

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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TRIED TO FIRE A SCOTIA MINE

Austrian Believed to be Caught Red Handed in Devilish Act at Florence Early Yesterday Morning

Perhaps the first deliberate attempt to destroy one of the chain of collieries operated by the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, was thwarted in the nick of time by night watchman John Harvey, who is employed at the famous coal producer at Florence, better known as the No. 3 colliery of the Scotia Company.

That enemy employees of the various coal companies of Cape Breton are known to exist in the important sections of our industrial concerns, seems to be an admitted fact, and for some time it was an open secret that the coal companies on both sides of the harbor were on the qui vive. However, the climax was reached in the early hours of yesterday morning when night watchman Harvey caught red-handed an Austrian lighting a fire in close proximity to the large powder house of the Florence colliery.

One hundred and fifty yards distant from the mouth of the mine, where day and night are employed many hundreds of men, this alert servant of the big company noticed a brilliant illumination. Stealthily he approached the place, and before the stranger was able to make a move he was thrown to the ground and secured.

Around the Austrian was sufficient paper and combustibles to cause the destruction of the entire colliery, together with the many lives working below. The fellow seemed completely stunned by the sudden appearance of the watchman, and before he could recover from his surprise the watchman had summoned Officer Charles McNeil, of the Scotia force, who quickly conveyed the prisoner to the jail at Sydney Mines.

When searched the prisoner had papers on his person showing that he had previously been interned in one of the Provincial prisoners' camps; but he steadfastly refused and still refuses to talk, although he eats anything and everything offered him by Jailor McNeil.

The prisoner is about 23 years of age, and no person has yet come forward who will say they ever saw him before. Judging by his appearance and his sullen mood at all times, the authorities believe they have a dangerous enemy in their possession. At present the civic body of Sydney Mines are corresponding with the military authorities with a view to disposing of the case.

A PATRIOTIC ENGINEER

Yesterday Mr. Percy Bowden of the S.S. Sagona, second engineer, made an effort to enlist in the Naval Reserve for the second time but for a slight defect was turned down. Nothing daunted Percy will "try again" and this time will proceed to Halifax where he hopes to be able to enter the Naval service or enlist in the Volunteers. Young men of Mr. Bowden's stamp deserve every credit and encouragement.

Dishonest Urchins Punished

For sometime past a series of petty branches have been occupying the attention of the police and yesterday evening the detectives who have been at work on these cases rounded up a number of boys all of whom have naturally pleaded guilty to the offences with which they have been charged.

Caught Rilling Craft

To-day at 12.30 p.m. the crew of a schooner at Bishop & Sons' wharf were ashore for a short while and when one of them returned on board he was surprised to find a boy named Phillips, in the cabin. He had everything turned topsy-turvy and was searching the place for money, valuables or anything else that he could steal. The man held the boy and called Const. Parsons, who took him to the Police Station. He had on him several cakes of soap, which had been stolen from the vessel, the forecastle of which he had ransacked, as well as the cabin. The police think that Phillips is the head of a third gang of boys who are out for theft.

Two Gangs Taken

Last evening the detectives first arrested four boys W. Bishop, Ferguson, Clooney, M. Woodland and Wm. Dooley. These lads were charged before Mr. F. J. Morris, K.C. to-day with stealing 8 packages cigarettes and chewing gum from Mr. M. Noah's store in New Gower street, as told by the Mail and Advocate yesterday. To get at the goods they broke a pane of glass in the window valued at \$3. The case against Dooley was withdrawn and Woodley, owing to his youth was released under suspended sentence. The other two lads were sentenced to a fine of \$10 or 30 days each.

Three other boys were also put under arrest yesterday. They are W. Murrin, Isaac Murrin and John Jones and their thieving was both extensive and varied. They stole from the house of Mr. Erik Bowring several articles; a revolver, valued at \$3 from some unknown person; larceny of cigarette case, value \$3, the property of Dr. Mossdell; gloves from Mr. W. Hodder worth \$1.50; a gold ring, valued \$8, the property of some unknown person, as well as a bunch of keys and other goods. All the stolen property was found with these boys, who were remanded for 3 days to enable the detectives to further investigate.

