



# The CANADIAN COURIER

*The National Weekly*



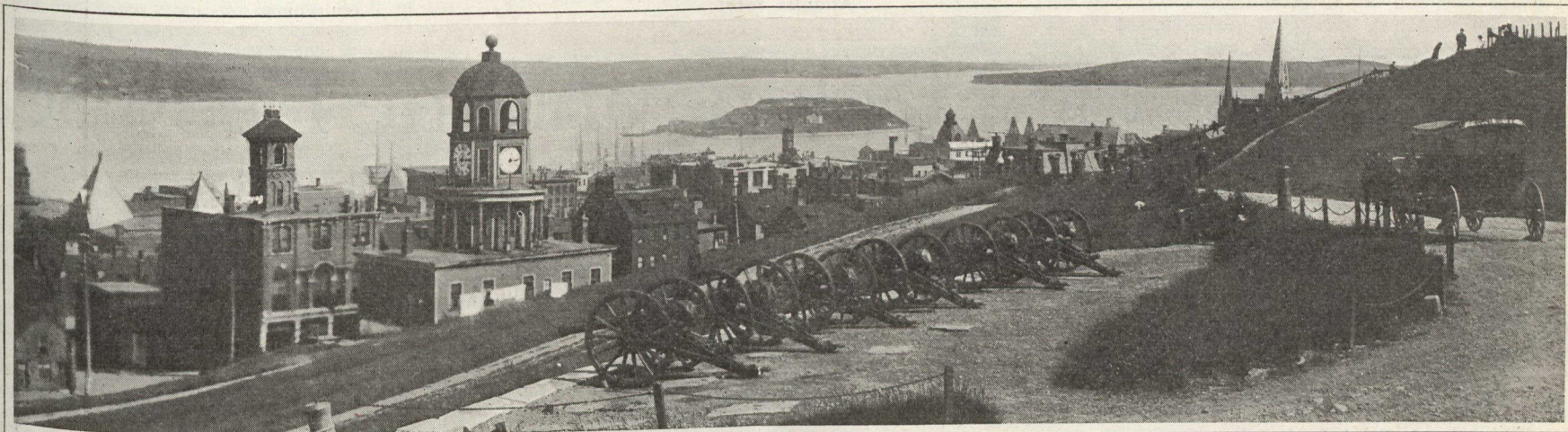
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## Halifax in a Time of War

*"The Warden of the Honour of the North, Sleepless But Veiled am I"*



Halifax and Harbour from the Citadel. The modern fortifications are on the islands between the two "arms" which connect the Harbour with the open sea. Bedford Basin, the inner harbour, is to the left and not shown in the photograph.

*"The Warden of the Honour of the North, Sleepless but veiled am I."*

SO wrote Kipling of Halifax, more than fifteen years ago, in his stirring "Song of the Cities." To-day, Halifax is the capital, of all Dominion cities, which is nearest the throb of Europe's warfare. Yet it would not be true to present aspects, to describe the capital of Nova Scotia as being agitated with war fever or in the throes of a tumultuous excitement. Halifax is too old a grey Sea Mother to yield, at this moment, to belligerent hysteria. There is no shrinking from the warfare, but there is a grave realization of the vastness of the struggle. Since the declaration by Great Britain on August 4th at eleven p.m. that a state of warfare exists between the Empire and Germany, Halifax has found life to consist of one British cruiser after another. First on the list was the "Suffolk," the flagship of Rear Admiral Craddock, commanding the Fourth Cruiser Squadron. The information given out in Halifax on the arrival of this ship on the 13th showed that for ten days, the ships of the Fourth Cruiser Squadron were occupied in making the North Atlantic practically a British mill pond. The "Suffolk" also brought news of the chase of the "Karlsruhe," near Bermuda. The "Suffolk" had made an early capture when she took the German oil tanker, "Leda," and sent her into Bermuda under a prize crew, and Halifax shared the interest of the "Suffolk's" men, few of them knowing that prize money had been abolished.

