

Time For Government To Take Some Action

The subjoined letters, which appeared in this morning's issue of The Daily News, so admirably sum up our general financial situation that we republish them herewith.

Small wonder that business men, and others are asking: "Is the Colony drifting to perdition, and have we no authority in our midst to lead public opinion at this juncture?"

Are the Government waiting until things have become so bad that any action they may finally decide to take will be but a forlorn hope?

PROTECT THE TRADE

Dear Sir,—It is regrettable that the future outlook appears so gloomy, both commercially and financially, and that no action as yet, has been taken by the Government to place business and finance on a sound footing in this emergency.

It is the Government's duty to act, and act promptly.

Their first duty is to arrange with the Banks to accommodate the fish supplying merchants sufficiently to carry on their respective businesses in the usual way.

Their next duty is to make an order, that the gold remain in the banks, so that any depositor or customer drawing money will be compelled to take the bank notes instead of gold.

Their next duty is to issue one million dollars in Treasury notes of a different denomination from those already in circulation. These notes to be made legal tender within the Colony, and to be deposited with the four banks according to their re-

ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM

Sir,—Is the Colony drifting to perdition and have we no authority in our midst to lead public opinion at this juncture?

The obvious course is to convene the Legislature and take authority to declare a moratorium.

My cable advices on Saturday night said "Bank of England rate is 5 per cent. and business is normal." Here the bank rate is 16 per cent. and Bank managers appear to be more or less atrophied.

Surely a *modus vivendi* can be arrived at whereby the general trade can find relief and our fishermen be given an outlet and value for their labour.

Unless something be done and that quickly, St. John's could be no worse off were she a besieged city.

—W. B. GRIEVE, St. John's, Aug. 10th.

pective trade. These notes to be kept in circulation in the same way as ordinary bank notes.

The above is merely a suggestion and is open to improvement.

—WATER STREET St. John's, Aug. 10th.

On Account of Presence of the Germans All Canadian Ports Have Been Closed And Shipping Not Allowed To Put Out

Ottawa, Aug. 11.—Under directions from the Naval department, all the shipping on the St. Lawrence route with the exception, of course, of incoming vessels, was stopped yesterday, pending further instructions.

The stopping of sailings from the Atlantic coast has been followed by a similar temporary cessation of departures from the Pacific Coast pending the location and either the sinking or capture of four German cruisers, three on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific, known to be hovering about looking for prizes of war.

In addition mines have been placed in the St. Lawrence and at the entrance to the harbor of Halifax and Vancouver. The location of these mines is, of course, known only to the Naval Department, and that is another reason why it is considered unwise, for the present at least, to allow vessels to leave. Special provisions will be made for piloting incoming vessels so as to avoid the danger of submerged mines.

There are now three British ships on this side of the Atlantic, namely the Essex, Berwick Lancaster Bristol and Suffolk cruiser.

The Drake is now on her way across.

The Niobe will be in commission by the end of this week and with all these vessels searching for the enemy, it should not take long to clear the North Atlantic and make the passage to England again secure.

It is understood that the Essex sighted one of the German cruisers about two hundred miles off the coast last week, but the latter being speedier than the British cruiser rapidly got out of sight.

Patriotic British Employers

London, Aug. 11.—The best class of English employers are giving full weekly wages during absence on foreign service; others are giving half pay with the promise of maintenance for wives and children.

Over two hundred motor cyclists volunteered Saturday and Sunday.

THE AUSTRIAN FLEET

Australia's Fleet, which is at present in her own waters, where Australians themselves have already admitted it can be of no use to either Australia or the Empire in the present crisis, consists of the following vessels:

Tonnage	Comp'd	Armament	Speed	Compl'm't
Australia	18,800	1913	8, 12-inch	26 knots 790 men
Battle Cruiser			16, 4-inch	
Melbourne	5,400	1913	8, 6-inch	25.5 knots 450 men
Protected 2nd Class Cruiser			4, 3-pounders	
Sydney	5,400	1913	8, 6-inch	25.5 knots 450 men
Protected 2nd Class Cruiser			4, 3-pounders	
Encounter	5,880	1906	11, 6-inch	20.7 knots 454 men
Protected 2nd Class Cruiser			9, 12-pounders	
Pioneer	2,200	1900	8, 4-inch	20 knots 234 men
Light Cruiser			11, 3-pounders	

Public Notice

A Public Meeting will be held in the Armory of the Church Lads' Brigade, Harvey Road, on Wednesday the 12th instant at 8.30 p.m., to take into consideration the question of enlisting citizens for the land service abroad in the war in which Great Britain is now engaged, and also the establishment of a corps for "Home defence." His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., etc., will occupy the chair.

Liege Forts are Still in Good Condition Defenders are Well-fed and Well-armed

Brussels, Aug. 11.—The commander of the forts at Liege, according to an official announcement, reports all the forts intact. The soldiers manning them are in fine health and spirits and are amply supplied with provisions and ammunition. There is no cause for alarm for the population of Liege. The official view is that the situation is quite satisfactory.

