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A Bastardly Deed

It is now practically established beyond doubt that only 24 out of 258 persons on board the hospital ship "Llandovery Castle," sunk by a German submarine on the Irish Coast, are saved. The British Admiralty reports that the areas between the spot where the ship was sunk and the south western coast of Ireland has been thoroughly searched by two groups of His Majesty's ships, in addition to a destroyer, and that as a result of the search only a little wreckage and one empty boat were found. The report therefore concluded that it might be safely assumed that there are no more survivors.

This, one of the latest, is among the most diabolical of the fiendish deeds perpetrated in this war by the Germans, on land and sea. Since the beginning of the war, now nearly 4 years ago, the reputation of the Hun enemy has been disgraced by all manner of reprehensible actions; actions directly subversive of all notions of civilized warfare and revolting to all humane and Christian instincts. We had grown up with the idea that honor may exist between enemies in the field, and that in a war waged between contending powers, non-combatants are immune from injury; but in this titanic struggle the Hun has reversed all previous conceptions of what constitutes honest and honorable conduct. New and unheard of devices have been employed by the Germans with the view of taking their opponents at a serious disadvantage. Their progress under conditions thus devised has been marked by all manner of treachery, falsehood, deceit and unheard of cruelty. Nothing, in the category of evil deeds, has been beyond their desire of perpetration. Innocent women and children have been subjected to the most cruel and revolting experiences. Non-combatant towns and villages have been subjected to bombardments, hardships and death in their aerial warfare. Ships at sea have been subjected to their cowardly and sneaking under-seas attacks, and the victims of these onslaughts have been allowed to perish before the eyes of their fiendish perpetrators. But it's doubtful if anything in their whole category of treachery and crime is more reprehensible than this sinking of hospital ships, which carry openly all distinguishing marks that proclaim them to be messengers of mercy and charity; but these have no attraction for the merciless Hun. In the case under consideration the Llandovery Castle had her name prominently displayed at different places on her hull, and she was illuminated by abundant lights; so there could be no misunderstanding her character. It might be thought that wicked and cruel and deceitful as had been the conduct of the Germans, at least a ship of this character, fully proclaiming her identity would have been spared; but not so. Not only was the ship sunk without a moments notice but there is no lack of evidence that the intention was to destroy all on board, so that no profits would remain of the detestable deed. It is proved by the evidence of some of the few survivors that, after the sinking of the ship, the boats, into which many of the ships company had found

places were deliberately fired upon and sunk. From evidence such as this no other conclusion can be drawn than that the intention of these blood thirsty destroying pirates was to wipe out every vestige of their reprehensible deed. In the face of conduct such as this and with the accumulated repetitions of deeds of a like nature there can be no argument with their perpetrators. Nothing remains but the destruction of these foul beasts, as expressed by the Leader of the British House of Commons. The Germans, all through their warfare, have proclaimed from time to time the doctrine of frightfulness and, in the sinking of this hospital ship, they have given an example that would be very difficult to exceed in fiendishness.

The reprehensible conduct of the Hun, in the matter of sinking hospital ships, is brought home to the people of this Province more strikingly in this case, than hitherto; as there were at least two Prince Edward Islanders lost in this tragedy. These were Mr. J. B. Foley, formerly of South Shore, who had been in the army, was gassed, and on partial recovery was given a place on this ship. The other was Miss Rena McLean, daughter of Senator and Mrs. McLean of Souris. She was an expert trained nurse and had gone overseas early in the war, and was employed in her capacity of nurse on the "Llandovery Castle." She had made several trips to Halifax in charge of wounded soldiers and on this occasion was on return from one of these trips. Senator and Mrs. McLean had been to Halifax to see their daughter on this last trip of the ship and it was on this return that the tragedy occurred. The sympathy of the whole community goes out to these people in their hour of sorrow.

Expresses Canadian Sentiment

An immense gathering assembled at Westminster, London on the 4th July, to celebrate Independence Day. A resolution of greeting to the United States was proposed by Winston Spencer Churchill, and seconded by Hon. Arthur Meighen, Canada's Minister of the Interior.

Hon. Mr. Meighen said, "I second the motion, not as a Canadian, but in the larger enduring right as a member of the British Empire. I wish I could interpret to this vast audience the feelings which I know must dominate the Dominion to-day. A week ago a German submarine commander torpedoed on high seas a hospital ship chartered by our Government, laden only with messengers of mercy. Upon that ship were nurses, from Canada, honest, faithful, devoted women, who through these past years had ministered to their fellow-men, nursing them back from agony to health. These ministers they overran on the high seas, sending them to their death. "Better the world should perish than that these murderers should live. (Cheers). "That is the spirit of Canada. It is the spirit of Britain and America. One million Americans have crossed the Atlantic to translate that spirit into deeds. It is the first million only that have crossed. (Laughter and cheers). "Let us have from now onward, if we never had before, the highest efficiency. Generations unborn will bless the generations of today and will reap the long reward of our suffering and of the union which will be the result of that suffering."

