

Spy Scare Strikes Brigus American Artist the Cause Too Familiar with German

Over at Brigus is established an American artist, Mr. Rockwell Kent, who is engaged in the pleasant task of depicting on canvas the many charms of that beautiful Conception Bay town. But, Mr. Kent recently indulged in a little of the common, or garden variety of indiscretion—he sang a selection at a local concert. By this, no imputation against Mr. Kent's vocal abilities is meant. The trouble was he sang in German!

And Brigus has also that stamp of unmitigated nuisance who regards self-opinion as good and sufficient justification for assuming the role of a Sherlock Holmes and indulging in promiscuous "butting in."

Wuss an' Wuss!

And, horrors or horrors, he made a discovery of no less importance than the fact that Mr. Kent painted—ney, spoke German! Think of it fellow Terra Novans—an artist, and a German-speaking one at that, running at large in Brigus! Why, he might take to drawing cows on some of the garden walls to indicate such strategic positions as the churches, the Hall of Justice, or even the site to the last Agricultural Exhibition!

So local officialdom got very busy—tumbled all over itself in fact and made things rather unpleasant for Mr. Kent. If his story, as told in a letter to the New York Evening Mail, reproduced herewith is based on actual fact—and we can conceive of no reason for or visitor drawing on his imagination in this respect.

Seriously, though, it is rather a pity that visitors of the class to which Mr. Kent belongs should be subjected to any unnecessary annoyance while in this country.

What New York Mail Says.

It seems that American artists suffer from the war in more ways than one. Not only was the sale of their pictures greatly checked by the financial stringency due to the war, but they are subject to suspicion as "spies" in foreign countries, where the local authorities find it hard to understand that the artists' profession can be anything else but a cloak to cover deep, dark and traitorous designs.

Mr. Rockwell Kent is an American artist of undoubted talent, whose artistic home is in New York. Many of his paintings have been highly commended in The Evening Mail and other New York journals. He is fond of painting grandiose and imaginative subjects, depicting elemental scenes. As a background for such conceptions he generally uses the sea and the mountains, and naturally finds it of advantage to study scenes and conditions where the mountains and the sea are found in their unspoiled majesty.

Established at Brigus.

And as Winslow Homer developed his genius by going to live on the coast of the Maine, and studying the seas, the rocks, the sailors, and the fishermen, Mr. Kent has sought the barren shores of Newfoundland. Last spring he established himself, for a season of sketching, painting and study, at the picturesque village of Brigus, on the east coast of Newfoundland. Brigus is on the Avalon Peninsula, south of St. John's at the foot of a range of hills which front the Atlantic.

But Mr. Kent is not temperamentally so much of a hermit as Winslow Homer was. He likes his fellow men; he is an amiable person, and some little time since—as he possessed a good voice—he consented to sing at a church festival of the local people. Casting about in his mind for something to sing which would interest his hearers, he thought of Schumann's in spring "Two Grenadiers," and sang it with excellent effect. The people were much pleased. But alas! The "Two Grenadiers" is usually sung in German, and in that language Mr. Kent warbled it. The suspicions of the local busybody were at once aroused. Inquiry was made—and it was found that Mr. Kent could read and speak German! He was at once reported to the authorities as a probable German spy; and the Government of Newfoundland sent their police in full panoply to investigate him.

Hard Luck.

The police seemed to be satisfied with Mr. Kent's proof that he is an American and an artist, and they did not arrest him, but neither did they do anything to clear him in the public mind, and they did not interfere with the boasts of the local petty officials. The mischief was done. Suspicion was planted in the public mind of Brigus. Mr. Kent writes to the conductor of this column, who has for some time known him well:

I meet everywhere with expressions

of hostility, and hindrance to the export of my paintings, that are almost insurmountable. There is even the danger of mob violence, with no possible appeal to justice. So I have demanded that the government investigate my work and my pursuits here and either shoot me or entirely clear me, undoing the mischief that their officials have caused.

As Mr. Kent's friends will probably come to the rescue to the extent of affording proof that he is a real American and a real artist, it may be hoped that he will be spared further annoyance and injury, and will yet, in spite of Newfoundland's evident inhospitality, be able to immortalise Brigus in his pictures.

VOLUNTEERS PREPARE SHEDS AT THE RANGES

One is Finished and Other Nearing Completion—Men of the Contingent Are Drilling Hard

No. 1 Platoon of the Volunteers spent yesterday morning at the South Side Range bringing lumber up to the range.

