

TO-DAY'S Messages.

11.00 A.M.

GREAT BATTLE IN VERDUN REGION—DESPERATE FIGHTING.

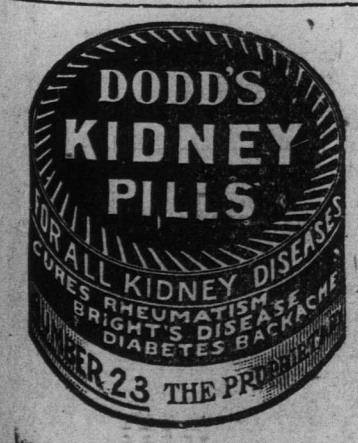
LONDON, To-day.—The troops belonging to seven German army corps, under Crown Prince Frederick William, are engaged along a 25 mile front, north of Verdun, in a desperate effort to drive back the French defending forces, probably with the capture of the great fort of Verdun in view. There has been very heavy fighting for a considerable period in this district of the French war zone, but within the last few days the attacks of the Germans have taken additional strength, and the battle line has been extended and now reaches from Malancourt on the west to Etain on the east with Verdun in the centre. Only a few miles toward the Germans claim to have made important advances and to some extent this is admitted by the French, which describes the battle as one of increasing intensity. German preparations were extensive. The bombardment of French positions with thousands of shells was uninterrupted. As the French had foreseen this battle all their available guns were called into action and responded in kind by a heavy shelling of the Germans. While at some points the French were unable to resist the onslaughts of the attacking forces along much of the front, according to the Paris communication, the attacks were well sustained and very heavy losses inflicted on the Germans.

GERMANS EMBARRASS PRESENT WILSON AND SECRETARY LANSING.

WASHINGTON, To-day.—The agitation in Congress for action in warning Americans off armed ships of European belligerents yesterday, that the Democrats of the Foreign Affairs Committee voted to pass the sentiments of the House. There are several pending resolutions of that nature. The sentiment in the Senate in favour of some such action also was openly expressed, but at the end of the day surprises, tension and agitation were such that no action was in Congress for some time. Word came that President Wilson still was unalterably opposed to any such action by Congress. He would only be embarrassed thereby in the negotiations with Germany, was a widely cited suggestion. The situation has reached a point at which the President would soon lay it before Congress. Secretary Lansing might in some way define the attitude of the Government. In a communication to Senator Stone he said that the time had been fixed within which the United States would expect Germany to signify her intention to abandon the announced intention to sink armed merchantships without warning. The statement was made on the condition that the matter had been determined on the situation, which though grave still was a waiting one, that no final policy would be announced until Berlin had been heard from. The sudden developments at the Capitol brought surprise and apprehension to the administration leaders while confronted with the possibility of Congressional interference with the grave aspects, ranging from defection from administration policy to downright embarrasment of the President and the Secretary of State, the leaders were confident they would control the situation and leave the executive branch of the Government free to carry on the diplomatic negotiations with Germany. From apparently authentic sources came the statement last night, that the President determined the dispute, pending with Germany, would be settled without prolonged negotiations. He is known to believe that the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany means war. There will be no undue haste in handling a situation involving such possibility. The administration view is broad and an important principle is involved, viz., the right of Americans to travel on belligerent merchantmen and that this right must not be abandoned. The State Department will take no action, pending the receipt of Germany's reply to the request of the United States made last week through Ambassador Von Bernstorff for the assurance that the notice of an intention to sink armed merchantmen without warning after February 29, does not nullify the previous pledges given in the Arabic and Lusitania negotiations. The reply is expected momentarily and the Cabinet is expected to review the situation on Friday, if it has arrived in time to consider the German reply.

THE TOLL OF THE GERMAN RAIDER.

LONDON, To-day.—Under the fact that the steamer Westburn has prisoners on board from the British steamer Clan Macavish, which was sunk after an exciting battle by the German raider Moewe off the west coast of Africa in January, seemingly would indicate that the Flemenco, Horace, Edinburgh, Luxembourg had met a similar fate.