TURNED HER OUT

A young woman, a native of Bonavista, named Marsh came to the police station last night and asked for shelter as she had no home to go to. The girl was in service with a woman of the city with whom she said she had a disagreement and as a result of which her employer turned her out of doors. Having no friends in the city she took the wise course of applying to the police station for shelter instead of walking the streets. We do not know what the circumstances of the trouble between herself and her mistress are but we do think it is an outrage to turn a female adrift on the streets of a city without affording her some protection and an employer so heartless deserves universal execration.

BRITISH PRESS REJECTS GERMAN PROPOSALS

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The German peace proposal is emphatically rejected by the "Times," which says Germany's proposal bears no relation to the objects for which we are fighting. She has been trying by all the means at her disposal to induce us to make a suggestion of mediation, the attempt has lamentably and conspicuously failed, and as she does not judge that any neutral power could proffer mediation with much advantage, she falls back on this indirect offer to the belligerents as a pisaller. It is alone of all things a symptom of her conscious weakness. The Allies must absolutely reject any idea of mediation in any shape and from any quarter as long as the basis they have proposed for peace is unattained.

French Stop Hun Attack

PARIS, Dec. 12.—German troops made an attack yesterday evening on the edge of Des Leges Wood near Lessigny, south of the Somme sector, the War Office announced to-day. The advance was checked by the French curtain of fire.

HUN BUTCHER TO CHANGE TITLE

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—The Vorwaerts is quoted as saying that Germany is now in a position to address a terrible warning to the consciences of those who prolong the war. Another Berlin suggestion is that the Emperor is going to change his title of German Emperor, to "Emperor of Germany." This recalls the fact that his grandfather wished to make the same change at Versailles after the Franco-Prussian war, but was prevented by the opposition of German States outside of Prussia. Other telegrams from Berlin received in Holland say that all the conjectures indulged in may prove false.

A Justifiable Protest.

(To the Editor.) Dear Sir,—As a reader of your widely-circulated paper, permit me to congratulate you on your policy of criticizing the Reids and Bowings for advancing their freight rates. This is not the time, with flour \$12 a barrel and pork \$36, for such Shylocks to extract their pound of fleecy. Had Sir Robert Bond been Premier instead of Sir E. P. Morris there is no doubt these companies would not have been allowed to jump their freight rates. If prices continue to soar next year in the same proportion as they have this year, it will be a very serious question for those who have to earn their living by the sweat of their brow.

The war still drags on and still the call goes forth "More Men." Fogo has done well, but will yet do more. But the Government will have to do something to provide for those who live to return. It is not good enough for the heroes to be met at the Station by the Premier and lister to his hot air, and then driven to Government House. This will not keep the wolf from the door after.

Everywhere we see extravagance on the part of the Government. We see young men holding Government positions, who should be in the front line of trenches. At present they are living in luxury under the Government umbrella. Even here in Fogo salaries of Government officials have been increased since the war broke out, and young men too. This is nothing short of scandalous.

If the war last another year Mr. Coaker will certainly have to introduce a policy of retrenchment after the war is over, and lop off the unnecessary government officials. Yours truly, CORRESPONDENT. Fogo, Dec. 1st, 1916.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

- 2452 Lt. Corp. Heber Angel, 130 Hamilton Avenue. At 11th Stationary Hospital, Rouen, Dec. 4th. Gunshot wounds, right thigh, arm and face—slight. 2735 Private Samuel Normore, Bell Island, C.B. At 1st. General Hospital, Rouen, Dec. 4th. Gunshot wound, nose—slight. 2182 Corporal Patrick J. Connors, Dunville, P.B. Admitted Wandsworth. Appendicitis, (previously reported appendicitis, Rouen, off serious list Dec. 7th.) Following Reported at Wandsworth. 2620 Private Herbert Gulliver, 20a Tessier Place. Gunshot wound in hand, loss fingers; gunshot wound in thigh—severe. 1086 Private James Short, Bonavista. Gunshot wound in right arm and hand. 2177 Private Edward P. Doyle, Freshwater Road. Piles. 1652 Private Alex. F. Redstone, 237 South Side. Trenchfoot. 1008 Private Walter D. Ivany, Bell Island, C.B. Trench fever. 2656 Private Malcolm Martin, Victoria St., Harbor Grace. Dysentery.

