

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "The MAIL and ADVOCATE"

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

Official Organ of The Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland.

Vol. II. No. 31.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1915.

Price:—1 cent.

QUARTER OF A MILLION PICKED TROOPS, GERMAN AND RUSSIAN, AT DEATH GRIPS FOR THE MASTERY OF CENTRAL POLAND

More Than a Thousand Guns Are Being Employed in the Battle of the Bzura and Rawka Rivers Which Has Already Been Raging For More Than a Week

THUNDER OF NUMEROUS ARTILLERY PIECES SHAKES THE REEKING BLOODSTAINED EARTH

Czar of Russia and Emperor of Germany Watch the Terrific Struggle, Which is Still in Progress—Russians Succeed in Strengthening Their Position

Petrograd, Feb. 6.—More than a quarter of a million picked troops and more than one thousand heavy guns are engaged in a terrific battle in the region of Bzura and Rawka Rivers in Poland, and upon the outcome of this conflict hangs the fate of the present campaign for mastery in Western Poland.

For a week heavy artillery has been shaking the blood-soaked earth with its thunder, and the attacks of the Germans and counter attacks of the Russians have left the battlefield covered with corpses.

ROYAL EYEWITNESSES

London Feb. 8.—With the German and Russian Emperors as eye witnesses, the armies of Russia and Germany are still contending for the possession which protect the Polish capital of Warsaw from the invaders. Nothing has been disclosed as to the progress of the battle which when last reports were received, was raging with unabated fury.

The Russians, according to Saturday's official statement had strengthened their positions on the Western bank of the Bzura River which they had crossed near its mouth and captured another German vantage point. They also captured a long line of German trenches near Dorlinow in East Prussia another big battle in developing, the Germans having sent reinforcement to that region. In the Carpathians, while their right is advancing, the Russians are only able to report that their left has checked the Austro-German offensive.

Musician Shows His Gratitude To Our Fishermen

New York Organist Arranges a Concert to Aid Grenfell St. Anthony Mission.

Having been rescued from the pangs, Arthur S. Hyde, the organist of St. Bartholomew's Church, has arranged a concert in aid of the brave fishermen of the Grenfell Mission, who treated him so hospitably last August at St. Anthony, Newfoundland. He learned during his week's stay how terrible was the plight of the seafaring men because of the unusual season of ice which had made fishing impossible. The concert will take the form of a performance of Parker's "Hors Novissima," a rare work of beauty not often heard. It will be given with complete orchestra at the church, Madison Avenue and 44th Street on Tuesday evening, December 15, at 8:30 o'clock. Grace Kearns will be the soprano; Mrs. Benedict Jones be contralto; William Wheeler, the tenor, and Frederick Weld, the basso. The choir of fifty trained voices will sing the choruses.

Scores Drowned In Marine Tragedy

Aberdeen, Feb. 6.—A score of persons are believed to have been drowned in a salvage boat from Hull, which turned turtle off the coast. A trawler and small steamer were driven ashore.

Weather Stops Western Fishery

The West Coast fishery was practically stopped last week owing to the stormy weather. But was also scarce for a while until the Portia and Glencoe arrived with frozen herring.

The Portia arrived at Marystown at 9:20 a.m. and left at 10:15.

Allied Airmen Raid Cologne

Drop Bombs on German Troops En route to the Front.

Amsterdam, Feb. 6.—Hostile airmen flew over the city of Cologne, dropped bombs, and then escaped in the direction of Dusseldorf, according to a despatch from Berlin. The raid was made on Wednesday, while a great number of German reinforcements were passing through Cologne.

We met the Dominion at 9:30 o'clock. Capt. Montgomerie and I boarded her and went through her to see about our quarters. She is a great ship, fine state rooms.

"We were no time in transferring troops and baggage.

"The men were given a state room, 4 in a room, and they are certainly well. As soon as everything was on board all the men sat down to supper, a steward for each table and they are very nice. I have a room to myself.

Looks Like Pant.

"It is now two o'clock and before I go to bed I am to write you. The Neptune is still alongside. She looks like a little punt alongside the big one. She is leaving for St. John's at 6 in the morning, so I am going to get this note into you.

"We had a great time coming along in the Neptune. Tell my people not to worry as I am all right. We had lots to eat coming along and it was certainly a great day.

I wish the Dominion had to get into St. John's for to let the people see her. She has a big crowd of officers on board, but only about 50 passengers. We are not extra far out. It is a great night. All the boys are turned in.

"I have another bunk in my room so Hickey wants to come in. "We are all fine and intend to have a jolly good time across as the ship is big and lots of roof.

"I think I have said all now. Will write you as soon as I get across. Remember me to all and don't forget to tell my people and all I am feeling grand. —WILLIE.

Schr. Freedom left Macleod Saturday for Barbados to load molasses for this port.

