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German Newspapers Are Now Allowed Greater Freedom than Since the War Began

Not long ago the fact was commented upon that the German official reports which had in the early days of the war exactly reported events, and later on were at least an approximation to the truth, had parted company with veracity and were now to be regarded as the product of novelists rather than of historians. Nevertheless, it is to be observed that in some respects the truth is being circulated in Germany as it never was before. Newspapers appear to be allowed greater latitude. The German people are being told that the British and the French are desperate fighters; they are being informed that the numbers of the Allies exceed those of the Central Powers. This truth telling was perhaps necessary. If the Germans have been forced to admit retreats it would never do to disparage either the fighting qualities or the numbers of the enemy that forced them back.

Part of the Truth.

A correspondent of the Deutsche Tageszeitung, with Prussian army that defended Guillemon, has been permitted to write to his paper with considerable candor about the great drive on the Somme. Of course, he was not permitted to report the capture of certain positions which the Germans had boasted were impregnable, such, for instance, as Thiepval and Combles, Fiers and Martinpuich. He reports rumors that the latter two had been taken, and admits that the news caused a sleepless night for the Saxon regiments which would have been endangered had the news proved true, but he denies that the British gained this success, which proves that is only a part of the truth that the Germans are being given. Nevertheless, he pays involuntary tribute to the terrible efficacy of the British bombardment. Those who have seen the moving pictures of the Somme advance will understand the spirit in which the report was written. The Germans were not only killed, but thousands who escaped with slight wounds and were afterwards taken prisoner were dazed. They moved like drunken men.

New Sort Fighting

It is worth noting that in the early days of the attack the Berlin official reports absolutely falsified the facts. It was announced that the Allies had begun their long-expected offensive; then it was announced that the attack had failed. Berlin said nothing further—the attack having broken down, what more remained to be said? But Germany could not conceal her wounded soldiers. Trainloads of them kept arriving daily in the chief German cities. If the Government had continued to remain silent, the soldiers at least would have spoken, so Berlin reluctantly gave some details, and, as remarked, newspapers were permitted to inform their readers that one of the greatest battles in the world, the greatest, indeed, as it has since turned out, was being fought. The correspondent mentioned above speaks of the fighting on the Somme being absolutely new to the Germans. Used to their deep trenches, they were not prepared for fighting in the open, or in mere shell craters. He does not call the attention of his readers to the fact that they did not have to fight in the open in temporary shelters until their first-line trenches had been destroyed.

Tribute to British Airmen.

He writes: "The enemy has many and extremely brave airmen to assist him in his work. And so began one of the fiercest days of attack which the troops in this sector have had to face. Eighteen enemy captive balloons and countless aeroplanes directed from the air the preparatory bombardment; by the enemy, which set in with unprecedented fury at the first streak of dawn. One had the impression that his heavy guns must bury everything in the ground. Already, at three o'clock in the morning, a preparatory attack by the English had taken place from the southeast corner of the Delville Wood, which was beaten back. From six o'clock, after repeated waves of gas, strong English and French attacks were made against a section of the regiment, which continued until the afternoon but were always thrust back. On the extreme left wing the enemy did succeed, with overwhelming strength, in penetrating our positions, but they were thrown out again by strong counter-attacks. Three days later the enemy opened a new attack early in the morning with an assault on the north side of Fallemont Farm section. He was thrown back and lost one French machine gun. From seven o'clock onward strong English infantry attacks were made against the Guillemont section."

A Desperate Resistance.
He says that for several days it was difficult for the Germans to have their proper meals, the bombardment making it impossible for supplies to be brought up. The soldiers lived on their emergency rations and mineral water. Several times he speaks of the ferocity of the artillery bombardment, and again and again reports German successes in counter-attacks. As we know now, however, the counter-attacks failed. The fact that the Germans tried so desperately to hold the positions which they were forced to relinquish shows how important they were, and discounts the pretence now made that they were insignificant, and that along the Somme the Germans are playing over again the game that was played by the French at Verdun.

She Had Only Submerged

BOSTON, Mass., Oct. 27.—Captain W. G. Tudor, of the British steamship Hochelaga, which arrived from Louisburg yesterday, said that before he left Nova Scotia persistent rumours were current that the German U-boat 53 had been sunk off Sydney, N.S., by the Canadian patrol boat Stanley. He said he was unable to verify the report.

"Before I left Louisburg I was told by a shipping man that I need not worry about the German submarine," said Capt. Tudor.

"This man said the U-boat would not bother any more British vessels, because she had been sunk by the Stanley."