HENDERSON ON PEAGE

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Arthur Henderson, Minister of Pensions, in the first public speech to be made by any of the new Ministers warned the country against a premature peace. Speaking at Clapham, Mr. Henderson said the war had gone too long for some people in this country, and it is possible in view of the military situation, that we may become war weary. I want to warn everyone of the danger of premature peace. I am as strongly for peace as anybody can be but peace must place us without doubt beyond a recurrence of the present catastrophe. By all means, let our American friends and other neutrals do what they can to form a league of nations which would bind themselves together to lay down the principles of arbitration, and I will go with them, but not now. To talk peace with all the most unscrupulous military forces against us would be a step toward having to fight the whole thing over again.

IMPOSSIBLE PEAGE TERMS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The German Embassy announces that the following are main points in Germany's peace terms. First that Poland and Lithuania be recognized as separate kingdoms, second Germany to restore Belgium and Northern France, third the fate of the Balkan States to be settled in Germany's peace conference. The comment here is to the effect that Germany's demands will not be acceptable to the Allies and the war will go on with increased vigor. This is the word that comes from the Allied Embassy in Washington.

British Cabinet Meeting Postponed

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The absence through illness of Premier Lloyd George and former Premier Asquith, the principal figures in the late ministerial crisis and the decision of the Cabinet to postpone until Thursday its statement of policy robbed to-day's session of the Commons of the interest which usually attaches to the first meeting of a new Government with Parliament. However a large number of members returned to London for the session. The attitude of those whose position remains in doubt was indicated by the seats they took, either behind the Cabinet or with the opposition forces. Meanwhile new Ministers are mastering their departments which most of them took over yesterday. A. J. Balfour, however, delayed his transfer until this morning when he assumed charge of the Foreign Office. For the moment the Foreign Minister is occupied with the problem of dealing with the Athens government.

Peace Proposals

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Germany and her Allies propose to enter forthwith into Peace negotiations. The propositions which they will bring forward are, according to Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace. The Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian Governments are making similar proposals. These proposals have been transmitted also to the Vatican.

FRENCH PAPERS DERIDES HUNS PEACE TALK

PARIS, Dec. 13.—The offer of peace by Germany has been received with a chorus of derision in the French press. Newspapers are unanimous that it is an admission that the situation is getting critical in Germany, and that the Chancellor wants a way out before it is too late.

Reconstruction of French Cabinet

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Premier Briand announced to-day that he had completed the reconstruction of his Cabinet and that the list will appear in to-morrow's Journal. The Premier is expected to make an official statement to Parliament to-morrow.

French Capture Bulgar Post

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Five small Bulgar posts on the right bank of the Vardar River on the Macedonian front, have been captured by the French. It is announced officially by Operations north of Monastir are being impeded by snow.

STORM INTERRUPTS WIRES

No. 3 storm signal was ordered up to-day presaging a gale at first from an Easterly direction. The storm of last night and the early morning played havoc with the wires and no war messages were received up to press hour.

GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF SPECIAL POLICE.

Our attention has been directed to the manner in which certain men who were engaged to do special police duty on the different cable stations around the country are being treated by the Government. We learn that some of those men serving at Cuckhold's Cove and elsewhere has been put off the service without any notice whatever, and as many of those men have families dependent upon them for support they find it a great hardship to be turned out of employment at this season of the year. The salary attached to the position of special policeman, as in the regular force, is barely sufficient to exist on, and as a consequence those men who have been engaged since June find themselves ill prepared to supply their wants during the coming winter. We consider the Government's action towards those officials unfair and unjust, as some consideration should be given to the men who gave their services to the Government for small remuneration, so that they would not be distressed during the winter season, when no employment is offering. We trust the Government will give this deserving matter their attention.

Another Steamer Sunk

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Lloyd's announces that the Norwegian steamer Ajder is reported sunk.

Meat Supply Under Government Control

ROME, Dec. 12.—A decree was issued to-day, placing the consumption of fresh meat under Government control after January 1st.

NOTICE!

There remain for sale a few quarter casks of "Newman's" Port Wine. APPLY TO Baine Johnston & Co AGENTS. m.w.f.

