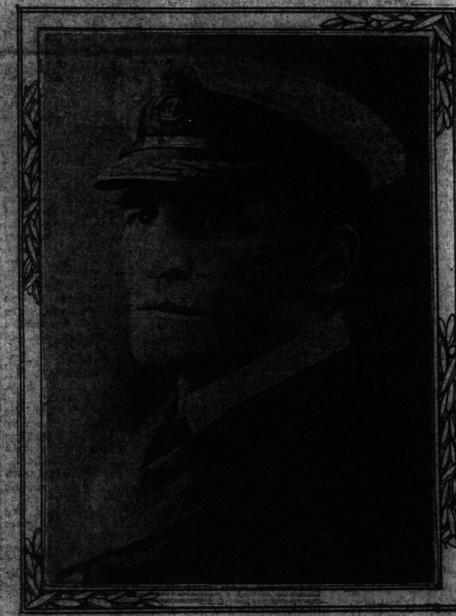
Referring to waste, Mr. Balfour thought that matters might be improved by giving commercial training to admirals and generals, but that was a matter of a lifetime. It was not through any action of the transport department that there was a shortage of tonnage, he declared, and whatever might be said about the policy of temporary governmental appropriation of the whole shipping strength of the country's merchant marine, he hoped nothing would be said in criticism of the navy in this connection.

Dependent Largely on Neutrals.

Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, in reply, said: "The shipping difficulties of the present time are due not to mismanagement but to our trying to pour a quart into a pint pot. This and nothing else, the general upward tendency of ocean freights is caused by the fact that the mercantile marine, which is limited in size, has to carry out a task far greater than in times of peace. The shipping problem has become the greatest economic problem of the day. Where we had a hundred ships before the war we must now do with sixty-seven, of which twenty-four are under construction."

"You see, we are dependent, to an enormous extent, on the services of neutral shipping and if we drive it away by any system of low maximum rates, or a similar device, we shall starve. If we fix maximum rates below the world level we shall drive neutral shipping to ports where higher rates are obtainable. There has been no laxity in manage-

THE GALLANT COMMANDER OF THE SAUCY ARETHUSA.



Commander Tyrwhitt, hero of the last North Sea battle of the war, and of many other daring exploits. He has been offered bigger ships, but has refused to leave the Arethusa.

CANADIAN LOSSES NOT ABOVE NORMAL

Many Germans in First Line of Trenches But They Are Dead

Sir Sam Hughes Tells Story of Gallant Stand of Canadians in Another Ypres Battle—Attack on Front of Two and One-half Miles Brings No Result But Heavy Losses to Enemy.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—"Not a solitary foot of our trenches is in the possession of the enemy. The Germans got into them at many points and are still there, but they are dead."

That was the terse way in which Major-General Sir Sam Hughes described in the commons this afternoon the result of the German offensive of the past few days on the British and Canadian front. He was answering a question from E. M. MacDonald as to the published report that the Canadians had suffered in the recent heavy fighting, LESS THAN TEN CANADIANS KILLED.

General Sir Sam said that while he had as yet received no official report his information was that the Germans had attacked the British and Canadian lines east and southeast of Ypres following a very heavy bombardment of two or three days. The Canadian troops, he said, did not seem to have suffered nearly as much as might have been expected from the severity of the bombardment. Casualty reports for the last three days showed less than ten killed, and only about thirty or forty wounded. This was just about the normal number of daily casualties which have been coming in recently under normal conditions.

To your correspondent, General Hughes said that the Canadians had apparently been well sheltered during the bombardment and the effectiveness of the defenses which had been strengthened by the Canadians during the past few months of comparative immunity from attack, had been remarkably demonstrated.

The Germans, said Sir Sam, had evidently done their best but the Canadians had stood their ground and had met the final rush German dead would be a heavy one.

"WHOLE PLATOONS" OF ENEMY'S DEAD.

"There are lots of Germans in our trenches, whole platoons of them," reads the report received today, "but they are dead Germans, and our losses are slight."

The trenches attacked extended over a front of about 4,000 yards, and those evacuated were re-taken. It is not stated what battalions figured in the engagement.

(See also page 4.)

SWEDEN MAKING BID FOR ACTION AGAINST BRITAIN

Note to United States Asks Co-operation in Protest at Mail Detention

CHARGE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

"Only Few Rules Observed and it is Feared That Also These Remaining Few Will Be Violated"—Delay of First-Class Mail Chief Grievance.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Another note from Sweden has been addressed to the state department, through Minister Ekengren, appealing to the United States for co-operation with the Swedish government and other neutral nations to maintain the preservation of rules of international law concerning the protection of neutral commerce and navigation. Action is proposed particularly against Great Britain, because of the detention of mail by that country, and other aggressions against trade regarded by Sweden as unwarranted.

Secretary of State Lansing informed the minister, it was learned today, that he could not answer the note until the conference with Germany over the Lusitania case was settled.

Full Text of Note.

This latest communication addressed to Secretary Lansing, and signed by Mr. Ekengren, was presented recently, after much a proposal had been advanced and discussed from time to time, but until today the fact did not become known. Following is the text of the note:

"I have been instructed by his excellency the minister for foreign affairs at Stockholm to address the following to your excellency:

"The royal government has, during the present war, from time to time proposed to your excellency, that through co-operation it be sought to maintain and preserve certain important rules of international law, which concern protection of neutral commerce and navigation, and which are being violated by Great Britain."

"The violation of existing rules of international law has, regardless of protests, increased until at present only a few rules, serving as protection to neutral commercial intercourse, are observed by Great Britain, and it is feared that also these remaining few will be violated."

"His majesty's government, which is deeply conscious of its responsibility to not omit any measure tending to prevent such an eventuality, and well aware of the danger for the future if these rules, which are of infinite worth to civilization, as a whole, are not preserved, desired to herewith make a renewed presentation to your excellency in this respect."

Parcel Post Not Under Hague Law.

"Of late the British authorities have violated the mail traffic. Parcel post from one neutral country to another is being unloaded in British ports, and the contents are being seized. While parcel post is not protected through the Hague postal convention, it nevertheless seems to his majesty's government that the British procedure, in the form and extensiveness practised, would be invalid even with regard to ordinary express goods, and that this seems particularly evident when the seizure of parcel post is directed against a means of conveyance under guarantee of sovereign powers. Besides, great personal inconvenience is connected with seizure of this kind."

Censoring First Class Mail Illegal.

"However, England's present practice of censoring also first class mail, sent by neutral vessels from one neutral country to another, is an even greater violation of the rights accorded neutral powers by the rules of international law. It is not necessary to particularly point out how contrary this practice is to the stipulations in the above-mentioned Hague convention, which stipulations or rules must be considered to have been in existence even before the promulgation of this convention."

"The royal government now, therefore, appeals to the government of the United States for co-operation for the purpose of seeking to bring the discontinuance of violation of international law, at least so far as the same concerns first class mail, and it solicits as early an answer as possible, whether your excellency is willing to take appropriate action, in co-operation with the royal government, and eventually the governments of other neutral countries, for the purpose of causing that the rule which the question involves—and which is one of the fundamental stipulations of international law—be observed."