

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "The MAIL and ADVOCATE"

# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

Official Organ of The Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland.

Vol. II. No. 92.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915.

Price:—1 cent.

## EXPECTATIONS ARE RIFE IN EUROPE

### People Anticipate Big Developments

#### Germans Begin Offensive Against Anglo-French Line Near Ypres

#### And Also Against the Belgian Line Farther West

#### Allies Forced to Fall Back—Another Big Battle Imminent

Big Naval Battle in North Sea Predicted—Declared Allies have Made Landing Near Enos—Reports of Zeppelins Appearing Over N.E. Coast of England

London, April 23.—With battles developing near Ypres, in Flanders, reports of a prospective naval engagement in the North Sea, and preparations for advancing for the commencement of a combined naval and military attack on the Dardanelles, or some other vital spot in Turkey, the people of Europe are highly expectant. Of these three anticipated events, only one has actually reached fulfilment that of the battle near Ypres.

That a severe engagement has taken place in this part of Flanders is confirmed by official reports, but these are so contradictory in their claims that the actual result of the preliminary fighting is not known.

To those outside the War Offices of the belligerent nations, it would appear, however, that following their loss on Hill No. 60, and their failure, after repeated attempts, to recapture it, the Germans have commenced an offensive from the north-east against the Anglo-French line in front of Ypres, which was the scene of such bloody battles last autumn, also against the Belgian line farther west. The Germans claim that with a rush they drove the Allies back to Ypres Canal, taking 1,600 British and French prisoners and a number of guns.

The French accounts admit that the Allies had to fall back, but it states

this was due to the use by the Germans of asphyxiating gas bombs, and Sir John French confirms this.

Paris asserts that with counter-attacks and the Allies launched against them. It is believed here that these operations are but the commencement of another battle in Ypres.

Although the despatch received from Holland to-night gives rumour that the Germans are about to fall back on the Liege line in order to have troops ready for possible use against Italy, should she join the Allies, it is considered more likely in military circles here that the Germans will give battle where they are, preferring to be first to attack, having learned from recent experiences that it is difficult to hold even the strongest positions when extremely heavy cannonade is directed against them.

Fighting continues in Woevre, and here also both French and Germans claim successes. The French in this region, apparently determined to make another attempt to squeeze the German wedge which has its apex at St. Mihiel.

The prediction of a naval battle in the North Sea, which is based on reports from Scandinavia of activity by warships, and the prohibition of shipping between England and Holland by the British Admiralty, and the announcement that the German High Seas Fleet has several times lately been out in the North Sea without encountering British ships, are incidents of the war that are calling forth much discussion.

The only news from the Aegean Sea comes from Athens and the Greek is-

lands. It is to the effect that firing is heard on times in the vicinity of the Dardanelles and Smyrna, also in the Gulf of Saros, where it is declared the Allies have made a landing in the vicinity of the Turkish port of Enos. There have been reports of Zeppelin airships making their appearance along the north-east coast of England, but these reports lack confirmation. No bombs have been dropped on the coast towns, and it is thought probable that if Zeppelins have again been along the North Sea coast, it was for the purpose of reconnoitering for the German fleet.

Field Marshal Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the British force in France and Belgium, communicates the following under today's date:—

Yesterday evening the enemy developed an attack on the French troops on our left in the neighborhood of Bissechoote and Langemark, on the north of Ypres salient.

"This attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment, the enemy at the same time making use of a large number of appliances for the production of asphyxiating gas. The quantity produced indicates a long and deliberate preparation for the employment of such devices, which is contrary to the terms of the Hague Convention, to which the enemy subscribed.

"The false statement by the Germans a week ago, to the effect that we were using such gas, is now explained. It obviously was an effort to diminish neutral criticism in advance. During the night the French had to retire from the gas zone, overwhelmed by fumes. They have fallen back to the Canal in the neighbourhood of Bosinghe.

"Our front remains intact, except on the extreme left, where our troops have had to readjust their line in order to conform with the new French line.

"Two attacks delivered during the night on our trenches, east of Ypres, were repulsed.

"Fighting continues in the region north of Ypres.

"This morning one of our aviators, during reconnaissance, which he completed successfully, damaged a German aeroplane and forced it to descend.

"Our Flying Corps has brought down another German machine near Messines."

## THREATEN GERMAN FLANK

London, April 24th.—A strong column Russian cavalry again has invaded East Prussia near Memel, says a Petrograd correspondent and is threatening German left flank.

