

FRUIT MEN'S CONVENTION IN TORONTO

Some Criticism of the Inspection and Sale Act is Heard.

THE DUST SPRAY

Advocated as Being Better Than Liquid in Orchards.

Toronto despatch—That the inspection and sale act gives no protection whatever to the apple consumer who buys apples in small quantities from retail stores was one of the statements Mr. A. S. Chapin made yesterday at the annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

Mr. Chapin also complained of the law in another particular. The standard fixed for No. 2 grade, he said, was so indefinite that even he, with fifteen years' experience, could not say what a No. 2 grade he would have two classes of No. 1—No. 1-A and No. 1-B.

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There was some diversity of opinion as to fall plowing of orchards. Messrs. W. F. Kydd and A. W. Peart favored plowing and harrowing after the season's growth is over.

Mr. George Robertson of Niagara district, said that fall plowing would not do in his case as it was necessary to leave a fall growth to hold the snow for winter protection.

Prof. Whetzel did not believe that the cost of dust would be less than liquid spray, and one great advantage in favor of the former is that it can be much more thickly applied.

"In my opinion dusting has come to stay," concluded Prof. Whetzel. "The day will come, I believe, when every fruit-grower in Canada and the United States will use the dust method."

Prof. Caesar, of the O. A. C., said he had secured 97 per cent. of clean fruit with dusting in the Niagara district last year, but weather conditions were much more favorable there than in the average of Ontario.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS ELECTED.

The following were elected directors for the several districts: No. 1, R. B. Whyte, Ottawa; 2, E. Casselman, Ironquits; 3, Howard Leavens, Bloomfield; 4, J. J. Waite, Colborne; 5, R. W. Grierson, Oshawa; 6, W. F. W. Fisher, Burlington; 7, J. R. Hastings, Wilmot; 8, F. A. Sheppard, S. Catharines; 9, Charles Howard, Hagersville; 10, Thomas Rowley, Leamington; 11, A. Stephenson, Longwood; 12, J. C. Harris, Ingersoll; 13, W. Mitchell, Clarksburg. The directors will elect the President.

DAY'S TULL OF GERMAN SUBS.

Ten Ships Were Sunk, Six of them British.

Brutality Clearly Proved by Survivors.

London Cable—Allied and neutral ships aggregating 21,000 tons have been sunk by German submarines during the past 24 hours. Ten vessels in all were sunk, six of them British, and an aggregate tonnage of 21,000 tons.

The following are the ships reported sunk: the Italian steamer, the Savoia, the German liner, the Boyze Castle, the British, the Yvonne, the Swedish steamer, the Italian steamer, the Savoia, the German liner, the Boyze Castle, the British, the Yvonne, the Swedish steamer.

An American negro fireman on the Turino, George Washington, was killed. According to detailed reports of survivors of the British steamer Eaves, the German submarine which sank the steamer when it fired three times on one open boat containing members of the crew, an action which, it is reported, could not have been an accident or a mistake.

The reports say the submarine opened fire when 3,000 yards distant from the Eavesstone, firing the range 100 and using from 12 to 20 shells from the 12-pound and 6-pound guns.

Statements by survivors of vessels reported sunk show that in one case a submarine operating in the war zone employed a steamer which it had seized as a place of temporary refuge for crews of other vessels attacked and sunk.

The survivors who told of this procedure were from the Norwegian calling vessel Sengely and Furness liner Turino. The captain and 29 of the crew of the latter were landed. Her first engineer and three of her firemen were killed. The crews of both vessels, the survivors relate, were on board an unnamed Italian steamer for two days.

After the crews of the Sengely and Turino had been on board the Italian for two days, they were transferred to the British steamer Penmont, which was ordered to take them to port. The Germans also transferred from the submarine to the Penmont Captain Snaffles, of the steamer Holliside, who had been taken on board the submarine as a prisoner when his vessel was sunk. His crew of 22 were left in one boat, he reported, and are still missing.

The intention of the submarine was to sink the Italian vessel before returning to Germany, according to survivors. The sinking of the Turino and Holliside has already been reported. The Norwegian ship Sengely of 2,075 tons gross had not been heard of since it was reported as sunk. She was last reported at Buenos Aires on Nov. 12.

ONLY LOGICAL STEP.

Japan's View of U. S. President's Action.

