

Last Night's War Cables

London, Sept. 25, 10.45 p. m.—The facts concerning the sinking of the British cruisers Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy by a German submarine, or submarines, in the North Sea, with a loss of nearly sixty officers and 1,400 men, are contained in an admiralty statement issued tonight.

The reports show that the greatest discipline was maintained and that acts of heroism were performed, but the admiralty has established the rule that such acts must be governed by the same laws as prevail in naval action and that disabled ships must be left to their own resources rather than that other ships should be jeopardized by rescue work.

London, Sept. 25, 9.50 p. m.—Almost simultaneously the two great hammer blows in the battle in northern France have fallen and some decisive result is before long to be announced. The allies have struck the German right wing, the Germans, on their part, have hurled themselves against the French line between Verdun and Toul. Should either stroke be driven home the battle will be decided.

The French and British navies have annexed the Island of Lissa, in the Adriatic. The object of this capture, according to Italian reports, was to induce the Austrian fleet to come out and accept battle.

EERY LETTERS HERE FROM THE MOTHER LAND

(Continued from page 1)

The chief constable of the county told us last week that for three years he has had a secret map with him of every German spy mark on it, and every one was watched so that even Scotland Yard did not know of it. We knew just what every one of them was doing; just one month or so was declared every one of them left England suddenly, and we knew then that war was to follow; and after negotiations the diplomats had decided on it, it was evident that Kaiser Wilhelm had given the word and the Armistice was to begin. So you see it is not amount of talking now will ever be that it was otherwise than pre-arranged, and wherever they started a German spy mark for instance, the Germans meant to finish up in England. That month was precious to us. We had a navy mobilization, instead of manoeuvres, as we were told, really a trial trip, and some of our ships never left the ships after that just stood ready, every ship with a crew on board and only needing reserves to join to sail at once.

The expeditionary force was waiting at Aldershot on Thursday, as war was declared on Sunday, trains in the station then up and could have started at once. I tell you again it is grand to be British these days, and to know that we are ready and united against all who are not.

The men are just splendid, rolling up thousands—they simply do not know what to do with them. All classes together of means and education are walking about with laborers and ex-soldiers, waiting their turn to get into the ranks to be enlisted (we have over 10,000 on Salisbury Plain now) and 800 killed all over the town—no room for

them otherwise, for of course it takes time to enroll them and despatch them to their different units, and they are coming in faster than they can be sent out.

"Business is much as usual; we are very busy and there has been no panic at all since the first few days when the people were taken by surprise.

"Now we see the result of Haldane's army organization and Wilson and Fisher's navy scheme—all our colonial troops trained on the same scheme so that they can work together in any part of the world, and navy that has proved already that it is keen and efficient as no other in the world. Within one week every German ship was rounded up and no vessel under that flag can sail the seas today and with Germany's export and import trade stopped, we can crush the life out of her.

"Above all, the nation and people are being drawn to God as never before—we feel that our cause is just and right, and while we have nothing to gain financially or otherwise, from the downfall of Germany, we shall gain from a moral point of view and prove once again that we shall stand up for right against might and justice for the weak against the strong.

"The German spy system in England has been a total and bitter failure, because they never understood our national character. They did not realize that our domestic squabbles and troubles would all be forgotten in a time of national danger—there are no parties in England today, just Britons. They were wrong on every point. They thought with a Radical government in power, with the Labor and Socialist parties growing, with Ireland in rebellion and the House of Lords mutinous, we should not fight. But what a mistake they made! When they realized it, how they tried to bribe us, but I am glad to say we stood firm—so much for the much over-rated 'German spy'."