## BRITISH OFFICIAL

German Attacks Fail—French Capture Two Lines of Trenches—Turkish Defeat in Mesopotamia

London, April 23.—The French Government reports German counter-attacks on Hill 60 have definitely failed.

Near St. Eloi the French have carried two successive lines of trenches, which formed an embarrassing salient in their positions. Fifty prisoners were captured, and many German dead were left on the ground.

The Indian Office reports Turkish forces, retreating in Lower Mesopotamia, attacked by turkcoat Arabs. Their retreat was turned into a rout. The enemy's casualties are now estimated at six thousand.—HARCOURT.

## FRENCH OFFICIAL

Paris, via St. Pierre, April 23.—Near Langemark, north of Ypres, the British repulsed two attacks on Height 60, near Zwartelene. German counter-attacks failed. The fierceness of these attacks can't be explained, unless it's the wish to compensate for defeat of the Imperial German Staff. The enemy's losses are much larger than indicated in yesterday's figures.

In the Rheims sector there have been artillery duels.

In the Argonne, at Bagatelle pavilion, a German attack, not very important, was repulsed.

Near St. Mihiel's, in Apremont Forest, we captured by assault, two consecutive lines of trenches at a place known as "Tete de Vache." This point formed a salient in our positions working us seriously. A great number of German corpses were left on the ground, and we made prisoners.

In Alsace we continue to advance on both banks of the Fecht. In the north we occupy a tributary of the Fecht and the Wurms. In the south we have reached Schelstloch, thus advancing eastward in the direction of Metzlar.

## Britain's Eyes Turned On the North Sea

Everything Seems to Point to Big Engagement Shortly

London, April 24.—All Britain is watching the North Sea for signs of a collision between the great fleets believed to be impending. Message follows message from Scandinavia. All tell of unusual activity among smaller fighting ships in Northern waters.

No conjecture can be made concerning the lurking place of the backbone of the navy, dreadnoughts and dreadnought cruisers, but there is every reason for saying they are within call and ready with decks cleared for action to respond to the wireless flash. The announcement by the German Admiralty yesterday that the German High Seas Fleet has been out in the North Sea frequently of late without encountering British ships is not taken seriously by naval authorities here. They are inclined to regard the statement as one for home consumption, answering demands by the people for naval activity. It is thought that German ships may have cruised in the vicinity of Heligoland, but the thorough British patrol would have sent warning, it is sure, of any extended dash.

## German Fleet In British Waters

Berlin, via London, April 23.—The German Admiralty to-day gave us the following statement:—"The German High Seas Fleet has recently cruised repeatedly in the North Sea, advancing into British waters without meeting sea forces of Britain."

## Trawler Sunk In North Sea

London, April 23.—The trawler St. Lawrence was torpedoed yesterday in the North Sea, two members of her crew being killed.

The Simplon Tunnel, connecting Switzerland and Italy, is the longest railway tunnel in the world, being 12 miles 458 yards in length.

## BATTLE FOR POSSESSION OF HILL 60

### MOST TERRIBLY CONCENTRATED FIGHT IN ALL HISTORY--SUCCESS OF BRITISH DUE TO RAPID WORK OF THE ENGINEERS

#### Trenches Only 20 Yards Apart

London, April 24.—The "Daily Mail's" correspondent in Northern Ypres says the British success was due largely to the speed of tunnel engineers and for the explosion of British mines, anticipating by only a short time similar mines planned by German engineers. The Hill is only 200 yards long. Fighting here has been more terribly concentrated than

in any spot in history. While the Hill is mined, trenched, sandbagged and covered, some of the enemy's trenches are still virtually on the Hill, within twenty yards of our trenches. Canadian troops have been specially commended by British commanders for the speed and precision with which they dug themselves in after charging.

## REARRANGEMENT OF GERMAN LINES

### Said To Be Falling Back on Liege Line--No Confirmation Rumor

The Hague, April 23.—It is rumoured in military and diplomatic circles here that the closing of the Belgian and Dutch frontiers to traffic of all kinds, outward and inward bound, is connected with important German troop movements in Belgium. It is

hinted in various quarters in the Hague that the Germans are about to fall back on the Liege line, thus relieving a number of troops for possible use against Italy, in the event of that country intervening in the war. There is no confirmation of the rumour.

## SEPARATE PEACE WITH AUSTRIA TALKED OF

London, April 24th.—The Daily Mail's Warsaw correspondent sends the statement from high authoritative sources in which the possibility is described of early conclusion of a separate peace with Austria.

Although the air is full of such stories and indications show Austria is desirous of an instant and lasting peace, the statement says it must be understood that if Austria ceased to be a belligerent her position as a neutral would mean that she would be able to offer as great if not greater obstacle to the success of Russian arms as if she remained a belligerent.