Tokyo Cable—The severance of relations between the United States and Germany has caused a profound impression here. The Foreign Office has expressed satisfaction at the action of President Wilson, declaring that it was the only logical step. The Yokohama stock and silk exchanges have suspended their sessions, after heavy declines. Brokers fear an interruption of silk exports to the United States. The American Embassy and Consulates have discontinued their representation of Germany in Japan. The newspapers welcome the rupture, declaring that if war comes the United States will be of immense moral and material aid to the Entente, and hasten the collapse of Germany.

ANOTHER GOOD BRITISH GAIN; SAILLY-SAILLISEL HILL TAKEN

Capture of Grandcourt Followed Up Vigorously on Ancre River

All Objects Obtained--Huns Attack on Belgians Badly Repulsed

London Cable—The British in the Somme region of France are keeping up their new offensive against the Germans in their efforts to push forward toward Bapaume, South-east of Bapaume, along the Bapaume-Peronne road, they have taken the highest point of Saily-Saillisel hill and captured a large number of Germans and one machine gun. Along both sides of the Ancre River west of Bapaume, further progress has been made, including the capture of a trench near Grandcourt, where a goodly gain was made Wednesday.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

The official report from headquarters reads: "We attacked this morning an important enemy position on the highest point of Saily-Saillisel Hill on the Somme front. We gained the whole of our objectives and captured a machine gun and 78 prisoners, including two officers."

"Our capture of Grandcourt has been followed up vigorously on both banks of the Ancre, and considerable progress has been made. During the night we attacked and captured Baillescourt farm on the Beaucourt-Mirambert road, and south of the Ancre carried another hostile trench lying between Grandcourt and our old front line. In these operations we have taken a further 82 prisoners, including one officer."

"The ground we have gained on the Ancre since the new year now represents an advance of an average depth of nearly three-quarters of a mile on a front of over three miles."

"We also entered enemy trenches last night south of Bouchavesnes and brought back prisoners and a machine gun. A number of the enemy were killed and dugouts were bombed. "During the night an enemy raiding party in the neighborhood of Grandcourt was driven off by our barrage before reaching our line. Another enemy raid attempted south-west of La Bassee, also was repulsed."

"Considerable artillery activity on both sides continued in the neighborhood of Arrerieres and Ypres. We caused a large explosion in the enemy's lines."

"On the night of February 6-7 we dropped bombs on an enemy aerodrome with good effect. One German aeroplane was destroyed yesterday in the air-fighting and three others were driven down damaged. One of our machines is missing."

The German War Office issued a supplementary report to-night admitting that a spirited bombardment was in progress in the Somme sector. It read: "A spirited bombardment was in progress in the Somme sector today. In the Somme sector there was tomorrow's strong firing. Near Saily-Saillisel partial engagements are in progress."

ATTEMPT TO ENTER BELGIAN LINES.

"Last night the Germans attempted to enter the Belgian lines. A strong enemy party advanced and attacked the Belgian post south of Dixmude, but was received by infantry and machine gun fire. Our assaults were decimated," the official report says, "the survivors retiring. We took about a dozen prisoners also. Numerous dead were left on the field before the trenches, one of whom was an officer."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable—The official communication issued by the War Office Thursday night reads: "Spirited artillery fighting took place south of the Somme in the regions of Denicourt and Lihons."

"In the Argonne, in the sector of Poland, we carried out against the German trenches a surprise attack which enabled us to bring back about twenty prisoners. Nothing of importance occurred on the rest of the front. "Enemy aeroplanes dropped projectiles in the region of St. Vincent bridge. Four civilians were killed and five wounded."

NOT ALARMED BY CAMPAIGN OF HUN SUBS.

British Admiralty Has Taken Measures, and Will Frustrate U-Boats.

THE BRUTAL FEE

Castigated by Leaders of Civilization in British Parliament.

London Cable—"We are not alarmed at the sharpened submarine war. We knew it was coming and prepared for it. Time will tell how our continuance is justified." This statement was made to the Associated Press today at the Admiralty, and it was issued.

It must be remembered that one submarine may cause more havoc without getting a victim, for instance, on the day since Feb. 1, torpedoes were fired on eight of seven of our merchantmen without getting a single hit. We have taken measures which we have every reason to believe will frustrate the U-boat warfare, of course, it is obvious that we cannot re-elude the daily reports of the decrease in sinkings will be the best evidence of our success."