Rev. Thos. E. Cullen, of St. Paul, Minn., formerly of this city is here at present on a vacation visit. He preached eloquently in St. Dunstan's Cathedral on Sunday last.

Death of Lord Rhonda

Viscount Rhonda (David Alfred Thomas) the British Food Controller, died in London on the 3rd inst. He had an attack of pleurisy, and had undergone operations for dispersion of fluid consequent therefrom. This weakened him gradually. There were few rallies and little hope of recovery was held out; finally the heart failed to respond to treatment, and the end came.

Viscount Rhonda was the man who put England and most of the United Kingdom of Great Britain on rations and won the gratitude of the people whose food supply he regulated. Before he achieved the task it was generally regarded as all but impossible. Food was running short in the United Kingdom in June, 1917, when Baron Rhonda was appointed Food Controller of Great Britain. The German U-boats were sending ships to the bottom of the ocean, and Great Britain was supporting a tremendous army in France. The civilians at home were beginning to feel the pinch. Long queues of men, women and children stood for hours at the food stores in scores of British cities, and there was a loud grumble from the public.

The man who as David A. Thomas had been managing director of the great Cambrian coal combine, apparently undertook his task with many misgivings. "I have a suspicion," he told his Welsh friends, "that Lloyd George conspired me for this almost impossible job because he knew I had the hide of a rhinoceros. I am going through he added, "as guardian and trustee of the consumer and for the consumer." He declared that he was determined to stop profiteering and speculation in food. "If it is necessary to put the whole country on compulsory rations I will do it without compunction," he gave warning. Then followed a series of orders and regulations that a year or two before would have aroused the Briton to wrath. The new Food Controller took over control of all the crops for 1917 and within a few months announced the formation of an inter-allied food council to purchase in the United States, France and Italy in co-operation with Herbert Hoover, the American Food Administrator. The purpose was to eliminate competition and stop speculative advances in the prices of food. By fixing the price he put into effect a policy of controlling the great profits of food dealers from the producer down to the retailer.

Transportation in America was snow-bound for weeks during the winter of 1917, and America failed to deliver to England the food she had promised. Rhonda met the crisis by fixing the amount of food to be served every person in hotels, restaurants, and boarding houses, down to the minute fraction. It carried England over the crisis and resulted in his elevation to Viscount. But the new Viscount seemed to have fallen a victim to over-devotion to his own theories. He had boasted that he was living on a far smaller ration than he had imposed upon the British people, but in April 1918 he suffered a physical collapse that was attributed to his short rations. The queues had disappeared from the British food stores. Prices were established and while stories of the sufferings of Germany and Austria leaked past the censors the Briton smiled and boasted of what Rhonda had accomplished for him. There was food enough and each obtained his share; the coal king had won the fight and the applause of his countrymen. Before undertaking that task, Rhonda had in 1915 organized the British munitions buying in the United States and Canada and put it on a business basis.

Born at Adare, Wales, March 26, 1856, David A. Thomas was the son of a colliery owner. Succeeding to his father's business, he became head of the great Cambrian combine; which controlled many mines producing steam coal used by the British navy. He was elected to Parliament from Cardiff and twice refused to be made a peer. Long before he began to figure in public life he was prominently known in America as the "British Coal King." His favorite recreation was in farming. In 1882 he married Sybil Haig, of Penitton, and they had one daughter.

The Cause Attacked

In the course of its editorial comment on the decision of the Supreme Court of Alberta, in which a majority of the judges declared invalid the order in council cancelling exemptions granted to young men of 20 to 22 years of age, the Montreal Gazette says in part:

"The Government is confident that the validity of the order in council will be established. In the meantime, however, there is to be no delay in its operation. Should the decision of the Alberta court be reversed upon appeal, the matter will end there. If it is upheld, the operation of the order in council can be legalized by means of retroactive legislation. The propriety of the position taken by the Government is not open to question. The order in council was passed because the need for men was pressing. It was passed under the authority supposed to have been conferred upon the Government by the War Measures Act, an authority which the law officers of the crown deemed to be sufficient, and which Parliament, in asserting its approval by resolution, also deemed to be sufficient. The position then is that advantage is being taken, by legal process, of an alleged technical weakness in the War Measures Act, for the purpose of frustrating the expressed will of Parliament to the disadvantage of the army and of the cause for which the army fights."