The Moewe which captured the British South African liner Appam, which was later taken into Hampton Roads by a German prize crew, in addition to disposing of the Clan Macavish, destroyed six other steamers. Corbridge which probably is the Cambridge referred to in the London despatch; the trader Author, Ariadne, Drummond, Farrington, The Luxembourg and Flemenco are the largest vessels mentioned in the London despatch. Both of them carried passengers. The Flemenco which belongs to the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Antwerp, displaced 4,540 tons, and the Luxembourg, owned by Belgium, was built in 1908. The Horace was built in 1895 and was a vessel of 3,335 tons, belonging to the Liverpool and Brazil River Plate Steam Navigation Company. The Corbridge was owned by Corbridge Steamship Company, Cardiff, a vessel of 3,887 tons. The Edinburgh was a three-masted barque of 1,473 tons. She was built in 1885. Her home port was London.

FEW IRISH OF MILITARY AGE EMIGRATED.

LONDON, To-day.—According to statistics just issued 10,395 Irish emigrated in 1915, approximately half the number of the previous year, and only 25 per cent of military age, the great majority being women and children.

THE BIGGEST BATTLE SINCE SEPTEMBER.

PARIS, To-day.—The great battle raging along a 25 mile front from Etain to Malancourt, northeast of Verdun, is being followed with great interest by the public, and disposed effectively of the question whether or not the Germans would make an early offensive. The battle is the first on a large scale since the offensive in Champagne in September, and is believed to be the forerunner of stirring and perhaps decisive events. The principal fighting centres in a rough thickly wooded country between Etain and Damvillers. Here 300,000 Germans, the Crown Prince's best infantry, are trying to wrest from the French important roads which would enable them to make their way through Meuse, the battle as yet is only beginning, but it is said have cost the assailants of the French heavy losses. Despite the appreciable advantage having been attained, the Germans have been making preparations for a big stroke in Verdun so openly during the past month, giving the French every chance to get ready for them. The attacks up to the present only involve the advanced lines which are least two miles beyond the outer defences of the fortifications. Military opinion here is inclined to doubt if the Germans will attempt to carry Verdun by storm. It is pointed out besides the formidable works of the fortress, it is further protected by a field army under the command of General Humbert, an exceptionally energetic officer. The prevailing view is that the Germans are feeling the strength of the defences and that their resistance they meet with may discourage them from proceeding to take the citadel by force even with the help of their great guns.

EXPECT GERMAN NAVY OUT.

NEW YORK, To-day.—A special London cable to the Tribune says a high naval authority told the Tribune correspondent yesterday the belief was widely held in admiralty circles that the German fleet may make a dash for the open sea any time now, giving as reason for this, not only the pressure of political opinion in Germany, but the numerous recent reports, all pointing to the preparation of a combined German naval, aeroplane and military offensive with the object of forcing peace and impressing neutrals.

THE BATTLE CRUISERS STRAINING FOR A START.

LONDON, To-day.—The battle cruisers now form the nucleus of Britain's first line of the fleet's naval offensive. There are many new ships among the light cruisers attached to this squadron, but virtually every battle cruiser in it has been blooded, to use the navy's equivalent, for the army's baptism of fire, and the sailors manning them show the pride and poise of veterans. When the mist lifted for a few minutes, as the correspondent stood on the control bridge of one of the battle cruisers, the fastest of the fleet, capable of actual offensive operations, ever gathered together under one flag, appeared in view. There were more than a dozen of these vessels in the fleet, arranged in squadrons with battle cruisers surrounded by their screen of faithful destroyers, occupying the place of honor, but with every section down to the humble rusty vitally necessary colliers at the mark for a flying start, as if eagerly waiting the coming out of the German fleet. Speed with sufficient gun power to cause necessary destruction is now the cardinal principle of the British naval strategy. The battle cruisers, an unknown quantity at the beginning of the war, have proven this principle to the satisfaction of every man aboard the battle cruiser fleet, which was visited this week in the North Sea by a correspondent of the associated press. The new battle cruisers before the war were not exactly objects of pride to their officers and crews, on account of the voracity with which they consumed coal, and service on them was not popular, and the Government harassed with demands for a reduction of naval expenditure read for reason, favor these refinements of super-dreadnought school. To prove the battle cruiser has redeemed its unfortunate early reputation, it is only necessary to point to the activities of this type of fighting craft since the war began. The battle cruisers brought Von Spee's career to a full stop. They were the only big ships which succeeded in getting into the North Sea engagements, so it is not surprising these monsters, the biggest fighting machines afloat, are idolized by the officers and men who fight in them.