Former Premier Asquith described Germany's new naval policy as one of "undisguised savagery." He said it was not worth while discussing the motives which actuated the German Government. The no direct feature of it was that it was a direct and defiant challenge to the conscience and to the interests of the entire neutral world. "This declaration of war on neutrality," continued Mr. Asquith, "is a challenge which has been taken up with dignity and without delay by the greatest of neutral states. It is not for us to forecast the bearing of this challenge, but we are sure the firmness of the war. Still less is it fitting for us to forecast the bearing of this challenge, but we are sure the firmness of the Government which is well able to take care of itself."

"We shall hold with indignation, with a grain of common sense, the story and present Administration of the other great English-speaking power to frustrate the neutrals of those who have abandoned the title of enemies of the human race." Andrew Bonar Law, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressed satisfaction with what he alleged to be the perfect manner in which former Premier Asquith had upheld the feeling of the country on the role of the neutrals in the face of the submarine menace. "We are sure that more and more men about whose names were coming under the

comment. "The association," said Prof. Zavitz, "must work for the reduction of the numbers of varieties of farm crops grown in the province to a comparatively few of the very best kinds. Information regarding the amount of seed which each competitor may have for sale must be made more readily accessible and the association should devise and practice a system whereby the farming public is informed as to the exact degree of freedom from weeds of a noxious character, which prevails in the fields of each competitor in farm crop classes, who may offer seed for sale. Finally, this information must be ready for presentation in time for farmers to buy and sell seed as early in the Winter as is possible."

After amplifying his statements as to the best measures to adopt for the general improvement of seed stocks, Prof. Zavitz expressed an opinion that the practice of buying seeds from irresponsible agents who peddle from home to home should be rigorously opposed by the association.

ATTENDANCE AT FAIRS.

Mr. A. R. G. Smith instructed the delegates as to ways and means for stimulating a greater interest in the fair, and also exhibited and suggested methods which in his opinion would result in largely increased attendance. He would have complimentary tickets issued to all children who may come in care of parents or others who have notices prominently displayed in all local newspapers announcing the dates and purposes of each gathering called by the association. He spoke of the success which had followed the issuance of many thousands of invitation cards which had been printed for the purpose of calling attention to the benefits which may be derived by all members of the farming communities from a visit to the displays and entry to the competitions.

The following officers were elected to care for the executive business of the association for the ensuing year: President, Wm. Scarf, Durham; first vice-president, L. J. C. Hull, Brampton; second vice-president, W. J. Connelly, Cobden; secretary, J. Lockie Wilson, Toronto; treasurer, Alex. McFarlane, Otterville; auditor, Alex. McFarlane, Otterville; district directors—J. C. Stuart, Osgoode Station; J. S. Sibbitt, Kingston; W. J. Barber, Rossmore; E. H. Purdy, Port Perry; R. B. Henry, Orangeville; J. E. Peart, Hamilton; R. E. Cowan, Galt; S. J. Monteith, Stratford; P. W. Johnston, Walkerville; John McDermid, Lucknow; W. J. Hamilton, Raymond; E. F. Stephenson, New Liskard and Wm. Marshall, Sault Ste. Marie.

BERNSTORFF GETS PERMIT

Britain Gives Hun Envoy to U. S. Passage

But Cannot Guarantee Against U-Boats.

London Cable—Count von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador to the United States, will be given a safe conduct so far as it is within the power of the British Government to give it. This announcement was made to-night by the foreign office, following a conference between A. J. Balfour, secretary for foreign affairs, and Ambassador Peart.

The American ambassador called on Mr. Balfour, and the two were closeted for nearly an hour. Both were non-committal on the subject of the negotiations, but it is believed they related freely to the request of the United States Government for the safe conduct of Ambassador von Bernstorff for at the conclusion of the conference the foreign office authorized the announcement of Great Britain's decision to accede to Washington's request, which was made two days ago. At the same time the Foreign Office called its decision to the State Department at Washington. It is said that Great Britain is ready to grant Count von Bernstorff safe conduct, but that it could not guarantee the former Ambassador's safety against the acts of his own countrymen. The British Government expressed itself as anxious to meet the State Department's wishes and declared that it would do all in its power to carry them out.

LEAVING GERMANY.

U. S. Citizens Crowd Embassy for Assistance.

Berlin Cable, via London, Cable—The scene at the United States Embassy this morning recalled the memorable days of August, 1914. Crowds of anxious Americans blocked the corridors and secretarial rooms, seeking the renewal of passports, and above all, advice for their future course and in regard to possible routes back home. Several secretaries and attaches of the Embassy were stationed in the corridors to answer questions, and the passport department worked at full speed extending and renewing passports, without resorting to the hitherto prescribed reference to Washington. Plans for the departure of Ambassador Gerard and his staff are still unsettled; it will perhaps be a matter of several days before they will leave Germany. The Ambassador will return directly to the United States.