The shed at the 500 yards range is finished and the one at the 200 yards distance is nearly completed. A squad from No. 5 Platoon had their first shot over the 200 yards yesterday; some good shots were made.

In the afternoon 25 outpost men proceeded to the range to shoot. The remainder of the regiment under Lieut. Ayre had Platoon marching on the Parade grounds until four o'clock when they proceeded back to the Armoury by way of Military and Queen's Roads and Long's Hill. They marched in excellent fashion coming along the route and were viewed by hundreds of people.

Some of the uniforms will be ready for the big parade to-morrow morning.

The C.L.B. band will lead the parade and they will first visit Government House where they will be inspected by the Governor.

They will then parade through the city.

GOOD BIG SHOW AT THE NICKEL

There is a big programme at the Nickel Theatre to-morrow and there will likely be a large attendance.

To accommodate patrons there will be an extra session in the morning, commencing at 10.30. This will give many a chance to see the pictures who would not be able to go later in the day.

The films have been specially arranged and are the best obtainable. Miss Margaret Ayer the soloist has an attractive song, and Miss Ring and Joe F. Ross will give new music.

If you want to be with the crowd to-morrow you should attend the Nickel, as every lover of the movies makes an effort to attend on New Year's Day.

CITIZENS CUT OUT MERRY MAKING

Many citizens who have made it a practice to make New Year calls have decided not to do so to-morrow because of the war.

Their decision is commendable for this is not a time for merry making.

S.S. Queen Wilhelmina leaves Liverpool on Jan. 5th for St. John's.



1st Newfoundland Regiment.

RESERVE FORCE

All ranks whether drilling at night or day will parade at the C.L.B. Armoury on Friday, January 1st, at 9.30 a.m. sharp.

By order,
A. MONTGOMERIE,
Capt., Adjutant.
dec30,21

GONE ACROSS FOR NEW SHIP

Capt. Randell Will Bring Out Baine Johnston's Sealer

Capt. Randell, late of the Bellaventure, who has been appointed to command Baine Johnston's new sealing steamer, leaves for Scotland by the Mongolian next week and will likely remain there until the steamer is finished.

It is not yet known if the steamer will be ready for the sealfishery as the dockyards are busy at present with Admiralty orders.

NEWFOUNDLANDERS HARDY, SMART AND WELL-SET-UP

(Continued from page 1.)
also belong to the Canadian permanent force, are, too, reported to have reached state of efficiency which enables the officers and men of which they are composed to claim that they will equal in any respect to those of the British.

Although, owing to its size, there can be no real comparison between the Canadian contingent and the small force which has been supplied by the Newfoundland government, yet the presence on Salisbury Plain of this little party is valuable and important not only on account of its fighting powers, but because it indicates a willingness to serve on the part of the population of the British possession which it represents. Raised practically without the assistance of any existing organization rather more than one third of the contingent have derived some military training from service in the boys' brigades. Whilst the regular training began less than two months ago, the officers contend that they and their men are now as efficient as far as I could see, justifiably, as the majority of their companies who have crossed the Atlantic.

Efficient Newfoundlanders
Considerably younger than most of the Canadians, the average age of these young men is probably twenty or twenty-one. Recruited from all classes of society, the Newfoundlanders are a smart, hardy, well-set-up lot of chaps, who are as cheerful and contented as any whom one would wish to meet. They say that they do not mind what we call the present cold nights, that they are not in the least anxious for the completion of their tents, and that they are quite happy in their huts, and that they are interested to see my readers, to know that nine of these men were recruited from amongst us who were directly or indirectly employed by the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, which owns the paper mills.

The position of the little New Zealand contingent which is now undergoing training on Salisbury Plain is a special one. This is the case, because these men have not been sent over from New Zealand, but are for the most part recruited from amongst those islanders who were actually in this country at the time of the outbreak of the war.

One Officer's Work.
Fortunately for us, there was in this country at the time of the outbreak of the war a distinguished New Zealand officer, of the name of Capt. Lampen. This gentleman with the authority of his government and the consent of the War Office called for volunteers to serve with his little force. So great was the response, and so keen and patriotic were the New Zealanders that it was necessary for the Candidates to ballot for places in the contingent. A certain number of men, too, who thought that they might not be able to get places on the New Zealand force itself, cabled to England asking for permission to pay their own expenses and come over and join the unit which was in formation here. These men, or those amongst them, whose services were accepted, are now at Salisbury Plain.

