

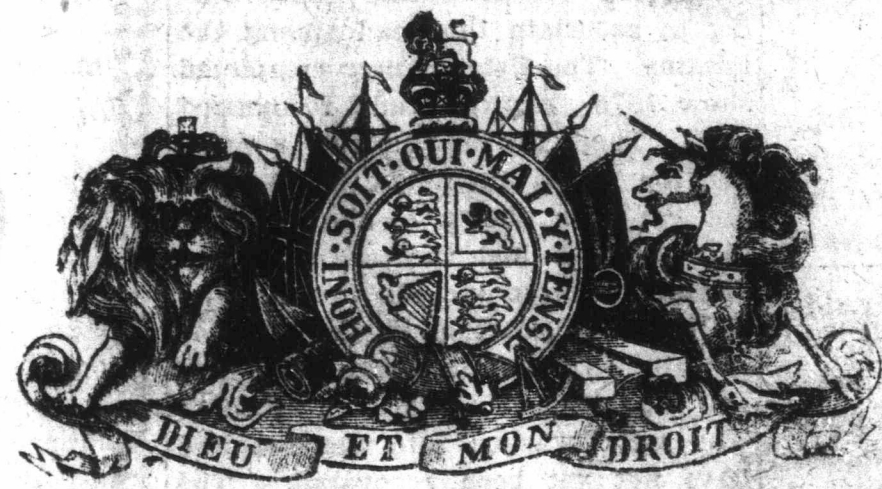
# THE EVENING ADVOCATE.

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## NEWFOUNDLAND AGRICULTURAL BOARD BULLETIN No. 6

Since the issuing of Bulletin No. 5 the aspect of the food problem, not alone in Newfoundland, but throughout nearly all Europe and North America, has become much more acute, and as the advent of the planting season is at hand the Agricultural Board realises that a plain statement of actual conditions should be placed before the country, being convinced that if it be fully understood how urgent is the necessity, the country will do its full share towards the further and absolutely necessary increase of production of all crops in the present year—and in this alone appears now to be our chief hope of safety from most serious consequences.

In its Report for the year 1914, and again in the Report for the years 1915 and 1916, the Agricultural Board warned the country of the necessity for preparation for the alarming condition of things that now confronts us, and the Board would be recreant in its duty if it failed to give a final warning that the need of the present year is more grave and imperative than was that of the year past.

The present war is being waged by the whole Empire, not by Great Britain alone, and we, by virtue of our being raised to the status and dignity of a Dominion, in recognition of our efforts in the cause of Empire, are now an integral link in the world-girdling chain of British Dominions, and it is incumbent upon us to live up to the obligations and to make the sacrifices therefor that loyalty and devotion to the Empire and its traditions demand and that all the other Dominions are so cheerfully making.

Famine alone can cause the Empire to lose in the present war. The safety of the peoples of the Dominions is of the same consequences as are those of the Motherland, and famine could compel the Empire to sacrifice itself to save any one of those peoples as readily as to save those of the Home Countries.

Hundreds of our noble Volunteers have shed their blood and made the Supreme Sacrifice in our defence since this war was declared and we would be unworthy of the sacrifice they have made if we fail to take the necessary precautions to guard against our being the means of nullifying the great work they have done, and this we will be, collectively and individually, guilty of doing if our failure to protect ourselves from the famine that will come if we make not the required effort to stave it off, and thus cause the Empire's surrender in order to save us. Such a result would stamp us, and those from whom we have sprung, with an eternal disgrace.

We can all picture to ourselves what would happen if the people of this Country, or any considerable number of them, were but a single week without bread, or an acceptable substitute therefor, and it now amounts almost to a certainty that we will not be able to procure sufficient flour to provide for our wants throughout the whole of the present year.

The most acceptable substitute for flour that we can provide is the potato, and if we but make the effort that both prudence and patriotism demand, we can produce a sufficiency of potatoes that, with our abundant supply of fish food, will safely protect us from the absolute hunger that would force on the Empire the dire consequences indicated.

If our indifference to our own pressing needs cause the Empire to lose in the war we are now waging in the interest of humanity, of liberty and of christianity, we can be accused of having needlessly sent our Volunteers, who have died for us, to their deaths. Our paramount duty, therefore, in the present year, is for everyone owning a plot of land to plant it fully, giving a preference to potatoes. Our own individual interests, our Country's, and the Empire's interests are dependent upon our doing this. Thus can we best do honor to the memories of our soldier dead—they gave their lives to save us; let us, therefore, now do what we may to assure it that they have not died in vain.

Office of the Nfld. Agric. Board,  
April, 1918.