All approaches to Brussels are well-guarded to prevent anything in the nature of a surprise.

Reconnoitering parties of German cavalry and small bodies of Uhlans have been signalled in all directions. Generally they had lost their bearings and surrendered immediately on being challenged.

REPORTS NOT ENCOURAGING

General Fishery Conditions Still Continue Poor and Unpromising

Aug. 8th.—From W. White (Trouty to Port Rexton)—The total catch is 1330 qtls. and for last week 550. Thirty-five traps, 40 boats, but no dories or skiffs are fishing. Prospects are a little brighter than formerly. There is a good supply of caplin but no squid.

The best lobster factory, with two men, has 15 cases. On Monday the 3rd one trap had 100 qtls, another 80, two more 40 each and many others from 5 to 10. Unfortunately this good fishing continued for one day only and very little has been taken since.

Aug. 8th.—From R. Brown (Upper Amherst Cove to Cape L'Argent)—Sixty-five traps, 380 dories and skiffs with 3 men each, and 3 large boats with 6 men, are fishing. Two boats returned from the Wadhaw with about 30 qtls. each and reported cod very scarce.

Prospects are very poor. The caplin has gone and there is no squid for bait. The ground here has been well tried and fishermen say they never found cod so scarce. Probably the catch is less than 4,000 qtls., or will not now exceed that estimate. The total is 4,000 qtls., and for last week, 500.

Aug. 8th.—From S. E. Chafe (South

SERBIA DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

Vienna, Aug. 10.—A despatch to The Daily Telegraph reports that Serbia has declared war against Germany.

This step it was explained, was taken in order to get rid of the German Minister at Belgrade.

GUARD SHOT TRESPASSER

Quebec, Aug. 10.—An I.C.R. man guarding the railway bridge shot and killed a trespasser below Quebec.

An accident occurred last night at Monk Lake, near Lake Bouchelle, when an engine of the Quebec and Lake St. John railway fell through a burned bridge, resulting in the death of three men.

There is some hint of the bridge having been burnt by a criminal. The officials are very reticent about the matter.

TO MAN "NIOBE"

Toronto, Aug. 10.—The first detachment of men who will man the Niobe left this morning for Halifax. The detachment consisted principally of stokers.

Head Brigus, to Bay Roberts Point)—Prospects are not encouraging and no bait is obtainable. The total catch is 580 qtls. with 80 for last week.

Eleven traps, 55 boats, punts and skiffs are fishing, but no dories. Cod is very scarce and traps have taken very little this week. From quarter to half quintal each is being landed by nets, but nothing by hook and liners.

MANY CLASHES ON FRONTIER

Numerous Skirmishes Are Taking Place Between the French and the Germans—French Win Big Fight in Mountains

Paris, Aug. 11.—A statement issued by the Military Department at a late hour last night says numerous skirmishes are taking place along the entire front of the French Army.

One clash with the Germans was violent and the losses on both sides were serious.

The official communication adds that the German troops have received reinforcements and that the French are also being strengthened.

A battle began on Saturday evening on the ridges of the Vosges Mountains and aeroplanes took part in the engagement.

The French troops, after a desperate encounter, obtained possession of the mountain passes of Bonhomme and Sainte Marie and when fighting was resumed took up a position dominating Sainte Marie aux Mines.

The losses sustained by the French in the taking of Sainte Marie are not specifically given in the official report which confines itself to declaring that they were serious.

Wounded French and German soldiers were taken to the French fortress of Epinal for treatment.

A French aeroplane, which ascended during the engagement was repeatedly fired at and the officer acting as observer of the movements of the Germans received several wounds.

The pilot of the machine, however, brought him safely to land and he was able to return to the fort whither the aeroplane was sent for repairs.

German troops have inundated the valley of the Sella, hoping by this means to stop the advance of the French, but the quantity of water was not sufficient and the French troops were able to continue their march.

French troops today were on the outskirts of the forest of Hardt in front of Nuebreis, which appears occupied in force.

Portia left Curling at 6.30 last evening for Sydney.

Prospero sails northward at 10 a.m. to-morrow.

C.L.B.

Meeting of Members of the C.L.B., Old Comrades and Ex-members of the C.L.B. will be held this Tuesday Evening at 8 o'clock at the Armory.

By order, WALTER RENDELL, Adjutant.

Anglo-American Telegraph Company, Ltd.

Trans-Atlantic Service Defereed Rates

Customers will please note that in consequence of the delay on Atlantic Cable Traffic the conditions applicable to the transmission and delivery of deferred telegrams and Cable and Week End Cable Letter are suspended until further notice and such messages are only accepted subject to the prior transmission and delivery of full rate traffic.

R. C. SMITH, General Superintendent, Aug 10, 11

St. John's Municipal Council

TENDERS

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned and marked "Tender for Trenching and Backfilling" will be received until 4 o'clock Friday next, 14th inst., for the necessary trenching and backfilling on Cochrane Street to relay the water main.