THE BATTLE OF VERDUN. PARIS, To-day.—The Battle of Verdun continues with

growing intensity. It extends over a front of 40 kilometers. This announcement was made officially by the War Office last night.

SWEDES SORE ABOUT BLOCKADE.

STOCKHOLM, To-day.—The British blockade of Germany has failed because it came too late, according to Swedish Press and Swedish business men. As far as Sweden and other Scandinavian countries are concerned blockade, it only became really effective last April, for eight months prior to that time or since the very start, the Germans, anticipating England's tactics, were purchasing quantities of military supplies, especially of copper, cotton, antimony and tin through Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Importers here are convinced by the time the blockade was perfected, Germany had stored up such quantities of these and other war materials as will meet all her needs for possibly two years. The claims made by the British Government that great quantities of war material have been smuggled into Germany through Sweden are bitterly resented by Swedish merchants, these claims which have been given as the reason for placing all sorts of restrictions on Swedish mercantile trade, based on statistics, proving great increases in Swedish importations from England and Austria. Swedish merchants point out that prior to the war Sweden was a heavy purchaser of German goods. War practically paralyzed this trade. The country has had to turn to other markets. The opinion is expressed here that as far as Scandinavian countries are concerned, England has only succeeded in creating ill feeling among neutrals by a blockade, without seriously injuring Germany.

SEIZED GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN SHIPS IN TAGUS.

LISBON, To-day.—The naval division here, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, apparently of its own initiative, took forcible possession of 36 German and Austrian vessels, lying in August River, and hoisted the Portuguese colors on them, and saluted them with a 21 gun salvo from the Portuguese fleet. It is said that the act of Captain Rego in seizing interned vessels was totally unexpected by the governing authorities, who were unaware of the step, until it had been carried out. Despite many rumors since the outbreak of the war that Portugal was on the point of declaring a state of war with the Central Empires, on account of her treaty relations with Great Britain, no such declaration was ever made. The Portuguese Congress by a resolution of August 8, 1914, and November 23, of the same year, declared that Portugal would co-operate with the Allies whenever that step seemed necessary. The Portuguese treaty with Great Britain requires that the latter be supplied with ten thousand Portuguese troops, when she is at war. The last critical Portuguese reference to the attitude of the nation with regard to hostilities was a statement made on January 3rd last by the President of the Republic at a reception of members of Parliament, when he manifested a desire that the union of all parties be maintained during the war, so that the Allies may have reason to be satisfied with the services rendered by the Portuguese nation.

GERMAN ADMIRAL DEAD.

BERLIN, To-day.—Admiral Von Pohl, whose retirement on account of ill health from the position of commander of the German battle fleet announced two days ago, has died in Berlin.

ADMIRAL MEUX'S ASSIGNMENT.

LONDON, To-day.—The Daily Express says it understands Admiral Sir Haworth Meux, Commander-in-Chief of the British fleet at Portsmouth, will act as the naval adviser of Lord Robert Cecil, the new War Trade Minister, and that in the Lords yesterday expressed the belief that an Air Minister with a seat in the Cabinet would be appointed before long.

DISSATISFIED WITH OPERATION OF COMPULSORY ACT.

LONDON, To-day.—Operation of the Compulsory Military Act is proving anything but smooth, and the measure to be described to make much trouble for the authorities. The tribunals which are signing all over the country to hear claims for exemption are having a strenuous time. The volume of applications is enormous and despite the prolonged sitting of the tribunals are unable to overtake the mass of appeals. Very few actual exemptions have yet been granted but in numerous cases they have been put back for periods, varying from two to six months. These postponements are causing intense dissatisfaction. Newspapers complain that men are wanted now, not some indefinite period in future and that those whose post-pone-ments mean an earlier call on married men.

Has Had Few Accidents

All his life King George has been singularly free from ill-health and accidents. He is such a splendid horseman, and his mounts are so thoroughly broken-in and carefully selected, that an accident such as occurred in France is the last misfortune in the world that his attendants would have anticipated. In fact, this is the first physical accident of any consequence that the King has ever experienced. He has had, of course, one or two narrow escapes. When he was motoring on the Yorkshire moors in 1912 a car coming rapidly in the opposite direction only avoided a collision by the chauffeur's promptitude in overturning it into a ditch.

"Stafford's Liniment" cures Rheumatism, Lumbago, Neuralgia and all Aches and Pains. Sold in over 500 stores—Jan 5, 16

Your Boys and Girls.