We thank the British Crown Assurance Corporation Ltd. for a useful wall calendar, per A. E. Hickman, local agent.

British Artillery Made Possible Advance Our Troops Monday on Labassee Canal French Troops Also Meet With Successes

London, Feb. 8.—A graphic description of the trench warfare which has prevailed on the Western front for many weeks is given by an eye witness, in his description of German attacks on the British lines and the British counter-attacks which were made last Monday.

He says, the Germans again attacked South of La Bassee Canal, but not in such strength as on previous occasions. Fighting began in the early hours of the morning with an assault on a small trench close to the canal. This was successful, two local counter-attacks carried by us failing to regain the ground lost.

Artillery Routed Them. When daylight came, however, our artillery opened such an accurate fire on the enemy that their position became untenable and when a stronger counter-attack was delivered our men rushing forward, not only drove the Germans from the trench they had captured, but seized another post on the enemy's side of it on an embankment of the canal. There were a suc-

Russians Take 3,000 Prisoners In Carpathians

Successful Russian Offensive on the Bzura River—Capture of Turks in Egypt.

London, Feb. 6.—The French Government reports the capture of enemies' trenches west of the road between Arras and Lille. In the Ar-gonne a trench was lost and regained, with ground beyond, after a counter-attack.

The Russian Government reports heavy fighting continues on the Bzura and Rawka rivers, and near Barzej-mow. The Russians have taken the offensive and crossed the Bzura River. In the Carpathians 3,000 prisoners have been taken near Uksok (which is on the Hungarian side on the most important pass in the Mountains.)

No action in Egypt yesterday, but our patrols encountered and captured 200 of the enemy, 3 machine guns, and 90 camels laden with stores and ammunition.—HARCOURT.

"Bellaventure" In From Louisburg

Met Much Ice on the Voyage Down—Brought Large Mail

The s.s. Bellaventure Capt. Cross, thirty-nine hours from Louisburg, arrived at 9:30 last evening.

She was unable to reach Sydney because of the ice and so went to Louisburg for coal. Ice extends forty miles off Louisburg.

A three mast vessel was sighted in the ice off Placentia Bay yesterday morning. It is thought to be the Ida M. Zinck bound to this port with coal for A. Goodridge & Sons.

The Bellaventure brought a large mail over 200 packages.

Lusitania Safe In New York Port

Had Been Reported Sunk by German Submarines.

Liverpool, Feb. 6.—The Cunard liner Lusitania, reported to have been sunk by a German submarine, arrived here today, and landed her passengers. The Lusitania was upon the Atlantic when the Germans launched their submarine warfare against British mercantile shipping. Fears were felt for her safety.

Goodridge's Clementine is now due at Barbados from Oporto. She will load molasses.

Mrs. A. Forbes, who was ill at Clarke's Beach returned Saturday fully recuperated. Her mother accompanied her and will remain a few days.

ALLOW SHIP TO CHANGE HER COLORS

British Say Foreign Ships Are Allowed to Hoist the Union Jack in Order to Escape Capture by Enemy

PERMIT BRITISH SHIPS USE RUSE

Germans Must Examine Ships Held up Before Sinking to Ascertain Their Nationality or Act as Pirates

London Feb. 8.—The following statement was issued by the Foreign Office tonight: The use of a neutral flag is within certain limitations, a well established practice as a ruse of war. The only effect in the case of a merchantman wearing a flag other than her national flag is to compel the enemy to follow the ordinary obligations of naval warfare and to satisfy himself as to the nationality of the vessel chartered and her cargo by examination, before capturing her and taking her into a prize court for adjudication.

Legitimate Procedure. The British Government always considered the use of the British colours by foreign vessels legitimate for the purpose of escaping capture. Such practice not only involves no breach of international law but is specifically recognised by the law of this country.

In the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 and in instructions to British Consuls in 1914 it is stated that a ship is liable to capture if her British character is improperly assumed except for the purpose of escaping capture.

British Privilege. As we have practised and not objected to foreign merchant vessels using the British merchant flag as a ruse for the purpose of evading capture at sea, at the hands of a belligerent so we should maintain that in the converse case a British merchant vessel committed no breach of international law in assuming neutral colours for a similar purpose if she thought fit.

By the rules of international law the custom of war and the dictates of humanity, it is obligatory upon a belligerent to ascertain the character of a merchant vessel and cargo before capturing her.

Act of Piracy. Germany has no right to disregard this obligation to destroy a ship and her non-combatant crew and cargo as Germany announces her intention of

GERMAN NAVAL THREAT RE MERCHANT SHIPPING EXERCISES SHIPPERS

Mongolian Hits The Ruby Rock On Her Way In

Left the Ice to Replenish Bunkers and Provisions and Met With Accident on Way.

The s.s. Mongolian, Capt. Hatherly, returned to port yesterday for coal and provisions, and in doing so ran against Ruby Rock, near Chain Rock, and sustained damage which will detain her several days.

