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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 7, 1916.

THE NAVAL BATTLE—BETTER NEWS

Monday, June 6.

An entirely new complexion is given the great naval battle by the British Admiralty's statement which reached this country at a late hour last night, more than two days after the Germans told the world half the truth and claimed a victory. The German battle fleet was beaten. It fled soon after the first ships of our main force went into action. It gave our vanguard a terrific mauling, but that lasted only while our heavy armoured protection of the Dreadnought battleships were fighting against heavy odds. When our faster battleships arrived, including the super-Dreadnought Waspette, and three others, the enemy began to get more than he could give in punishment, and he drew off in the mist and darkness without trying conclusions with our main force. The British chased him home after all.

The Admiralty now says the German losses were heavier than ours, "not only relatively to the fleet engaged, but absolutely." Our losses remain as at first announced, but the German losses included:

Two battleships—of which class we have none.

Two Dreadnought battle cruisers of the most powerful type.

Four light cruisers, two of the newest class.

One submarine.

Nine destroyers.

That would be eighteen vessels lost, the British losing fourteen. It is of outstanding importance, of course, that the Germans are greatly weakened by the loss of four capital ships, and particularly of the two Dreadnought cruisers. This aspect of the battle is strongly brought out by Winston Churchill, who points out that command of the sea depends upon the possession of modern ships mounting 18.5-inch and 15-inch guns, and that Britain has enough of these absolutely to dominate the situation. One such ship—the powerful battle cruiser Queen Mary—was lost, but Germany lost two of that class, or of their class which most nearly approaches it in importance. To put it another way: another such battle would practically wipe out the German battle cruiser class, but would leave us still overwhelmingly strong in that type. The enemy lost two battleships; the British none. We lost three armoured cruisers (the Defence, the Prince and Warrior) of a class in which Britain has a very great superiority. Mr. Churchill reminds us that the Invincible and Indefatigable were by no means of the Queen Mary standard. As he says, the real loss, which is very grave, is that of the officers and men, of whom the action cost Britain some 4,000 "splendid, irreplaceable men."

The German "victory," it now appears was won only by the lying air bulletins from Berlin, intended to influence neutral opinion and to improve depressed morale at home. The British Admiralty does not yet profess to give a detailed account of the action such as will presently be available from Sir John Jellicoe, but his statement of last night, together with the comment of Colonel Churchill and Sir Charles Bessford, will remove the unfortunate impression conveyed by the earlier news. Sir Charles says there was no mistake in strategy; that Beatty, with the battle cruiser squadron, did just what he should have done. This view of it is based on the understanding that as the main German fleet had come out, the British, without too much regard for the cost, were in duty bound to destroy the enemy or drive him back to shelter. Had the Germans been willing to risk a decision, they would have been destroyed. Retiring after our main force began to get the range, the enemy admitted defeat, and his losses were greater than ours. In fact, the British were close to the great object sought in all their naval activity since August, 1914. Their relative superiority today is greater than it was before May 31. A part of the London press remains critical, but general relief is evident in this morning's cablegrams.

It is noteworthy that British officers who were engaged say the battle brought no surprises in the form of monster guns, self-propelling mines, or Zeppelins. In other words, the action proved that all reports to the effect that the Germans had all sorts of inventions and improvements that would overcome our superiority in numbers and in gun-power are

without foundation. To this there is one possible exception. The statement of Sir Charles Bessford suggests that the enemy Zeppelins were used to some advantage as scouts. Probably this advantage gave the German admiral early news of the approach of our main battle fleet and enabled him to choose the best time for retreat—a retreat which mist and darkness favored.

In sum, the feeling of alarm created by the first news of the world's greatest sea-fight is without justification now that we have the first account of the main features of the engagement. When the story of our own story comes, together with more definite news of the German losses, it will be seen that though the battle cost us dearly, the action was a British victory, and one of the most momentous in our thousand years of keeping the sea. For, after all, it disposed once for all of the question of Germany's bid for sea power. Man for man and ship for ship, the British are the Germans' masters—and the British are two to one in vessels of every class that counts.

PUBLICITY TACTICS.

The truth is good enough for the British Empire; but in a case like that of the great naval battle the truth should be available sooner. Had the Empire known last Saturday morning the facts which the Admiralty made public last evening in a statement which is still obviously most conservative, much anxiety would have been spared and many false impressions prevented or corrected at once.

In relation to neutral countries, say Roumania, Greece, Sweden, the United States and Holland, this English neglect of rapid and accurate announcement of news, is even more serious. It enables the enemy to proclaim to these neutral peoples dangerous half-truths which are only partially counteracted by the truth when it comes. The Germans are cunning liars for neutral consumption. They first blather—issued long before Britain said anything—saw the names of several British vessels which were really sunk, and the names of others, more important, which they said were sunk. Later on the British come along with an admission as to part of the German story, and so guard a story as to the German losses as to leave much to surmise. These are conditions which organized German bureaus in neutral countries take quick advantage of to deceive all but the English people as to the real progress of the war.

Even in Allied countries not all the people have learned how to discount German war claims. Among the neutrals, where we have little or no protection in the matter of publicity, German agents have, for years, steadily carried on activities, designed to give the world a false idea as to the aims and accomplishments of their country, and since the war began they redoubled their efforts. Their writers on our war have long advocated these methods, dwelling on the importance of constant and cunning efforts to keep up the courage of the people at home, while deceiving the enemy and the neutral world, in any and every way possible. In the matter of battle news, the German scheme usually is to get a few half-truths on record before anyone else is heard from. A news-hungry world sees upon the first news, and the truth, belated, and fiercely assailed by German agents, has no great chance of being made public by any means able to draw fine distinctions in matters that often are more or less technical.