A Second Letter

The following are extracts from another letter received from Rev. Mr. Earle under date of August 19:

"It seems to me that your papers are much more excited than ours are. Whilst recognizing that this is a very terrible thing—the mailed fist has been the terror of Europe for many years—and that this will be the best way in the end for it will be a fight to the end and will relieve the whole of Europe from Prussian militarism—I am convinced that the German war party have wholly miscalculated and are going to have the surprise of their lives. There will be no German colonies, no German overseas trade and no German mercantile marine. I am also firmly of the opinion that knowing the position taken by our government, their motives in standing by our treaty obligations, and insisting that the weaker states have a right to exist, and that in honor we are bound to insist on the integrity of these small states, and to insist that as the French relied on our protecting their northern and western coasts, Mr. Asquith has rallied to him not only Canada, but every colony and every Britisher throughout the world. Never was the German emperor worse advised than when he was assured by Prince Tichowsky that civil war was inevitable in England, and that we should be unable to do anything to help France, and that therefore he had only to march through Belgium and be in Paris in a week or ten days. The money market is perfectly quiet, the seas quite safe, and the German navy is either bottled up or is an entirely unprovoked war, and terrible will be the results to us but far worse to the mad aggressors.

Food Prices

"The prices of food are slightly higher, but they are coming down. The co-operative stores are selling at old prices. Sugar is a little dearer. It is too early to say what effect the war will have on general trade. The bank rate is down to 5 per cent, and the government have made every preparation to help traders and keep the prices down. At one time I thought the frightful cost of our navy and the money spent on the army was not needed, but I believe Mr. Asquith and his cabinet know perfectly well this would come in spite of Sir Edward Grey's efforts, and, unlike the tory party before the Boer war, made preparations for it, so that the expeditionary force was safely landed in France about a week after war broke out, and our fleet was quite ready at a moment's notice to sail for the North Sea where the Germans are believed to be. When you realize that the fleet has been kept completely up to date in every detail, every man from the commander-in-chief (who was discharged not many months ago) and every ship not efficient scrapped, you need not fear for England or think we are getting obsolete. I sometimes think our colonies rather despise us as too slow, but with their help we are going to establish fair play and justice, and eventually the map of Europe will be reconstructed.

"You probably saw how the cruiser Birmingham sank the German submarine. Our sailors for years have been trained in battle practice for night and day, and in all conditions of weather, with the result that the world cannot equal them. With a just cause and the help of Almighty God, and principally by that, we shall stand firm and show the world that justice and truth will prevail. Hurry up and send along your contingent, for the taking part alongside Britishers in this mighty conflict will do more than anything else to bring about good understanding and mutual respect. You are doing splendidly for us in food-stuffs, which is gratefully accepted.

"To show you how the government had arranged details: At one time there was standing outside Bristol dock waiting for shipment 450 motor lorries which the government had made previous arrangements to take over in the event of war, and a similar number was at another point. Great praise is due to Lord Haldane who had organized all

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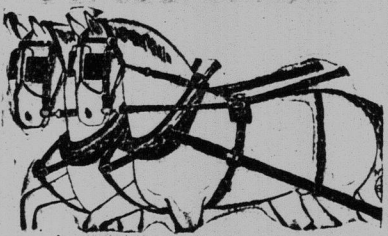
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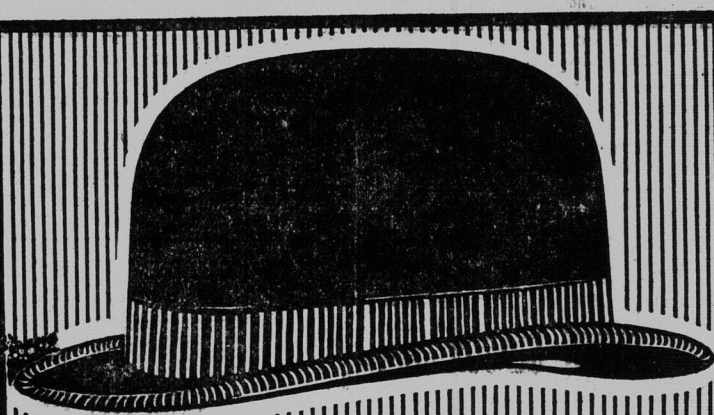
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