

in there knew that the last two bombs had fallen on the "Aetna" basins, and that the Snowdon would be sure to catch it next. By a trick of the gods of chance, the vessel happened to be alone in the basin, and presented a shining mark. The lads reached the galley window.

By crowding in, shoulder to shoulder, they could all see. The pool and its concrete wall were hidden; the window opened directly on the river. Presently came a lull in the tumult, and during it Steve heard a low, monotonous hum, the song of the raiding planes. More fragments of shrapnel fell upon the deck. The moon had travelled westward, and lay, large and golden, well clear of the town. The winter stars, bright and inexorable, had advanced . . . the city was fighting on. Suddenly the three boys heard the ominous aerial whistle, one of the twins slammed the door to, and an instant later there was a sound within the dark little galley as if somebody had touched off an enormous invisible rocket, . . . a frightful "zoom" and impact . . . silence. They guessed what had happened. A bomb intended for the Snowdon had fallen in the river. Later, somewhere on land, was heard a thundering crash which shook the vessel violently. A pan or something of the kind hanging on the galley wall fell with a startling crash. "Get out of there, you boys," salled the cook. Ship's galleys are sacred places, and are to be respected even in air raids. And then . . . even more slowly and gradually than it had gathered to a flood, the uproar ebbed. The firing grew spasmodic, ceased within the city limits, . . . lingered as a distant rumble from the outlying fields, and finally died away altogether. The sailors, released by a curt order, came on deck. The top of the concrete wall was splashed and mottled with dark puddles and spatters of water. . . . All agreed that the bomb had fallen "bloody close." The peace of the abyss ruled above.—Harry B. Beston, in *"The North American Review."*

CURRENT ITEMS

A New York despatch states that the first flight of what is expected to be regular mail service between New York and Chicago began at 7.20 a.m., December 18th, when Leon D. Smith took to the air at Belmont Park, Long Island. His bi-plane carried 400 pounds of mail. His plan was to descend at Bellefont, Pa., and put his mail into the care of another pilot who would transport it to Cleveland, from where a third aviator would carry it on to Chicago.

His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire, Governor-General of Canada, made an official visit to the Maritime Provinces recently. He arrived in Fredericton from Ottawa on December 3rd, where he visited the Military Hospital, the University of New Brunswick, where a

Doctor's Degree was conferred upon him, and addressed the assembled Normal and High School students in the Opera House. In the evening a reception was given him in the Parliament buildings. From Fredericton His Excellency and party went to St. John, and from there to Halifax and Charlottetown, besides visiting other centres of the provinces.

A general election of members for the British House of Commons was held on December 14th. The result of the voting will not be known until December 21st, when the soldiers' votes will be counted, but it is supposed that Union Government under the leadership of Premier Lloyd-George has been sustained. Three notable changes in the method of electing members distinguished this from all preceding elections. For the first time the elections were held in all the constituencies on the same day, for the first time women voted in the elections, and for the first time women were candidates for election. Mrs. Pankhurst, the noted woman suffragist, was one of the candidates.

Cologne, on the east bank of the Rhine, has been occupied by the British forces and placed under martial law. Many of the inhabitants, for disregarding an order of the British that no one was to be allowed on the street after 9 o'clock at night without a pass, have been arrested and fined.

Budapest, capital of Hungary, has also been occupied by a French force of about 8,000 men, it is semi-officially reported.

The Canadian troops crossed the German border on December 3rd, when the first Canadian division crossed at Poteau and another division further south. Sir Arthur Currie, Commander of the Canadian Corps, was accompanied by his staff, including Prince Arthur of Connaught.

The American troops have occupied Coblenz.

Dr. Sidenio Paes, President of Portugal, was shot and killed by an assassin shortly before midnight on Saturday, December 14th, while he was in a railway station at Lisbon waiting for a train to Oporto.

Members of the Peace Conference are gathering at Paris for the notable gathering to be held at Versailles early in the year. Twenty-seven countries which were either in the war or have been set up as a result of the war will be represented there. Neutral countries will not be represented at the council.

President Wilson, who went overseas to be present at the Peace Council, and Mrs. Wilson, were recently banqueted at Buckingham Palace by King George and