PAY BOUNTY OR DUTCH HERRING FOR U. S.

England is now paying Holland to export herring to the United States instead of Germany, according to a report of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by the commercial attaché at the Hague, recently received in Washington.

Details of the agreement just reached between the Dutch herring fisheries and the British Government show that a bounty of 2.9 cents a pound is to be paid on all herring exported to the United States. It is estimated 34,500 tons will be available for export to this country by November.

Germany has been taking the greater part of Holland's herring. The agreement now provides that 20 per cent. of the haul shall be allowed for restricted export (which means to Germany) that the Dutch Government will take 20 per cent. for home consumption, the British Government the same amount and the remainder may be exported to the United States. "From time to time," approved by England.

It is on the last class that the bounty will be paid.

PRISONER FOR EVERY YARD

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE.
Oct. 16.—In completing the capture of Schwaben redoubt, on the ridge above Thiepval, the British took a prisoner for every yard of front, or 230 for a front of less than 200 yards; not to mention the number killed by the artillery preparation and in the hand-to-hand fighting, before the prisoners surrendered.



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Bank Clerks Had Intricate Scheme

Unfolded in a Statement Made Before Toronto Police Magistrate—Two Have Left Country—Another Faces Charge of Conspiring With Them to Defraud

TORONTO, Oct. 28.—A clever and complicated scheme whereby the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Toronto branch, has lost some \$1,000 was revealed by Crown Attorney Corley in the Police Court yesterday, when J. A. M. Kirkland, a former employee of the bank, appeared on a charge of conspiring and confederating to defraud the bank out of the sum of \$1,600. He was remanded for a week.

"Two others, J. W. Swenerton and F. H. Malone, are implicated and, according to the bank's report to the Crown, have admitted their guilt. They have left the country, one last week and the other some time previously," stated Mr. Corley.

The bank has been aware of shortages for some weeks. According to a detailed report made to the Crown, the responsibility for the shortages is as follows: Malone, \$536; Swenerton, \$1,001; Kirkland, \$145.50. This account is subject to revision, state the officials.

Method Employed

It was the result of a change in ledgerkeepers that brought to light the improper entries, and the bank report to the Crown explains the method employed.

"As near as can be learned improper entries first passed through the clearing house about November 1 of last year. They were brought about, the bank states, by collusion between Swenerton in the accounts department and Malone, a ledger keeper and Kirkland who relieved alone while the latter was on his holidays. They were assisted, says the report, by the apparent ease with which they were able to hoodwink the tellers.

"The schemes employed were: Cheques were signed in favor of either or for cash on other banks, or on outside points, in favor of sundry parties, and when they reached the bank one of the trio secured them and replaced them by clearing house cheques. Cheques cashed by friends of the parties outside were caught when deposited and clearing house cheques substituted.

"In some instances tellers were prevailed upon to hand out cash on the promise of entries later. This would then take the form of a Clearing House cheque. In the case of cheques and other paper marked "no account" the trio have found it easy to intercept them. The replacing of these by clearing house cheques was easy as one of the trio was empowered to sign clearing house cheques up to \$200. Having issued the clearing house cheque the ledger keeper was notified and he would enter a corresponding amount as a credit, in the clearing house account, ticking it off in order to avoid discovery by a checking officer. They took care that the figures ostensibly showing a balance at the end of the month.

"In the case of returned cheques of drafts they would go to the checking teller, who would send them back to the teller through whom negotiated and they would take them up with Clearing House cheques.

Lacked Candor

"Swenerton and Malone when questioned, lacked candor in their statement, but admitted their guilt," states the report. Swenerton confessed to "kiting" before employing the Clearing House account. Malone charged that Swenerton was the first to employ the Clearing House, but the latter denied it. They were emphatic in their statement that other than Kirkland, no other employees were implicated. Cheques were negotiated indiscriminately through the tellers.

"Kirkland says that the extent of his defalcation amounted to \$75, which he had paid back; \$50 he borrowed from Swenerton which he sometime later learned was taken out of the Clearing House account, and \$25 as a share of his in the purchase of mining stock with Malone, which he later learned had been purchased by Malone with the bank's cash.

"Kirkland in admitting a knowledge of the transactions, said he did not think it his duty to report. Then, again, friends of his outside would be involved."

No Note in His Eye.

"What are you studying now?" asked Mrs. Johnson.
"We have taken up the subject of molecules," answered her son.
"I hope you will be very attentive and practice constantly," said the mother. "I tried to get your father to wear one, but he could not keep it in his eye."

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