A MOST interesting feature of the "Suffolk's" stay was the Volunteer Coaling Movement. The men of the flagship were in sore need of a rest, and a happy inspiration sent a detail of the 63rd Rifles Volunteers to the yards, and the sailors rested, while the militiamen struggled under the coal baskets, to the tune of "Rule Britannia," as played by the "Suffolk" band. Citizens joined in the movement, thoroughly enjoying this practical patriotism, a business firm sent forty men and the City Works Department also generously contributed a band of willing toilers. The last bag of the 1,400 tons of coal was thrown into the bunkers before midnight and the "Suffolk" was ready for sea. Rear Admiral Craddock wrote a hearty letter of thanks and the sailors cheered the Volunteer Coaling Force as the begrimmed and happy citizens took their way into the city.

"Halifax is nearly all navy, to-day,"



The revenue cutter "Canada," which, before the advent of the "Niobe" and the "Rainbow," was the "flagship" of the Canadian Atlantic fleet.

said a bright girl, who is working for the hospital ship funds. Everywhere, there is the evidence of naval activity, and, at night, the old-time sailor songs which Britons have sung for generations ring out over the waters.

The patriotism of the whole province is manifest every day in messages of enrolment from towns which have seen historic fights. Digby (named for an English admiral); Annapolis, Royal, the oldest town in Canada; Windsor, Truro and all the others are daily sending news of volunteers, and Halifax takes all this tidings gladly but soberly, with a sedate pride in her sons.

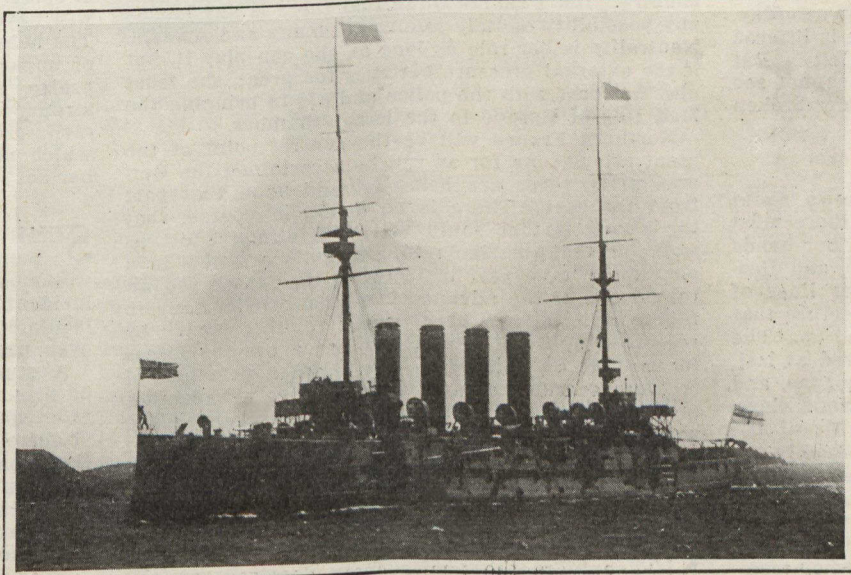
THE Hospital Ship Fund, in which the women of Canada are deeply interested, has won the special enthusiasm of Nova Scotia women, who have contributed already much more than the original five thousand dollars expected. In this work, the Halifax women have been especially active, and everywhere one sees a feminine interest in this essentially womanly undertaking displayed in unmistakable fashion. Mrs. McGregor, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, is at the head of the Funds Committee for this province.

The ordinary summer social life of Halifax goes on—with a difference. Behind and beneath it all, there is a sense of eternal vigilance. Five young midshipmen, graduates of Halifax Naval College, sailed with the "Suffolk" when it went out, and the coming of the "Good Hope" and the "Glory" emphasized the quiet but effective work the ships of the Fourth Cruiser Squadron are doing in the North Atlantic. The silence which has fallen upon Britain's military and naval life is brooding, too, over citadel and harbour in Canada's old point. Yet it is a quiet of intense activity and deadly preparation, and the Canadian who has hitherto been an inlander, regards it with a sudden appreciation of Kipling's Halifax verse—

*"Sleepless but veiled am I."*

HALIFAX is one of the most ancient cities in Canada. Its magnificent harbour was discovered by the French, who were keenly on the alert for good harbours and strategic situations. It was the French who discovered Louisbourg, Quebec, Montreal, Chicago, and St. Louis. They used Halifax as a basis for their attempt to retake Louisbourg after its capture by the New England forces in 1745.

It was in 1749, that the British took up the work of making Halifax a naval



The Canadian warship "Niobe" again in active service at Halifax after a long period of idleness.