Specification of the work and all particulars in reference to it will be supplied on application at the Office of the City Engineer.

The Council reserves the right to reject any or all of the Tenders.

By order, JOHN L. SLATTERY, Secretary-Treasurer.

Sensational Offering!

LADIES' COATS

Owing to a backward season in the Old Country, many manufacturers and wholesalers have been caught with heavy stocks, which they are forced to clear out at a sacrifice.

Our representative being on the spot early, has had his pick of several exceptionally good values, some of which have just arrived.

As a sample we are now offering a small lot of

LADIES' TAILOR-MADE SUMMER COATS

at Less Than a Third of the original Values.

There are only 50 in the lot, so if you wish to get an early choice, come in TODAY.

\$18 COATS for \$5.00

Less than ONE-THIRD OF Original Price.

- 6 only Navy & Black Serge & Tweed Values up to \$10.00 for **\$3.00**
- 9 only Navy & Black Fine Serge Values up to \$12.00 for **3.50**
- 12 only Navy & Black Serge & a few Colored Values up to \$14.00 for **4.00**
- 17 only Navy & Black Serge & Col'd. Broadcloth Values up to \$16.00 for **4.50**
- 6 only Black Broadcloth Values up to \$18.00 for **5.00**

SKIRTS—JUST OPENED

Dress Skirts in Tweed, Serge and Venetian

\$1.80 to \$4.00

SHOW ROOM IN OUR Upper Building.

Ayre & Sons LIMITED

ARRANGING ENLISTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

Preliminary Meeting Was Held in Executive Council Chamber Last Night

PUBLIC MEETING FOR WEDNESDAY

Big Number of Volunteers Expected to Offer Their Services

In connection with the Volunteer movement in Newfoundland, a preliminary meeting was held in Council Chamber yesterday afternoon. The Premier presided and among those present were: The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Bennett; Lieut.-Commander MacDermott, of H.M.S. Calypso; Inspector-General Sullivan, Capt. Wakefield, M.D., of the Legion of Frontiersmen; Lieut.-Col. Rendell, of the C.L.B.; Major Carty of the C.C.C.; Major-Hutchings of the M.G.B.; Lieut.-Col. Paterson of the Highlanders, Capt. Goodridge and Capt. J. W. Morris of the Rifle Club.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the object of the meeting, which was merely preliminary, was to arrange for a public meeting to be held on Wednesday night in the C.L.B. Armory to be presided over by His Excellency the Governor.

England was now in a state of war, fighting with France and Russia against Germany and Austria, that in the struggle was involved the exist-

ence of the British Empire of 500,000,000 people, and that less than one-tenth of that number were paying the cost of the whole defence of the Empire.

Also that the trade disorganization and other evil effects which must flow from the war, creating national and individual damage, will be minimized to a very large extent by the ready contribution which can be given His Majesty's Government in bringing about victory.

The Premier felt satisfied that, as far as trade and commerce were concerned, in a very short time there would be a decisive naval battle in favor of England, which would confine the theatre of war to the continent, and would then in no way embarrass the trade, as the British Navy would be able to patrol, with perfect safety the trade routes of the Empire; that already we were contributing to the defence of the Empire by our Naval Reserve, which had now been in existence about 20 years, but that further aid was necessary.

He read the correspondence which had taken place between the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies and he proposed that a public meeting should be held on Wednesday next in order to give the citizens themselves an opportunity of dealing with the matter and at which meeting a Citizens' Defence Association or Volunteer Corps could be formally established.

All present were unanimous in the opinion that the time had arrived when England's oldest Colony should take her share of the burden of Imperial defence.

To-morrow night's meeting will, no doubt, show that our people are prepared to make sacrifices in the interests of the Empire upon which their lives, their properties, and their liberties depend.

CHASED TO PORT BY THE GERMANS

The British freight steamer Fairhaven, Capt. Tong, from Gullport, Mississippi, bound to Rotterdam with deal, arrived at 2 a.m. for orders.

At 3 a.m. on the 7th inst. when near the ocean shipping route, the Fairhaven sighted a 3-funnel 2-mast warship cleared for action. She was lying to without lights. As soon as the warship saw the Fairhaven she crowded on steam, circled her bow and then vanished into space.

Capt. Tong believes it was a German cruiser, and that she was lying in wait for some valuable prize, but when she saw the Fairhaven's decks loaded with deal, she would not molest her.

The next day the Fairhaven sighted the Averford and by signals learned that war had been declared between England and Germany.

The Fairhaven is now awaiting orders.

SHIPPING

No word of Bruce arriving at Basques this morning.

Lintrose left Basques at 10.55 last night.

S.S. Cacouna, 10 days from Montreal, arrived at 10 last night, via usual ports.

The Cacouna is the first Canadian steamer to be used as a transport. At Charlottetown she took 125 soldiers, 6 officers, 40 horses and four large guns, and proceeded to Hawkesbury. Sixty of the soldiers were for Canso to guard the cable and the others were landed from Sydney, from where they will proceed to guard the wireless station.