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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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## GENERAL FRENCH SUMMARIZES WORK

### Valuable Point Secured—Enemy's Losses Severe—Forty Planes Renew Attack in Bruges—Germans Cross Sereth River

London, Feb. 17 (official).—The following summary is from General French:—Since the success near Laassee early last week, some further progress has been made.

A valuable point was secured without loss on Feb. 13. The enemy's losses in recent fighting were severe.

On the 14th, near Ypres, the enemy captured some trenches; we counter-attacked, recovering the lost ground and capturing prisoners.

Similar summaries will be sent twice weekly.

The Admiralty announces that 40 aeroplanes and seaplanes renewed aerial operations in Bruges district. Bombs were dropped on heavy batteries at Ostend, harbour gun positions at Middlekerke mole, and on the locks at Zeebrugge.

Eight French aeroplanes attacked the Chisteltes aerodrome, it is reported good results were obtained.

The French Government reports a favourable day on the whole front, especially in Champagne, where three kilometres of German trenches and several hundred prisoners were captured.

The Russian Government reports obstinate fighting near Augustowa, where superior German forces are trying to surround the Russian wings.

There have been some Russian successes in the Carpathians. In Bukovina the enemy captured Nadworna and crossed the Sereth river.—HAR-COURT.

## Convention Conception Bay District Council at Spaniard's Bay

### President Coaker Will Again Address Big Meeting

In another column will be found a notice calling all the Councils of the F.P.U. established in Conception Bay to send delegates to the Convention of the Conception Bay District Council to be held at Spaniard's Bay next Wednesday, the 24th. Every Council from Kelligrews to Grate's Cove should be represented.

Each Council can send four delegates. Each District Council can also send delegates. President Coaker will attend, and business of great importance will be considered. The Port-de-Grave District Council Annual Meeting, will meet at Cupids on Tuesday, the 23rd, as per notice to be found in another column. Friend Grimes will preside. The delegates attending will proceed the next day to Spaniard's Bay Convention.

The Annual Meeting of Harbor Grace District Council will be held at Spaniard's Bay on the morning of Wednesday, the 24th inst., and the delegates present will represent their Councils also at the Conception Bay District Meeting to be held on the afternoon and evening of the same day.

President Coaker will be absent two days and will return on Thursday, the 25th. The Bowring insult, the Kean outrage, the price of seals, the Export Company Labrador establishments, the amendments to the Constitution to provide for the establishment of a Conception Bay District Council, the Labrador current price for fish cake, the relief of destitution, and other matters of vital importance to the Country in general, and Conception Bay in particular, will be considered.

The Convention will open at 2.30 p.m. on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 24th, and continue in session until the business is gone through. Any Council in any part of the North can be represented at the Convention. Most of the F.P.U. members of the House of Assembly will be present.

## ARTILLERY SHELLS GERMAN POSITION

### North of Arras Two Lines of Trenches Taken—Heavy Losses Inflicted on the Enemy Aviators Bombard Railway Stations at Freiburg and Breisgau

Paris, Feb. 17 (official).—From the sea to the Oise our artillery has carried on an efficacious shelling, which has dispersed a number of gatherings, blown up caissons and destroyed some trains.

To the north of Arras we have taken two lines of trenches and beaten back violent counter attacks.

We have made some prisoners and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. A number of German officers have been killed in the neighbourhood of Rheims. Near Lovre, advances made on Feb. 16, of several hundred metres have been maintained.

In Champagne district we have followed up our gains to the north-west of Eperthe, and have captured positions of the enemy on a front of 800 metres.

All German counter attacks to the north of Mesnil Les Husles and Beaucour have been repulsed, and we captured a large bomb thrower, several small ones, and made 200 prisoners. These engagements continue.

In the Argonne we have made progress in the forest La Grurie and maintained our gain notwithstanding two counter-attacks and several actions at close quarters, which resulted in heavy losses to the enemy.

Between the Argonne and the Meuse we have made progress at divers points.

In Alsace we have taken control of ridges which dominate Sadel farm, and we have retained all ground conquered.

Our aviators have bombarded the railway stations at Freiburg and Breisgau.

## Germans Sink French Steamer

### Govt. to Regulate Coal Situation

Paris, Feb. 17.—An official communication issued by the Ministry of Marine, tells of the sinking by the German submarine U-16, of the French steamer Ville de Lille, off Barbeur lighthouse, a short distance east of Cherbourg, after the submarine had ordered the crew to leave the steamer.

The statement follows:—"The French steamer Ville de Lille, from Cherbourg to Dunkirk sighted the German submarine U-16 near the lighthouse at Barbeur at 1.30 o'clock yesterday. The Ville de Lille attempted to escape, but was outspeeded by the submarine, men from which boarded her and gave the crew ten minutes to leave in the ship's boats.

They then sank the steamer by a bomb placed in her interior.

The U-16 headed for a Norwegian steamer, but sank out of sight when a division of French torpedo boats from Cherbourg appeared on the horizon.

The Ville de Lille was a small steamer of 997 tons."