Equipped New Zealanders.
This little force is now possessed, or in the immediate future it will be possessed, of a number of motor cars, motor-cycles, telephones, mechanical apparatus, and machine guns, which are out of all proportion to the size of the present contingent. Many of the men, too, have given up good employment to answer to the national call. These are those who had come over to study for the medical and legal professions, and there are those who had brought with them their own motor cars which are now devoted to the service of their country, and to the use of the contingent as a whole. The men have built, or perhaps more correctly completed, the huts in which they are now living.

So perfect indeed is the organization, and so carefully has Captain Lampen looked over the welfare of his men, that they actually have a little well-equipped theatre in which the local talent of the contingent give performances which are attended by men from other and neighboring units. Here there is a picturesque and telling indication of the feeling and sentimentality of the men.

Colonials Encamped In Egypt

Austrians and New Zealanders in the Shadow of the Pyramids

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 29.—Among the Great Pyramids at Gizeh is quartered the largest expeditionary force ever transported at one time over the seas. It is the British army, ready to move on the Turks. Nothing was published concerning it, but when the Australian transports had been collected they were joined by the New Zealanders and the fleet sailed away, the long line of convoys and transports forming a wonderful sight. The men of the ships said that the sea was full of liners as far as the eye could reach.

Great Military Camp.
The great military camp is situated in the desert behind the famous house of Menes where Harvard University is conducting excavations. The Queensland and Victoria contingents each own a tent town which presents busy and picturesque scenes. Camels, automobiles, gun carriages, donkeys, and motor cycles mingle on the improvised road, while clusters of Arabs watch the gun drills. The regimental mascots usually congregate where food is being cooked. These mascots include dogs, monkeys, kangaroos, wallabies, laughing jackasses, parakeets, and a Tasmanian devil.

In Good Shape.
The Australians eat frozen meat which they brought with them and the men are very fit. All trades and professions are represented, including lawyers, naval men, insurance brokers, gold miners and farmers. In one group a "musician and horsebreaker" was found tending the horses which included for the guns several of the biggest draft beasts I have ever seen. There are a few Maoris and half-breed Maoris among the New Zealanders.

The New Zealanders' camp is at Helopolis, a suburb of Cairo. These soldiers have received warm underclothing and also a Testament each from an organization of women.

Under Nose of Sphinx.
Horse exercising in the desert is one of the chief jobs in the camps and while engaged in this occupation the Australian columns may be seen passing among the Pyramids and under the nose of Sphinx. The laborious and hazardous climb of the Great Pyramid, which is four hundred and thirty feet high, is a favorite leisure pursuit on account of the fine view from the summit. There is a constant stream of troops climbing up, sliding down, and clambering into the air-shaft which pierces the interior. Many of them may be seen buying fake coins, scarabs and Pharaonic trophies.

TWO RECRUITS IN CONTINGENT MAKE TOTAL 718

Two volunteers joined yesterday, John J. Collins, Placentia and John P. Meaney, St. John's, making a total of 718.

We understand that fully 120 of those who volunteered have not yet come forward for medical examination.

The Naval Reservists will take part in the big parade to-morrow, and they will be accompanied by the pipers of the Highlanders, the C.C.C. and C.L.B. bands.

The start from the Armoury will be made at 10 a.m.

Military Specialists.
Whilst all the men, whose average age is twenty-five, are going through individual training and company training they are also receiving instructions in what might be called the duties of the military specialist.

Moreover, Captain Lampen has left no stone unturned to ensure his men lost none of their efficiency by being subject to discomfort or hardship which is not necessary. Early coffee, breakfast of porridge or fish; luncheon with tea, cold meat, cheese and bread and jam; dinner with a hot joint, pudding, jam and tea are the comforts which obviate and prevent the men from becoming desirous of leaving camp and visiting places where they would be certainly less comfortable than they are at home. In a word, this little New Zealand contingent is such a perfect example of order, of good feeling, and of contentment that it is impossible to praise too highly all those who have been connected with its formation and those who are now responsible for its training and its discipline.

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YEAR

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New Year
bring us
VICTORY
and PEACE

Stock-Taking Notice

OUR DRY GOODS, HARDWARE AND
GROCERY DEPARTMENTS WILL BE
CLOSED
ALL DAY MONDAY, JANUARY 4th.

Entertainment For The Sick

Cowan Mission Tea and Concert at General Hospital.

Tuesday the ladies of the Cowan Mission gave their annual tea and entertainment to the patients at the General Hospital.

The concert was held in Carson Ward and lasted for more than an hour.

Those taking part were Rev. W. H. Thomas, C. Hutton, Cyril Fox, Misses Anderson (3), Strang (2), Job and Rennie. Lady Davidson was present during the afternoon.