It is recognized, of course, that information of some kinds ought to be suppressed altogether, and that other news is properly subjected to delay. But of such news it is evident that speed in giving the world the truth before the enemy can record his lies and half-truths is highly important.

RECRUITING.

"This war is our supreme concern." This view of the matter is the one that should guide all who have to do with recruiting, here or elsewhere. The local recruiting committee is finding it necessary to adopt new methods, and to suggest various innovations, in order to bring home to the eligible men who have not yet come forward, the fact that the greatest cause that ever challenged the manhood of any nation is now calling upon them to do a man's duty. Since the war is "our supreme concern" it follows that in recruiting, which is the life-blood of the war, we must remember that the work of getting recruits should come before any other business in the land. Mr. N. W. Rowell, in speaking at St. Catharines a few days ago said this:

"We cannot wage this war and carry on business without inconvenience and interruption. All those who suffer inconvenience and loss have this satisfaction, that it is part of their contribution to the success of the common cause. The response of the Canadian people to every appeal made, has been magnificent; the achievements of the Canadians at the front are beyond praise. Our present duty is to face the situation courageously, determined to make whatever further sacrifices are necessary to help secure the triumph of the principles for which we have already willingly paid so great a price."

Since the beginning of the war, Mr. Rowell estimates, 40,000,000 men have been called to the colors by the belligerent nations, of which number 23,500,000 are soldiers of the Allied powers. The British figures a week ago stood at 5,041,000, and France, with a considerably smaller population, has enlisted a greater number. If Canada had supplied men up to the record of the British Isles, in proportion to population, the Canadian forces would number 900,000. Or, if enlistment here had been on the French scale, our troops would number more than a million.

Mr. Rowell strongly urges Canadians to understand the necessity for less haphazard methods with respect to recruit-

GERMANY'S COPPER FAMINE

education. It is a good preparation for a business career. But one must have training to go with it, and the young man can only get training while out looking for himself in the business world. The door of opportunity is wide open today for the right kind of young man as it ever was. Notice that I say "A great many young men are like Easter boys—mostly trimmings."

"If a boy wants to succeed—and there's never room at the top—he's got to be more than indifferent. Luck and laziness never went together and they never will."

It is too early to determine with accuracy Hill's place in American history, but, if his niche is to be as high as many say it should be, the batch of sayings quoted must be regarded as doing him something less than justice. For while these purport to be epigrams the most obvious thing about them is that they have all been said before, and said much more pithily. Hill was a great railroad builder, and he had what many successful business men lack, vision. His admirers might have been content with what he did, instead of attempting to create for him a reputation as a profound philosopher.

The United States of America is very rich in money but very poor in philosophy, and it is to be noted that as its wealth has increased its crop of outstanding thinkers along the most vital lines has diminished. Lincoln, a very tall man himself, and a strong one, was greatly interested in other tall men. It is related of him that once, at a fair, he ran across a countryman who appeared to be about a head taller than himself. Lincoln went nearer, and looked over the giant with some astonishment and pleasure. Finally he exclaimed, "Why, you could tick off the top of my hat!" It has become an American fashion in eulogy to compare promising American public men with Lincoln. None has yet been produced whose hat would have held salt high enough to make it difficult for Lincoln, in his own homely phrase, to tick it off.

In the same sense it is to be regretted that instead of emphasizing Hill's really admirable qualities attention is now being directed to certain poor evidence, highly unconvincing, that he was a philosopher of stature and a guiding light to this generation. No better use could be made of his fortune, or of the vast fortunes of many others among the American newly rich, than to employ them in educating the children of the United States along some lines, teaching them how money-made the American people are today, training them to distinguish between lasting values and values which are insidiously pursued but which are not worth while.

What shall it profit a nation to gain much of the money in the world and lose its own soul?

It may be just possible that the Governor-General and the Prime Minister might be able to extract from the Citizen Sir John Falstaff's other name.

Who in the world is the knighted Falstaff of Canada?

The phrase is employed by the Ottawa Citizen, in connection with recent events in the capital, and the Citizen intimates that the Governor-General and the Prime Minister have an obvious duty to perform. As the Citizen is published at the front door of the House of Parliament, and therefore is close to many channels of information, its remarks about this mysterious Falstaff will be read with interest. It says:

"The incidence of Ancient Pistol and the hoary imposture of Sir John Falstaff can be laughed at; but when such imposture and imposture is combined in a living link with Sir Reginald Front de Bœuf, and vested with apparently unlimited power, it is time for the chief magistrate of Canada to show signs of life and evidence of being in control of the state."

"An instance of something very like Prussian militarism occurred in a public place in Ottawa last Thursday night, after the Davidson commission had been holding a session to inquire into the sale of 'defective' ammunition from the Canadian militia department, through Mr. J. Wesley Allison, to the British admiralty. A Dominion civil servant, holding a most responsible position and highly esteemed for the faithful way he is safeguarding the public interests, had to utter an insulting remark made in the presence of others by a person bearing the title of Sir and Honorable and honored with the King's commission and allowed to run loose with authority by the Dominion Prime Minister."

"The civil servant stood in private conversation with another public servant, a Canadian national railway director, and as they talked the knighted Falstaff of Canada suggested up to them and, by introducing him upon the railway director, made the insolent remark: 'I'm surprised at the kind of company you keep.' He strutted again before the astonished civilians could make any reply, and, knowing him for the irresponsible person he would seem to be, perhaps it is as well no reply was made. The concluding remark upon the railway director, made the insolent remark: 'I'm surprised at the kind of company you keep.' He strutted again before the astonished civilians could make any reply, and, knowing him for the irresponsible person he would seem to be, perhaps it is as well no reply was made. The concluding remark upon the railway director, made the insolent remark: 'I'm surprised at the kind of company you keep.' 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