The room chosen for the children's nursery should have as much sun as possible and provide for ample ventilation, arranging one window anyway with the familiar board at the bottom, so that the sash may be raised to admit a passage of fresh air between the upper and lower panes, even when the window is completely closed to all intents and purposes.

A washable, varnished paper, or walls of washable paint, should be provided. This is really of importance. The walls should be wiped over with a sponge wrung out in hot water to which a little ammonia has been added, the children being turned out of their room on that day, so as to ensure plenty of time for cleaning and to prevent any dampness while the small occupants are present. The floor should be covered with something washable and warm, and for this sort carpet immediately suggest itself. The children's room should be self and curtains should be dispensed with, although pretty ones of linen or casement cloth drawn on winter evenings, lend a certain cheeriness to the room and are quite easy to keep clean.

Amusements.

THE BLACK BOX.

The seventh episode of "The Black Box" was witnessed by large audiences yesterday afternoon and last night at the Theatre Royal. The clever acting of Craig, the servant of the Professor, is an outstanding feature of this chapter, and the way he transfers his remarkable talent as a character-actor to the screen has won him hosts of ardent admirers.

NICKEL'S NEW SERIAL A GREAT STORY.

There were crowded audiences at the Nickel Theatre every afternoon and last evening. The pictures are always attractive on the holidays as on other days, but yesterday the bill was specially good. The new "Exploits of Elaine" started well. Patrons were anxious to see the opening chapter of this serial and judging by the favorable comment they were not disappointed. The acting was considered the finest ever seen here. The new serial began in an interesting manner and it promises to be far more popular than the last. The "Criminal" is a most impressive drama. Maurice Costello and Norma Talma who play the leading characters acted in their customary superior style. To-day the whole programme will be repeated and it will attract thousands.

AT THE CRESCENT.

The mid-week programme at the Crescent Picture Palace is a very fine one, the leading feature, "The Blood Yoke" is a great Selig production in two reels, a southern story in slavery days and is a beautiful scenic picture. Velma Whitman features in "The Bridge of Sighs" a strong social drama. "Saved by Her Horse" is an exciting Indian war drama. "The First Quarrel" is a Vitaphone comedy with Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew; this is one of Sidney Drew's best comedies. Mr. Dave Parks, the man with the voice, sings "Norway," the land of the Midnight Sun. This is a great show, don't miss seeing it.

Capt. Arnott.

Congratulations to Mr. Fred A. Arnott and his family. Since joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force he has won rapid promotion and recently was promoted to the rank of Captain. He was formerly a member of the police force in the Klondyke, and later in the Militia Department at Ottawa. He is now Captain of the 17th Battalion with headquarters at Toronto. He is a son of Mr. G. W. Arnott of Mundy Pond Road.

Train Notes.

Tuesday's No. 1 left Crabb's at 7.45 a.m. Yesterday's No. 1 arrived at Clarendville at 8.30 a.m. to-day. The Southern Shore train reached the city at 11.45 a.m., and the local via Briggs Junction arrived at 12.35 p.m., bringing only a few passengers. A freight train arrived at 9 a.m. from Grand Falls.

McMurdo's Store News

THURSDAY, Feb. 24, 16. For those taking part in the various carnivals, minstrel shows, etc., that are pending, we would say that we have a pretty full and extensive stock of the different materials used in "making up"—Gresse Pains, Lining Pencils, Cacao Butter, Crepe Hair, Moustaches, Nose Paste, Burnt Cork and other requisites which we shall be glad to show to intending purchasers. Just a word about the Burnt Cork. It comes in tubes, and to use it is simplicity itself, while it easily comes off the face and hands by the application of soap and warm water. While it is perfectly good and will not in any event injure the skin. Price 25c. a tube. We invite all those who contemplate "making up" to have a look at our stock. MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR SALE EVERYWHERE.

Remember TEMPLETON'S 10-Cent Sale 333 WATER STREET.

Furness Line Sailings!

From St. John's Halifax to St. John's
Liverpool, to Halifax. St. John's, to Liverpool.
S. S. DURANGO . . . Feb. 15th Feb. 26th Mar. 4th Mar. 7th
For freight and other particulars apply to

FURNESS WITTHY & CO., LTD., Water St., East
Feb 17, 1916

PUMPS!