Churchill Speaks

In the course of his speech on the 4th of July, proposing a resolution of greeting to the United States, Winston Spencer Churchill gave expression to the following:

"I am persuaded that the finest and perhaps the darkest moment of British history was reached on the night we declared war upon Germany. Like the people of the United States, we entered the war without counting the cost or thought of reward. The cost will be in the end far more terrible than the darkest expectation, but the reward that is coming is beyond our dearest hopes. What is the reward? Deep in the hearts of the people of these islands is the desire to be truly reconciled to their kindred across the Atlantic, to blot out the reproaches and redeem the blunders of a by-gone age and dwell once more in spirit with them. That was the heart's desire which seemed utterly unattainable, but which has been granted. "By the years of the struggle never so long, never so cruel, that will make amends for all. That is Great Britain's reward. The presence of a million American soldiers, awaiting side by side with their French and British comrades, the utmost fury of the common enemy, is an event that seems to transcend the limits of purely mundane things and fills us with the deepest awe. Amid the carnage, the mess of grief and the desolation, I am convinced that the world is being guided towards something better and much finer than has ever been known. No event has ever occurred since the Christian era more likely to restore man's faith in the moral government of the universe. "The war has become a conflict of Christian civilization with scientific barbarism. One system or the other must decisively prevail. Germany must be beaten, must know, must feel she is beaten; Her defeat must be expressed in terms of acts which will deter others from emulating her crimes, but the German people must have the assurance that we claim for ourselves no fundamental right which we are not willing in all circumstances to secure to them, whatever the extent of our victory; the German people will be protected by the principle for which we are fighting."

Silver Jubilee Celebration

Reverend Alexander J. McDougall, Tighish, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the holy priesthood on Tuesday June 25th, 1918. The observance of the event was ushered in at 9 o'clock with the celebration, in the parish church of St. Simon and St. Jude, of Solemn High Mass, by the Rev. Jubilarian, assisted by Rev. T. Campbell, as deacon, Rev. J. B. McIntyre, as sub-deacon and Rev. J. A. McDonald, as Master of ceremonies. Very Rev. Mgr. McDonald, P. P., was present in the Sanctuary, and other priests in attendance were: Rev. Dr. Gauthier, who assisted the choir, Revs. R. J. and S. J. McDonald. There was a large attendance of parishioners.

After Mass, the Rev. Jubilarian was presented with addresses in English and French, by the parishioners, and also by a Dame in Latin, at Notre Dame Convent, by the ladies of the parish. All these addresses were accompanied by purses of silver, and were responded to in most feeling, appropriate and felicitous terms by the Rev. Jubilarian. The morning services and ceremonies in the church concluded with a solemn Te Deum sung alternately by the clergy and choir.

During the afternoon a large number of people called on the Rev. gentleman to tender their personal felicitations, and the day's celebration was brought to a close in the church by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a large congregation attending. We beg to associate ourselves with these felicitations by extending our sincere wishes *Ad Multos Annos*.

The English address was read by Senator Murphy and is as follows:

Rev. A. J. MacDougall.
Rev. and dear Father—On this day twenty-five years ago you consecrated yourself in a special manner to the service of the Master; you became a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedech, assuming all the dignity of that high office with all its obligations, duties and sacrifices. After this long period of strenuous, faithful and fruitful labor in the Lord's vineyard, your soul this morning sang its Magnificat of praise and thanks giving for the manifold graces and favors bestowed upon you, and we your spiritual children with grateful hearts associated ourselves with the joy and gratitude of our father.

We draw near then to tender you the homage of our filial love and respect, to thank you for all you have done for us during all the years you have labored amongst us. For nineteen years you have shared the toils and the sors of our venerable and most revered pastor, Monsignor MacDougall. You have always shown yourself ready and willing to take up the burden which weighed heavy upon our dear pastor, who had for so long and so faithfully borne it. In return he has been to you a counsellor and a friend, and to him you have been a faithful and efficient assistant and a cheering companion.

To us you have ever been a father, kind to the wayward, sympathetic to the afflicted, mindful of the poor, faithful attendant of the sick and a friend to all. Neither are we unmindful of what you have accomplished with regard to the education of our children. A real teacher by taste and by profession, your teaching in our convent school was a labor of love. The young ladies who had the good fortune to come under your tuition will ever be grateful to you for the training you gave them, and will ever associate their success in other institutions of learning and in the teaching profession with the name of Dear Father Mac.