The patients enjoyed the entertainment immensely and were grateful to the ladies of the Mission for their kindness.

Yesterday afternoon the inmates of the Poor Asylum were given their annual Xmas feast.

A concert was also held in which the choral singers—Mrs. Colville, Miss Job, Miss Mary Rendell, Miss Mitchell, Miss Rennie, Miss Strang, Misses Anderson (3), Misses Joyce and Coady and Mr. J. L. Slattery took part.

USED FISTS WHEN RIFLES GOT CHOKED

(Continued from page 1.)
A French eye-witness, in a description of the battles from December 15 to 23, gives good idea of the kind of fighting in progress and records gains which, while by themselves are marked only in yards, but amount in the aggregate to a considerable advance.

At many points a few hundred yards in Flanders were taken by primitive methods, for having the breeches of their rifles choked with mud, the Allied troops used them as clubs and in many cases fought the Germans with their fists.

In one little French village, within sound of the guns, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, the first Canadian contingent to go to the front, are billeted, waiting their turn to go into the trenches. They were accorded a splendid reception by their comrades in arms, and by the French villagers.

Turning Point in East.
With the defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and South Poland and the re-

OBITUARY

Herbert Antle
Herbert Antle, youngest son of the late Abraham and Martha Antle, formerly of Brigus, Nfld., died at Everett, Mass., on Dec. 29th.

Deceased left Newfoundland about 25 years ago, and was engaged up to within a short time of his death as travelling agent for a piano firm in Rhode Island.

Deceased leaves two sons and two daughters in Everett, Mass.; also three brothers, Willis, of The Daily News office, Thomas, of Nfld. Con Foundry, and Harry of Halifax; and four sisters, Mrs. (Capt.) Wm. Parsons, St. John's; Mrs. John Parsons, of H. Grace; Mrs. H. Dowden, of Everett, Mass.; and Mrs. H. Elford, of Calgary, Can. His wife predeceased him two years ago.

Mr. Antle was well-known in St. John's.

PROSPERO NOW AT TWILLINGATE

Bowling's Coastal Department had the following wire from Capt. A. Kean, Twillingate:—

"Ice slackened from outside, and let us to Twillingate wharf, taking freight."

Walking Dangerous

Pedestrians found great difficulty in reaching their homes last night, and many measured their lengths on the icy inclines.

This morning walking was almost as bad.

Watch Night Services will be held as usual in many of the city churches to-night.

Retirement of the Germans across the Bzura, Petrograd believes that the turning point has been reached in the battles of the Polish rivers. The chief fighting is now taking place on the Piltca, where the Germans are still on the offensive and have brought up big guns. The losses in these battles have reached enormous figures in dead and wounded and the prisoners must have been largely added to by despair, for the men fought under dreadful climate conditions and in mud for which Poland is notorious.

WANTED—A Reliable
Girl who understands Plain Cooking. Small family. Good wages. Apply to CAPTAIN ABRAHAM, Ordnance St., next door to the East End Fire Hall.—dec31,Jan24,5,ff

FOR SALE—One Dwelling
House, Store and Work Shop combined. Will sell at a bargain. For further particulars apply to W. J. DOVE, Chance Hr. East.—dec5,ff

FOR SALE—A Few
Barrels of Splendid Partridge Berries (preserved in water tight packages) at \$4.00 per bbl. A splendid lot for retailers. FISHERMEN'S UNION TRADING CO.—dec31

FOR SALE—A 15 H. P.
Steam Engine, almost new. Just the thing for a small factory or Lumber Mill. Will be sold at a bargain. For further particulars apply to G. MORGAN, Gazette Office, Board of Trade Building.—dec23,2w,ead

FOR SALE—We have
a quantity of Large Dry Codfish, suitable for eating, which we are retailing at a reasonable figure. Anyone wanting eating fish should see this before buying elsewhere. FISHERMEN'S UNION TRADING CO.—dec18

NOTICE.—Trinity Bay
Councils of the F.P.U. will please notice that January 16th will be observed as Union Day in Trinity District, when every Council is expected according to the Constitution to parade. By order, J. G. STONE.—dec8

NOTICE.—Owing to the
Conception Bay Convention to be held at Coley's Point the second week in January, there will be no meeting of Port de Grave District Council until that Convention is closed, when due notice will be given of the time and place of meeting. GEO. F. GRIMES, Chairman, Port de Grave District Council.

BIRTHS

FORBES—At Clarke's Beach, on Christmas Day, a son to Archibald and Mrs. Forbes.

ADVERTISE IN THE
MAIL AND ADVOCATE