It was reported yesterday that the steamer had been damaged and was leaking when she decided to return, but such was not the case.

The object of her return was to supply bunker coal and provisions. Under ordinary circumstances she had sufficient coal and food to take her across but having spent a couple of days in the ice and not knowing how long she might be there the captain decided to return.

After striking the rock water flowed in the forehold in torrents and the pumps were operated.

There was no pilot on board at the time as it was not compulsory for foreign going steamers returning to a port within three days after leaving it to take a pilot.

This morning Diver Squires went down but could not ascertain the extent of the damages as the bottom of the ship was in the mud. It is not known how long repairs will take or if the steamer will have to go on dock.

Doing and which is nothing less than an act of piracy on the high seas.

Quite Permissible.

London, Feb. 8.—While maintaining that it is impossible the Admiralty should advise merchantmen to hoist neutral flags or take any other precautions to conceal their identification when passing through submarine infested waters.

He adds that such advice doubtless is discussing Germany's promise not to molest American vessels, the Times' correspondent argues that, under international law, a blockade should be impartial and that if Germany makes an exception in favour of the Americans, she must make it apply to others or the blockade will be ineffective.

18 VOLUNTEERS JOIN THE RANKS

Volunteer List of Second Contingent Now 1039—Weekly Church Parades Yesterday

Eighteen names have been added to the list of Volunteers since the last report, making a total of 1039. Those who signed Saturday were: St. John's—Fred. B. Gough, Lawrence Hanlon, Pat. J. Hearn, Wm. Learie, Francis Knight, M. A. Renouf, James J. Lanigan, John T. Barnes, Stan. J. White.

Bonavista Hr.—James Short, James Power, Ron Keele, Ron Dunn.

Trinity—Wm. Wiseman, Art. Hurdle.

Fortune Bay—Leo Fennell.

English Hr.—T.E.—S. Penny.

Bell Island—Pat. F. Bowdring.

About 270 are in training now.

Yesterday the weekly church parade was held. Owing to the weather conditions they were dismissed after the services.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Strong winds to gales from eastward with rain today and tonight.

Tuesday—Winds shifting to westward and clearing.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

German Government Says it is Merely Starting a Crusade to Smash Britain's "Tyranny" on the Seas

REFUSE SELL CARGO OF "WILHELMINA"

Germans Hope That British Won't Seize the Ship and Her Cargo and Also Prate of "Piracy"

London, Feb. 6.—A Daily News despatch from Copenhagen says that representatives of the Berlin Press were summoned to a meeting with the Imperial Chancellor last night, when the head of the Official Naval Department made a speech expressing the conviction that the public and press of Germany would unanimously agree to a policy of blockade of the British coast.

Britain, he said, had, since the beginning of hostilities carried out war on the seas in a way which had no resemblance to historic usage. Now Germany's patience was exhausted. Germany had at her disposal all the necessary means to carry out the blockade and those means would be used with all possible swiftness, after a fortnight's respite had been given to neutral states to bring their ships safe to port.

The German Government hoped that neutral states would not only realize the situation, but agree to the blockade decision as Britain's tyranny on the seas of the world would only be smashed in this way.

Germany Talks "Big." Washington, Feb. 8.—The German Embassy declared in a statement issued today with regard to the decree placing the waters around the British Isles in the war zone that Germany does not intend to molest or seize American vessels laden with food stuffs for the civilian population of enemy's countries. The statement expresses the hope that England will not make necessary a reconsideration of this attitude by seizing American ships like the Wilhelmina.

The German Ambassador has not received instructions regarding the decision of the German Admiralty, but, according to the text of the decision the following seems clear: There is nothing new in the communication made Feb. 4th, by the German Admiralty with respect to the attitude of the German Imperial Navy towards ships of the enemy or towards neutral commerce. It is absurd to describe this proclamation on paper a blockade of the British Isles. The communication is simply a statement of what has been since the beginning of the war and of the attitude of the Navies of all the belligerent powers towards ships of the enemy.

Very Kind Indeed. A few months ago the British Admiralty proclaimed the closing of the North Sea waters which are essentially neutral. Germany does not profess to close even the English Channel to neutral commerce and does not intend to molest or seize American vessels laden with food stuffs for the civilian population of enemy's countries. It is to be hoped that England will not make necessary a reconsideration of this attitude by seizing American ships like the Wilhelmina.

The statement concludes with the following: The warning may also be taken as in the nature of an answer to the offer of the prize of \$2500 made in England for the first British merchant ship that would succeed in raiding and sinking a German submarine, an offer calculated to revive the long abandoned practice of privateering.

Refuse to Sell Wilhelmina's Cargo

London, Feb. 8.—The owners of the cargo of the American steamer Wilhelmina have intimated to the Commission for the Relief of Belgium that its offer for the purchase of the cargo is not to be considered.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.