## "ALMIGHTY HEART STRONGER THAN ALMIGHTY DOLLAR"

London, April 17.—Sir Gilbert Parker took occasion at a meeting of the Pilgrims on Thursday night to pay a warm tribute to the United States for the attitude it has maintained during the war. He said: "Never has a neutral nation had such problems as the United States has faced with a temperance, courtesy and moderation for which this country cannot be too grateful."

"The American Government," continued the speaker, "has pursued the only course possible to a national desirous of preserving its deservedly high reputation in the field of diplomacy. It has been in true sympathy with the high mindedness and sensible idealism of the American people in regard to the great events of the world's history. It is not surprising, therefore, that all the combatants in this great war desire at least America's good opinion."

## Spies Set Fire

London, April 18.—There was a rumour in London the night of January 31 that a serious fire had broken out in the big Government dockyards at Portsmouth; but the censor eliminated all mention of the matter from press despatches.

It now appears that the fire was of a very serious character, and came near wiping out the docks and other valuable properties at Portsmouth. The real extent of the damage is still unknown. It is the common belief in official circles that the fire was the work of incendiaries, presumably German spies.

## Dickens the Favorite

Dickens is the German soldier's favorite novelist. He stands first in a list of fifty authors, prepared by a publishing house.

Of the total number of orders from the German troops at the front, 48 per cent call for fiction, 19 per cent for serious reading, comprising philosophy, religion and the arts; 17 per cent for poetry and drama, and 16 per cent for light miscellaneous stuff, including humorous works.

## German Fleet

Germany and Italy, about equal in population to the United States, keeps in service in time of peace a million soldiers.

London, April 17.—The estate of the late Baron Rothschild was provisionally sworn for probate at \$12,500,000. Baron Rothschild died in London March 31.

## Canadians and Newfoundlanders Play Hockey at Edinburgh

We clip the following from the "Hullfax Herald" of April 17:—"Edinburgh, April 14.—Teams representing Canadians located in Edinburgh and the Newfoundland regiment, at present stationed in the Castle, took part in an interesting hockey match at the Edinburgh Ice Rink, Haymarket. The Canadians are members of the Medical Unit of the Officers' Training Corps.

The following were the teams: Canadians—Dr. Platt, Toronto, goal; W. E. Thomson, St. John, N.B., point; T. B. Eaton, Acadia, cover point; D. H. Paterson, Winnipeg, rover; E. W. Grant, Halifax, centre; J. W. Lamont, Winnipeg, left wing; C. Harris, Sackville, right wing. Newfoundlanders—Lance-Corporal Burnham, goal; Corporal Herder, point; Lance-Corporal Stiek, cover point; Lieut. Tait, rover; Private R. Herder, centre; Corporal E. Churchill, left wing; Sergeant Stiek, right wing. The Newfoundland team won by 15 to 0.

## The Bonaventure's Sealing Case

The cases against the owner of the Bonaventure and Capt. Robert Bartlett for sailing before the date fixed by law for steel ships, for killing seals on Sunday, contrary to law and for not supplying fresh beef once weekly came before Judge Knight this morning. The plaintiffs are three of the Bonaventure's sealing crew.

## Fighting in India

Simla, India, April 24.—Native troops of British army met the first assault of four thousand Mohammedan soldiers who were defeated in their attempt to invade India. It was announced to-day. Eighth Rajputs inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and the latter's rout was made complete when the King's Regiment arrived, as the Mohammedans fled to the hills. British artillery shelled them killing many. Most of the dead Mohammedans found on the battlefield appear to be youths.

## British Steamer Sinks a German

Lima, April 24th.—A despatch to La Prensa states the British steamer Orcoma has sunk the German merchant steamer near Bayovar. It is also stated that the British cruiser Kent and Orana have received coal from the British steamer Eggesford at Port Bayovar.

## Germans Swarm To West Belgium

Appear to be Staking all on One Move by Rush Against the Allies in the West

London, April 24.—A special message to the "Express" from the Belgian frontier says:—"The entire area west of the Burges-Courtrai road is said to be literally flooded with Germans. Messages reaching me by indirect routes from Antwerp and Brussels describe the continuous passage of troop trains from Eastern Belgium.

## Germans Swarm To West Belgium

The Germans appear to be staking everything on this tremendous effort.

## Trawler Sunk In North Sea

London, April 23.—The trawler St. Lawrence was torpedoed yesterday in the North Sea, two members of her crew being killed.

A. English