Yes we have all learned to love you for,
You've a way all your own
Father Mac
To win the hearts of all
Father Mac.
May all blessings come your way
Till that other glad some day
When the silver'll turn to gold
Father Mac.

In conclusion please accept this purse as a mere earnest of our gratitude and affection.
The Parishioners of Tighish Parish,
June 25th, 1918.

Progress of the War

London, July 2.—Hurling themselves at the tip of the salient driven into the allied lines by the Germans late in May, the Americans and French have won important ground near Chateau Thierry. The attack was local in character but its success may prove important in the part of the battle front nearest Paris. The assault was aimed at the hamlet of Vaux, which is situated on the south side of the Chateau Thierry-Paris road and on the northern slopes of Hill 204. Vaux is about two miles from Chateau Thierry. This was carried by the rush of the French and Americans, who also occupied two small patches of woods in the immediate vicinity. The Germans almost immediately began counter-attacks in an attempt to regain the lost positions, but their efforts failed in every instance. In the initial attack and in their repeated assaults against the new lines held by the Allies, the Germans have suffered very heavy losses, at least 500 prisoners have been taken by the French and Americans.

Paris, July 3rd.—American troops standing at Vaux, northwest of Chateau Thierry, have completely smashed repeated and determined counter-attacks by the Germans who sought to oust the Americans from their new positions. That the Germans have tried desperately to reverse the decision in the battle is an indication that the occupation of Vaux is viewed as important by the enemy commanders. Over the lines held by General Pershing's men there has been bursting a storm of steel from the German cannon, high explosive and gas shells being intermingled in the projectiles hurled by the foe. The Americans however have not yielded a foot of ground, and when the enemy has attacked he has been permitted to approach close to the American lines before a storm of bullets has cut through his ranks and broke his attack. As the results of these assaults the Germans have lost very heavily, the ground being covered with their dead and wounded.

With the French Armies, July 4.—I visited headquarters of one of the French armies today where I found French and American generals marking up the Franco-American score against the enemy from June 6 through the first two days of July on the line running roughly from south of the River Aisne, west of Soissons, to Chateau Thierry. If you trace this line on the map you will find it is the line where the German Crown Prince came to a rude halt in his attempted march on Paris in the offensive of May 27. Roughly it is thirty miles from the village of Ambleny to just west of the Chateau Thierry line which is quite the one main bastion between the enemy and the capital. It has been rebuilt and strengthened to suit the Franco-Americans and the enemy units opposite the line are now strategically dominated leaving the Allies free to continue operations or to hold with the best advantage in case of an enemy attack.

London, July 4.—Detachments of American infantry assisted the Australians in capturing Hamel. This announcement was made officially tonight. British troops this morning delivered an attack in the region of Amiens, capturing the village of Hamel, northeast of Villers-Bretonneux, and advancing their line in this region to a depth of more than a mile.

Paris July 4.—French troops last night attacked the German lines on a front of a mile and a quarter in the neighborhood of Autrech, northwest of Soissons, and pushed into enemy territory for a distance of nearly half a mile. Later the French delivered another attack in the same region, between Autrech and Moulins-Sous-Toutvent, giving them further gains of territory. The entire operation netted the French a gain of ground on a front of more than three miles to a maximum depth of approximately three-fifths of a mile. The French took 1,066 prisoners, including eighteen officers.

Washington, July 5.—The American army transport Covington,

homeward bound after having landed several thousand soldiers in France, was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone last Monday night. Six members of the crew are missing, but all other men, with the ship's officers, have been landed at a French port. No army personnel or passengers were aboard. The Covington formerly was the Hamburg-American liner Cincinnati, which was laid up at Boston and taken over when the United States entered the war. She was 608 feet long, of 16,335 gross ton and had a speed of fifteen and a half knots an hour.

The Covington was struck at 9.17 o'clock Monday night while proceeding with a fleet of other transports conveyed by destroyers. The submarine was not sighted. The transport remained afloat until Tuesday when efforts were made by another vessel and two tugs to tow her to port, but she was too badly damaged to keep afloat.

Pretoria, South Africa, July 5.—Premier Botha of the Union of South Africa, has issued a statement showing that serious unrest exists in South Africa. Strong police and military measures are being taken to cope with the situation. Premier Botha said that had not prompt and effective military measures been taken the situation would have culminated in a grave disturbance and probably serious loss of life. The Boer leader added that the government had information pointing to the existence of a movement having for its object the subversion of the constitution by violent methods. Continuing Premier Botha, in his statement says: "There is a good reason for suspecting that enemy agencies are at work in this country and that they are intriguing to stir up strife. Not only among Europeans but also among the natives, and no means or matters are deemed too despicable so long as they can attain their object."