41 DIED IN SINKING OF CALIFORNIA

Big Vessel Sank in Nine Minutes After Torpedo Hit Her.

WAS NO PANIC

Conduct of Passengers and Crew Was the Best, Captain Says.

London Cable—Forty-one persons perished when the British passenger steamer California, of the Anchor Line, was torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning. The vessel sank in nine minutes.

The stricken ship was able to send out "S. O. S." calls, and help arrived promptly. Nevertheless, five persons were killed by the explosion and 36 were drowned in the launching of the lifeboats.

The California was an armed liner, carrying a single 4.7 gun mounted on the stern. The gunner was just training the weapon on the spot where oil bubbles had revealed the presence of the under-water enemy when a torpedo struck the port side with an explosion so violent that most of the people aboard were thrown off their feet, five being killed and a score injured.

The submarine fired a second torpedo, in an apparent effort to accelerate the sinking, but the second shot missed, although both torpedoes were fired from a distance of less than 200 yards.

There was only one American aboard the California, and he is among the survivors.

LOWERED FROM SLOPING DECKS.

Captain Henderson, commander of the California, declares that the conduct of the passengers and crew was exemplary. There had been careful drills on the ship on the way across, and every person aboard had been assigned a place in a lifeboat and provided with a lifebelt. But, despite the coolness of the passengers and the seamanship of the crew, the successful launching of the boats was made impossible by the shortness of the time between the torpedoing of the vessel and her disappearance beneath the waves, which did not permit waiting until the ship had lost headway.

When the boats were being lowered from the sloping decks the California continued to move forward, lurching like a drunken man, and the roar of the water rushing through the gaping wound in her side could be heard above the shouts of officers and men. In a number of cases it was necessary for the passengers to jump into the boats after they were in the water, and in one case a boat with its unbalanced load was swamped and sank, many of the occupants being swept under the ship before the other boats could give help.

Some of the lifeboats in the after part of the ship were actually in the water when released from the davits, so rapidly did the ship settle by the stern. A considerable number of the crew jumped from their stations into the sea and swam to the boats. It was extremely fortunate that the weather was calm and the sea glassy; otherwise it would probably have been impossible to launch a single boat.

NO WARNING GIVEN

The townspeople who crowded the quays carried blankets, clothing and food, and were eager to be of some assistance to the survivors when they were brought ashore. Aside from those injured, few of the survivors needed much help, but some were thinly clad and gladly accepted gifts of clothing. Naval and military Red Cross contingents were present to care for the injured, who were removed to hospitals.

According to the reports received by the American Embassy from some of the survivors, there was only one submarine which, however, fired two torpedoes, one of which missed by a few yards, the other hitting the California squarely on the port quarter. It was the captain from the bridge who discerned suspicious oil bubbles on the surface of the water 200 yards distant. He instantly divined that a submarine was there and ordered the siren to ring. Before this could be done the ship was torpedoed. The track of the torpedoes could be seen, but no warning was given, and the submarine did not attack the boat until the ship was in the water.

THE SURVIVORS.

Following are the names of the survivors among the passengers on the California: First cabin: James Broughton. Second cabin: Mrs. J. W. Alverton, Angus Gilechrist, Mrs. Angus Gilechrist, Cornelia O'Donnell, Miss Rose Martin, Alexander Norton (Mrs. In?) Miss A. Cutbill (Mrs?) Mrs. Chambers. Third cabin: Margaret Little, Mary Little and Baby Little, Mrs. Teale McKinnon, Alexander Knox (Afford?), James Anderson, Alexander Lezas, Marjorie Sinclair, Jessie Robertson.

33,325,000 FOR PULPWOOD. Toronto, Report.—The successful tender for the right to cut the pulpwood and timber of the Black Sturgeon River Reserve is Mr. S. Marks of Nelson who offered a bid of \$1.10 per cord, plus a bonus on all classes of pulpwood. This means, taking due into account that for the first year the Government receives \$1.10, and for all other classes of wood 40 cents a cord. It is estimated that as a result of the sale the Provincial Treasury will benefit in time to the extent of \$3,325,000.