Mother and Child Turned Adrift

It will be remembered that some weeks ago a young man, a resident of Wickford Street, was sent to the Penitentiary for 6 months owing to an atrocious assault committed on a woman. He undoubtedly deserved the penalty imposed, but in most of such cases the innocent suffers as much, if not more than the guilty. This is illustrated in the case of the unfortunate wife of the prisoner who resided with her mother-in-law and who to-day was at the Police Station with her 16 months old baby in her arms. With no one to support them her wife and child were compelled to quit the mother-in-law's house yesterday and appealed to the police to-day for help. Mr. Grimes did what he could for the woman, but unless someone takes the matter up the unfortunate woman and her innocent little one must suffer great hardships.

Searches Danish Steamer

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—A German submarine operating in the English Channel just off the Downs stopped the Danish steamer Claf Maresk, from Rotterdam and compelled her captain to submit his papers for examination. According to the officers of the ship which arrived here to-day the submarine made its presence known to Olaf Maersk by firing two shots over her bows as a signal to stop. Thirty minutes were consumed in examination after which the Danish Captain was allowed to proceed.

Speculating on Hollweg's Speech

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The morning papers give prominence to German speculation regarding the forthcoming speech of Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg as recorded by their correspondents in Holland. Many guesses are given as to what secrets will be divulged and most of these centre on the supposition that the Chancellor's declaration will concern peace.

Wilson Notified

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—News that Germany and her Allies were about to enter on peace negotiations were sent to President Wilson. Speaking for the President, Secretary Tumulty said he was deeply interested but could make no comment at least until it was learned what reception the proposal received from the Entente Allies.

Hollweg's Words Important

LONDON, Dec. 12.—An Amsterdam despatch to the Times says that according to latest reports the speech of Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg before the Reichstag to-day will be concerned with the political future of Wallachia.

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LOCAL ITEMS

The schr. Mary Lloyd left Penambuco for this port on the 8th inst.

The sharp train did not arrive here last night until 4.30 owing to the large amount of freight offering.

The S.S. Cape Breton left Lewisporte yesterday for Sydney.

The schr. Louisa House, 30 days from Cadiz, arrived at Hr. Breton Sunday.

The Pere Marquette left Botwood last night under the command of w/h 1,200 tons pulp and paper.

"The Liars" at the Casino Theatre To-night. Don't miss seeing it. A splendid Comedy and everybody pleased. Go To-night and see "The Liars."

Mr. Lemessurier, C.M.G. to-day had a wire from Wood's Island saying that yesterday the fishermen secured 10 and 12 tubs of herring, which are still in deep water. The prospects are better.

The Prospero was delayed all night at Seldom by the storm and left there bound North at 10 a.m. No word of the Portia was had to-day, the wires being interrupted as a result of the storm last night.

In the Police Court to-day Mr. Frank J. Morris, who presided, found a drunk \$1 or 3 days. A man drunk in his mother's house had to give his own bonds to keep away from the maternal residence in future.

"The Liars" To-night at Casino Theatre. A great Comedy. Beautifully staged and costumed. A charmed audience. See to-night "The Liars."

Yesterday the volunteers had drill in the armoury and during the night a squad had drill in the armoury of the Nfld. Highlanders. Though the weather is not at all favourable the men often hold rifle practice at the South Side Range and are becoming expert marksmen.

IS SEEKING INFORMATION

Within the past couple of day the police had a letter from a lady named Mary Morris of Sheffield, England, enquiring after a family of the same name supposed to be living here. It asked especially that her husband's father be located and gave his name as John Morris. It stated that the man is a gardener by trade but generally the letter is vague and the police will write for further particulars.

ANOTHER RECRUITING MEETING.

There will be another recruiting meeting tonight at Long Pond, Conception Bay. There are quite a number of eligible young men residing on this section of the South Shore and no doubt they will follow the example set by the men of Petty Hr. and the Goulds, who so readily responded last week. With the speakers to-night will be Lieut. Churchill and Sgts. Nugent and Squires.

APPOINTED SCHOOL INSPECTOR.

Mr. Ronald Kennedy, for several years principal of the Academy of Hr. Grace, was appointed R. C. Inspector of Schools on Friday last, as successor to the late Dr. T. Hanrahan.

Wanted Immediately A MEDICAL DOCTOR, for Little Bay and Adjoining Settlements. SALARY ABOUT \$3,000. Apply to W. A. McKay, LITTLE BAY.