The British front east of Amiens on each side of the Avre and along the Somme river, seems to be the storm centre of the battle front in France. Here the Australians, assisted by American detachments, surged forward on July 4 and drove the Germans out of the village of Hamel and the village of Hamel woods, to the south at the same time launching a secondary attack on the German positions north of the Somme. Since that time the lines before Amiens have been very active. The Germans have been repulsed in an attempt to retake the village of Hamel and the wooded positions of the Australians further south. The British official report says that the enemy was stopped easily, but the Germans claim to have checked the British forces east of Hamel and to have thrown them back to their original lines at Villers Bretonneux.

London, July 6.—The Australian troops advanced their line northeast of Villers-Bretonneux last night on a front of 2,000 yards, according to Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France. "A successful raid was carried by the Lancashire troops near Hinges, in which several prisoners were captured," the statement adds. American troops stationed in a sector of the Vosges region carried out a raid last night on the German lines in which prisoners were taken today's French official statement shows. With the exception of artillery actions in the region east of Villers-Cotterets Forest, between the Aisne and the Marne the night on the remainder of the front was quiet.

London, July 7.—British troops raided the German lines on the Amiens front yesterday afternoon, taking several prisoners and machine guns in the region of Hamel, which village was recently captured by the Australians, assisted by American troops. This minor action is reported in today's official statement by the war office, which reads: "We captured a few prisoners and a machine gun in a raid east of Hamel yesterday afternoon. "The hostile artillery has been active in the neighborhood of Fenquevillers and in the Hinges sector."

Paris, July 7.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight reads: "No events of importance occurred along the

front during the course of the day. There were reciprocal artillery actions in the Verdun and Cerno Bend regions. Enemy patrols have been very active in the neighborhood of the Strunmitsa. "West of Goritz, French troops co-operating with Italian units, attacked the heights between the Devoli and Tomorica rivers for the purpose of improving their position. They seized the crest of Giasperit, in spite of the violent resistance of the enemy, and have repulsed counter-attacks. Some prisoners have fallen into our hands."

London, July 7.—The official communication, dealing with aerial operations, issued tonight says: "Our balloons and observation machines carried out much valuable work on the 6th inst. There were few combats in the air. Three German airplanes were destroyed and one was driven down out of control. One of our machines is missing. "Seventeen tons of bombs have been dropped on various targets during the past twenty-four hours."

London, July 7.—The official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France this evening says: Early this morning the enemy attempted a raid near Loere, but was repulsed. "Except for hostile artillery and mortar activity in the Bethune sector there is nothing of special interest to report."

Explosions Kill And Injure 200

Syracuse, N. Y., July 2.—Many persons are reported to have been killed or injured in two terrific explosions tonight at the huge plant of the Somet-Solvay Company, located at Split Rock, a suburb. The force of the explosions rocked the city. Plate glass windows in the business sections were broken, residences swayed perceptibly causing their occupants to run into the streets. All telephone wires are down and the exact situation at the big munition plant was unknown at 10.30 o'clock, about one hour after the disaster.

Police headquarters reported at 11.30 o'clock that an incomplete investigation showed 16 persons had been killed and scores injured, many probably fatally. Fire which preceded the explosion levelled three of the buildings and was raging fiercely at midnight. The police believe the list of dead and injured will mount above 100 when final details are available. Un-equipped with fire apparatus, volunteer firemen were unable to make headway against the spreading flames. Columns of flames shot 300 feet in height. Heat was so intense that it cracked glass hundreds of yards away and a thick noxious smoke combined to handicap the fire fighters and rescuers. The first explosion in one of the T. N. T. vats ripped building number 2 apart, buried guards under the debris and scattered the flames to adjoining buildings. Two workmen caught in between two burning buildings were hurled through a wall by the force of the explosion. Still alive they were picked up without a speck of clothing on their bodies. Both probably will die. At least 16 persons were killed and 200 injured. A shift of 500 workmen was in the plant when the fire, the origin of which has not been ascertained, broke out. The workers made efforts to subdue the flames and the latter in speeding to safety were caught in the first of the two explosions. Men were hurled in all directions, two who were caught between two burning buildings were blown through a wall. Still alive when picked up their was not a shred of clothing on their bodies. The second big explosion followed 15 minutes later and the combined force of the two blasts crumbled buildings in the vicinity. The homes of workmen, across the road from the plant, collapsed and burning timbers were blown to the roofs of buildings across the railroad tracks which divide the plants in half. Workmen and their families fled across the fields in indescribable confusion. A woman hysterical was seen carrying a tiny kitten killed to her breast.

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