## New Dirigible Destroyed

### Air Raid by Allies Has Done Much Damage to Ostend and Zeebrugge—Many Germans Killed

Amsterdam, Feb. 17.—A new dirigible balloon recently transferred to Belgium from Frederikshafen is reported to have been destroyed in the Allies' raid over Ostend.

Heavy damage is reported to have been done at Zeebrugge and Ostend, and many Germans are said to have been killed.

## Emperor William Directs Blockade

### Germany Skirting Thin Edge of Wheat Famine—Actual Conditions Concealed from the People

London, Feb. 18.—Telegrams from Copenhagen say the Baltic blockade is being maintained with vigour.

Wheat shortage in Germany, the correspondent adds, was concealed until the last moment for fear of the situation of the people. It is much greater than disclosed. Germany will only escape famine before next harvest by a narrow margin.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

## President Board of Trade Outlines Britain's Policy—Would Not Hesitate Embark on Gov't. Control Ships

London, Feb. 18.—Replying in the Commons today to the Labor Party's motion that the Government take over means of transport and fix prices of food and coal, Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, said the Government has already taken steps to remedy the coal situation in London by pooling railway cars to prevent congestion.

Financial measures taken by the Government at the commencement of the war which insured the flow of trade, he said, had prevented food from reaching much higher prices than then prevailed. The commodity which had increased most in price was wheat and this is controlled abroad.

There was no evidence of unnatural holding back of stores in this country, said the Minister, who added he would not hesitate to embark on State control of ships, if he thought this would be to national interest, but at present, declared it would make the situation many times worse.

Freights, he said were measured by the needs of traders for ships, their increase was not due to wicked machinations on the part of ship owners.

Runciman pointed out that the increased cost of living would be compensated by higher remunerations.

Already the Government had raised the wages in dock yards and on railways. Armament firms had done the same. If farmers raised wages and got sufficient supply of labor, they would serve not only their own, but national interest.

## Arrangements Made to Compensate Sailors

### Britain to Compensate All Persons Injured on British Merchant Ships—Insurance on Fishery Vessels

London, Feb. 18.—Arrangements have been completed with the Board of Trade, under which compensation be paid to all persons employed aboard British merchant ships, who may be injured, owing to hostilities.

The Board of Trade also has arranged to insure fishery vessels, against war risks.

## Turkey Advised to Settle Dispute

### Athens, Feb. 18.—Austrian and German ambassadors at Constantinople have advised the Turkish Government to settle its dispute with Greece immediately.

# NOTICE!

All Councils of the F.P.U. in the Districts of Harbor Main, Port-de-Grave, Carbonear, Harbor Grace and Bay-de-Verde are requested to send delegates to the SPECIAL MEETING of the Conception Bay District Council, which will be convened at Spaniard's Bay, on Wednesday, 24th inst., according to the decision arrived at by the Coley's Point Convention.

President Coaker will preside, and important matters will be considered.

W. F. COAKER,  
President F.P.U.

St. John's, Feb. 18th

## Britain Makes Complete Reply

### American Note of Protest—That Depression in Commerce Due to Activity of British Fleet

Washington, Feb. 18.—Britain's second, and complete reply, to the American Note of protest which on Dec. 28 last asked for an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, is made public to-night by mutual agreement between the State Department and the British Foreign Office.

The Note addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey under date of Feb. 10, denies that depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests, among other causes, shortage of shipping facilities, consequent on diminution of cotton trade and destruction by submarine mines, laid by the enemy indiscriminately, of many neutral vessels.

After giving a lengthy detailed answer to the charge that American ships' cargoes are being unduly detained, the communication contained in its concluding paragraphs the announcement that Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign against enemy ships, but does not reveal their nature.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for civil populations of a country is not contraband, the British Government points out: "in any country in which there exists such tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the Government is responsible for feeding, and those whom it is not."

It will still be our endeavour, says the final paragraph, to avoid injury or loss to neutrals, but the announcement by the German Government of their intention to sink merchant vessels and their cargoes without verification of their nationality or character, and without making any provision for the safety of non-combatants among the crews, or giving them a chance of saving their lives, has made it necessary for His Majesty's Government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one belligerent to depart from rules of precedence and for others to remain bound by them.

Withdrawals from East Prussia and Southern Bukovina were caused by the appearance of great opposing armies, and not to any decisive battles resulting in a Russian defeat.

The War Office military experts claim that Russia's superior resources permit her to adopt a policy of attrition which will result in the ultimate collapse of Germany's offensive, because of the heavy losses that will necessarily fall upon armies continually attacking.

The German claim that General von Hindenburg has won a great victory in East Prussia is denied here, but it is admitted that the German army is declared to have been due to the appearance of German forces numerically superior to the Russians and not to any defeat suffered by them.

Boards of three or four Gentlemen can be accommodated at No. 68 New Gower St. Terms moderate. Cuisine first class.—Feb. 11

## Blockade Dedeagatch

### To Prevent Foodstuffs Reach Germany and Austria

Berlin, Feb. 18.—British and French warships are blockading the Bulgarian port of Dedeagatch to prevent importation through it of foodstuffs destined for Germany and Austria.

## BOARDERS WANTED

Boards of three or four Gentlemen can be accommodated at No. 68 New Gower St. Terms moderate. Cuisine first class.—Feb. 11