

Red Cross Line

S. S. Stephano.

Intended Sailings:

From New York:	From St. John's:
MARCH 27th.	APRIL 5th.
APRIL 14th.	APRIL 22nd.
MAY 2nd.	MAY 10th.
MAY 20th.	MAY 27th.

The S.S. FLORIZEL will also leave St. John's after the Sealfishery, and will probably leave New York between May 2nd and 20th.

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BLOCKADE BUNKUM.

Less Napoleon and More Kitchener Wanted.

The Real Short Cut to Berlin, by J. Selborne.

A good deal of bunkum has been told about many things in the course of the war, but more bunkum has been talked about the way to win the war by "blockade" than anything else. The plain truth is that no matter how stringent, no matter how unpalatable we made the blockade of Germany, it could not win the war for us. The gospel of the ferocious people of the blue water school, who go about wagging a scolding forefinger and saying "Use the navy, and you'll end the war in six weeks," is sheer fooling and dangerous nonsense, founded on an utter misconception of the limits of sea power and an ignorance of the lessons of military history of the whole objective of war, which are—Smash the enemy! So ask yourself these simple but decisive questions. Could a "blockade," even a complete and unbreakable blockade, smash Germany and Austria and Turkey? Even if we used the navy to the last ounce of its ships and men and gun power, could the most perfect "blockade" in the world defeat the Central Powers in the field? Frankly, it could not. There is only one way to crush the hordes of Germany and Austria and Turkey, and for that matter Bulgaria, in the field, and that is by armies in the field. And that apparently is a lesson which we have still to learn.

The most extraordinary delusions as to aggressive potentialities of sea power still exist in these islands. It was only the other day that a thoroughly capable and practical and thoughtful man—a banker—said to me—"It is amazing how one's views change. When this war first broke out, I said to myself, 'Ah, now we shall see some sport. When once the British Navy gets to work we shall see things. We shall nail their ports, and blow their ships out of the water. The Germans will be pretty sorry that they ever tackled the job.' I knew nothing of submarines and minefields. How could I? But I'm sixteen months older now, and recognise that even before war broke out there had been great changes made in the preparation for naval warfare, about which I knew nothing." True! But how many hundreds of thousands, even millions, of sensible, well-informed British folk who were equally uninformed? How could they know all that naval warfare meant? But the navy knew, thank God! The navy knew, and was ready. It is the British Navy which has saved the world. It is the British Navy which has made it possible for us to win this war. We shall not know for many years quite how much the navy has done—that wonderful silent navy which, when war was declared, just weighed anchor and disappeared to hold the keys of the world, to hold the balance of victory and defeat!

The "silent navy"—a great phrase invented some years ago by Mr. Arnold White. But after our experience of the navy during this war, in which all its unknown qualities have been tested and found true, I would prefer to call it the invisible navy, for, while we have, indeed, irrefutable testimony every day of our lives that it exists, we never see it. The British Navy has performed not merely wonders, but miracles. It caters all the seven seas. It has kept open all the routes of Empire. It has brought men to fight in France for the freedom of the world from all the ends of the earth. Only the British Navy has made it possible to coal and munition not only our own troops but the troops of France. The British Navy is the whole mainspring, the whole motive power, as it were, of the Allies in this war. And I grow impatient when I hear people asking it to perform the impossible. Even if the politicians would let it try, it could not win the war by a mere blockade.

There are two phases of this great question which make the demands an absurdity. There is the very considerable problem of international politics, and there is the vital consideration of the limits of sea power when it comes to smashing armies in the field. Now, I trust I am as good a fighter as any I'm all for chucking away the gloves. On the other hand, I am very much against methods of fighting which will disgust the spectators and drag them into the fight as well.

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of finesse. Sometimes he waited years before he struck his blow. And throughout his victorious life he prayed for and upheld the humanity of his fleet. It was that which made the Nelson touch. The navy has nobly lived up to the Nelson tradition. Do not abuse it now. Its great education work has been done. It will be an infinitely easier task to impose a strict blockade to-day than it was sixteen months ago. The navy has won a great and silent victory. It has won the faith of the neutral world to Britain. It has been Britain's sure shield not only of her safety, but of her fair name and her honour. The navy's great victory won, every day which passes now will see the blockade more stringent. But, however strictly the blockade is maintained, the navy cannot altogether win this war. Germany has taught us that, thanks to her ingenuity and resources, neither she nor her allies can be starved.

We hear a great deal of Napoleon in these days, too. More perhaps than we do of Nelson. If only a new Napoleon would arise to lead the Allies he would do this, that, and the other thing. But I fancy that if the new Napoleon for which the impatient ones are howling were suddenly to materialize the last thing he would do would be to suggest that we could win the war by "blockade." Napoleon was a great soldier and a great man. As the first he would not look to a fleet to do what he should be doing on land. He would strike down armies with armies—not with fleets. That would be his first objective as a soldier. As a great man he would recognize the hollow mockery of a victory of simply starving a people out. What would be the finish of a "victory" after which the enemy could say—"You may have starved the civil population to surrender, but my great fighting forces are intact. My armies are still in occupation of yours, the victors, territory! What sort of a victory is that? No; let us have a little less Napoleon and a little more Kitchener.

We shall realise after the war that it was Kitchener's brain and patience and waiting and strength to endure and build up and make ready which saved us in spite of ourselves. It was Kitchener who said this war would last three years. It was Kitchener who said we should want three million men to settle the job. And shall we lack faith in the man who quietly set out to destroy in three years the mighty power which it had taken the Germans forty years to build up? Kitchener has never whined for the navy to accomplish impossibilities. Kitchener is a man who knows his job, and does not shrink from it. Let us give up inventing impossible jobs for the long-suffering and heroic and already overtaxed navy, and do our own Battalions, not bunkum, is the shortest route to Berlin.

THE KAISER'S FAMOUS SPEECH

The famous speech of the German Emperor in which he referred to the divine right of Kings was made Aug. 25, 1910, and contained the following sentences:

"Here my grandfather . . . by his own right set the Prussian Crown upon his head, once more distinctly emphasizing the fact that it was accorded him by the will of God alone and not by Parliament or by any assemblage of the people or by popular vote, and that he thus looked upon himself as the chosen instrument of Heaven and as such performed his duties as regent and sovereign. And adorned with this crown, forty years ago, he rode forth to battle to win the Emperor's crown also. Truly it was a long way to the time of the famous telegram of the Emperor to my late grandmother. What a change through the providence of God!"

"Looking upon myself as the instrument of the Lord, without regard for daily opinions and intentions, I go my way, which is devoted solely and alone to the welfare and peaceful development of the Fatherland."

In an earlier address, at Brandenburg, Feb. 3, 1889, he spoke of the rulers of his house in the following terms:

"Above all other Princes, and even in a time when such thoughts and feelings were not yet current, they felt and discharged the personal responsibility of the ruler toward Heaven.

Their great battles without and the development and the making of laws within the country have always been dictated by the thought that they were responsible for the people given over to them and for the country which had been entrusted to them."

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