**A. J. BAYLY,**  
Acting Secretary.

## French Almost Annihilate German Storm Battalion KILLED ALL BUT 100 MEN Allied Troops Now Form a Solid Wall To The Enemy

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 1.—A daring attempt by the Germans to cross the Oise today and form a bridgehead, permitting of future advances, was easily frustrated by the French. One of the famous storm battalions succeeded in getting over near Chauny, but never retired. It was almost entirely annihilated. There remained only about 100 unwounded men, whom the French took prisoners. Nearly all the bridges crossing the Oise had been destroyed, and the French held strong positions on the southern bank, while all possible fords were covered by artillery. More to the north in the region of Moreuil, the Germans for the moment at least appear to have renounced their general attacks and resorted to local action. Two of these were extremely violent between Marclove and the Somme. They came against the sternest resistance from the French, who repulsed them after very severe fighting. Other attacks occurred on the right bank of the Somme about the same period of the day and those met with failure. Sanguinary engagements, in which the combatants again came to close fighting in individual combats, took place about the Lassigny sector. Here the French artillery caught the advancing German columns under a tempest of shells which drove them back, but only after the ground was strewn with hundreds of bodies. At Plesmont two German divisions which had received strict orders to execute an advance whatever might be the cost and capture a height found themselves confronted by a French division which would not give way before the fury of the German waves. For a moment the French were forced back, but took a breath, and came at the enemy again with such a rush that the Germans were driven from the heights, leaving 700 prisoners, including 20 officers, in the hands of the French. At no period of the war has the fighting been so fierce. The Germans intended at any costs to reach and destroy the railway communication at Amiens connecting the north and the south. To-day, the eleventh day of the battle, they find before them a solid wall of Allied troops, which daily is becoming firmer as artillery is advancing from all directions to support the infantry which has stood the entire shock up to the present. A word must be said for the Allies' aviators who from the beginning of the battle have worked incessantly, taking the place of cavalry for reconnaissances, and often descending to an altitude of 100 feet or less to attack with machine guns the advancing infantry.

## The Fury of Fighting Is Indescribable

### Villages Taken and Retaken Again and Again--Enemy Blocked in the Way to Amiens--Frightful Losses by Germans

LONDON, April 1.—Telegraphing from French headquarters today Reuters' correspondent says: The repulse of the German assault yesterday between Lassigny and Mont Didier was the severest that the enemy has suffered since the beginning of the offensive. The attack was conducted in familiar manner, dense aggregations marched up to the assaults by battalions and literally melted under the fire of the French 75's. Moreuil was retaken by the French and Canadian soldiers charging together. Reports sent back by the French army leave no doubt but that the enemy suffered terribly and did not gain an inch of ground. North of Mont Didier the Germans hold Caumont about two miles west of the Ayre. East of Lassigny they claim to have taken Mont Renaud, a steep hill crowned by the remains of an old castle which overlooks Noyon from the southwest. Our artillery which is now beginning to arrive on the fields of the Somme, Ayre, Lassigny and Mont Didier in strength is beginning to oppose an effective barrier to the German mass attacks. Hitherto as the battle shifted north we, like the Germans, had been obliged to fight with the support of our field guns only. Now the six inch and heavier pieces are arriving and wrecking terrible havoc among the enemy's attacking columns who have no means of protection against shells of these calibres. Describing Friday's battle in this sector, eye-witnesses say our infantry fire worked terrible destruction among the Germans who advanced to the attack division after division in dense waves during 24 hours. The fury of the fighting is indescribable. Aviators who hovered over the field say it looked like a stormy sea in which wave after wave of infuriated men swept up and rolled back in disorder. Villages were taken and retaken again and again. Batteries of 75's were brought into action a few minutes after detaching at stations on the battlefield. Several times enemy columns advancing to the assault stopped and broke under our rifle and machine gun fire. The commands of officers trying to rally their men could be heard from our lines. The fight for Moreuil lasted a whole day. Our Canadians actually intermingled with their French comrades and fought like lions to keep the place. It was twice captured by the Canadians, and French and twice lost. In the end the khaki and the horizon blue had the best of it and the village, which was the nearest point the enemy reached on the way to Amiens and the point particularly coveted by the German staff, remains in our hands. At Plesmont a single French division in a furious charge broke the resistance of two German divisions, capturing the whole of the important positions and taking prisoners, several hundred Germans. Illustrating the severity of the German losses the following details are communicated: During the first day many German divisions were withdrawn on account of their losses; among others were the 35th, 13th, 47th, 5th Guard division, and 711th Chasseurs division. In several cases divisions asked to be relieved and were informed their request could not be granted. The 26th division is known to have suffered very badly, the 8th was practically annihilated. The 45th reserve division, having lost half of its effectives on the field, was relieved on March 32 and re-engaged on March 27.

#### ON THE EUPHRATES.

LONDON, April 1.—(Official)—On the Euphrates our pursuing troops have advanced 75 miles beyond Anas and have captured a few more Germans and two ten point five centimetre guns.

#### "CELTIC" TORPEDOED.

LONDON, April 1.—The White Star liner Celtic has been struck by a torpedo while on her way from Europe to America.

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