Do you Dance the new Dances? You do! Well, then you'll certainly be wanting a pair of our choice Dancing Pumps. You can't Turkey Trot, Tango or Hesitate without them! Dull Kid, or Patent Kid, soft leather soles.

\$1.50 to \$4.00.

We've a fine showing of Society Shoes for Men and Women. We mean the choice styles, the better styles that are above the level of the Dress. Footwear you see everywhere! The fact is that all the new and better styles in Footwear for Men and Women come from our Store.

We show the new styles first! GREAT REDUCTIONS IN PUMPS.

Wos. Satin Pumps, \$3.00 value for \$1.50.
Wos. Patent and Kid Pumps, \$3.00 to \$4.50 value for \$2.00 and \$2.50.

PARKER & MONROE, Limited.

THE SHOE MEN.

Cabbage, Apples, Oranges!

40 brls. CHOICE CABBAGE.
40 cases ORANGES—Californians, Floridians and Valencias.
30 crates SILVERPEEL ONIONS.
100 brls. APPLES—Baldwins, Starks & Wagners.

Burt & Lawrence, 14 New Gower St

SLATTERY'S Wholesale Dry Goods House

Being in close touch with the American Markets, can quote the finest wholesale prices on all classes of POUND REMNANTS and REGULAR PICE GOODS, FLEECE LINED UNDERWEAR, MATS, RUGS and CARPETS, etc.

Before placing this season's order, we would appreciate an opportunity to quote our prices.

SOLE AGENT for the Leader Overall Co. (Local manufacture).

Slattery Building, Duckworth and George's Streets, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.
P. O. Box 236. Phone 522.

Personal.

Rev. Fr. Nangle and Mr. D. J. Jackson, of Bell Island, came over to the city yesterday.

Mr. P. Rioux, Superintendent of the R. N. Co., is now at Montreal where he went some weeks ago to attend the Railway Men's Congress. He will return here next week.

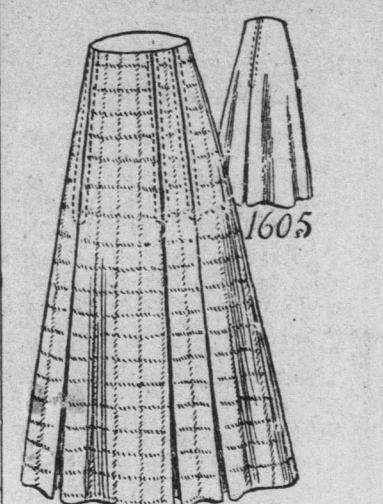
BIBLE CLASS.—St. Thomas's Men's Bible Class meets this evening in Canon Wood Hall at 8 o'clock. Subject: "The Teaching of Jesus Concerning the State."

DON'T be satisfied with asking for a loaf of bread but ask your grocer for LYNCH'S WRAPPED BREAD and then you will be sure you are getting the best on the market.—Feb 15, 16

Evening Telegram Fashion Plates.

The Home Dressmaker should keep a Catalogue Scrap Book of our Pattern Cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.

A NEW AND FASHIONABLE DESIGN.



1605—Ladies' Five-Gore Skirt (in Raised or Normal Waistline).

This attractive model is good for broadcloth, cheviot, mixed suiting, plaids, serge, velour and gabardine. It is also nice for velvet, for voile, linen and other wash fabrics. The front is plaited in slot effect. The back has a plait at the centre. The skirt may be used as part of a gown or as a separate skirt. It is fine for street wear and sports. The lines are graceful and becoming.

The Pattern is cut in 6 sizes: 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure. It requires 4 1/2 yards of 44 inch material for a 24-inch size, which measures about 3 1/2 yards at the foot.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

A PRACTICABLE SERVICEABLE GARMENT.



1604—Ladies' Apron with or without Belt.

Gingham, seersucker, percale, lawn, satin, drill or alpaca may be used for this model. It is made with a box plait at the centre front, under which the closing may be finished. The full pocket is a new and desirable feature.

The Pattern is cut in 3 sizes: Small, Medium and Large. It requires 4 yards of 36 inch material for a Medium size.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

Size
Address in full:
Name

N.B.—Be sure to cut out the illustration and send with the coupon, carefully filled out. The pattern can not reach you in less than 15 days.

Just Arrived, BY TRAIN AND FLORIZEL.
Fresh and Salt Butter, All kinds of Poultry.
JAS. R. KNIGHT.