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Immense Number of 12 Inch and Also 16 Inch Guns Kept in the Fortress-Vast Sunms of Money Have Been Spent to Make it a Strong Fortress

year when Germany celebrated the to their satisfaction, and early in twenty-fifth anniversary of the re- 1912 some exceedingly thorough exceipt of the forlorn little island from periments were made to test the re Lord Salisbury in exchange for cer-sult. The matter is of such vital imtain lands and rights in East Africa. portance just now that I think no In those days our relations with Ger- excuse is needed for quoting the folmany were excellent, for it was only lowing remarks of an Italian naval in the rpevious year, 1889 that he journal of very high standing, espec-Kaiser's secret ambition had been ially as I believe they have not prestirred by a sight of the assembled viously been brought to the notice British Fleet at Spithead.

The possibility of Germany ever

stant source of debate in British bombardment and the explosion of future lies on the water," and in would be the case, any great fall of these critical days the urgency of rock. the subject is intensified by the efforecast what will happen to Heligoland during or after the war.

have made a spoilt child of Heligo-underground intercommunication tion depending for its livelihood also protected against gun-fire." partly upon fishing but mainly upon day makers that visited it in "the was Germany's ally. season." When the mailed fist closed over it the Germans stopped neither the fishing nor the holidaymaking, but they brought the Prus- faith in bricks and mortar, though sian atmosphere that soon made itself felt. The civil population were cliffs at the eastern end of the island, fleet can embark upon in these days and to a small corner of the "Ober-

blasting, to gauge the defensive pos- ways then. sibilities of their latest possession. There followed hordes of working parties, and bit by bit the hardworked potato fields of the Oberland disappeared, and vast caverns driven into the bowels of the earth took

These were to be the emplacements for the great guns. Wide subterranean passages were burrowed to connect them one with another and with a central distributing station for ammunition, where there is reputed to be stored a supply of shot and shell sufficient to feed the guns during a three-year's siege. Rails are laid along the underground passages, and electrically driven trolleys can deliver the charges and the projectiles much faster than they can

German guns, constructed on the "built-up" system, hoop after hoop of steel being shrunk on the central barrel, are admittedly longer lived than, for instance, the wire wound guns of our own fleet, though the latter have superiorities in other directions that quite outweigh this defect; but even a German gun could not last through the continuous us-

age of a three-year bombardment. It is, therefore, of the greatest sigreported to have been landed on the island, although no mountings were known to have been prepared for them, nor any accommodation for an enlarged garrison to have been proguns, ready to be cradled in the mounting when the original pons should give out. The idea that Heligoland could, under any circumstances, ever be called upon to withstand a three year attack seems

ters, if the German is going to err The Heavy Guns on Heligoland.

The war had been in progress a\$30,000,000 to buttress up the island of the general public of this country.

"Exhaustive experiments," so becoming a naval power of import- report ran, "have lately been made ance never entered the heads of the in Heligoland in order to determine Government of the day; they parted with accuracy the effect of heavy with Heligoland without troubling to gun-fire on the soft and friable stone mention the matter to the Lords of of which the island is principally composed. The result of the experi-The value of the island, whether to ment was satisfactory, as it was, de-Germany or to us, has been a con-monstrated that the most prolonged day. naval circles ever since the Kaiser the most powerful shells were undiscovered that for Germany "the able to produce, as had been asserted

"The slightly concave summit forts that are frequently made to the island has been made bomb Since it first came into their pos- tirely invisible to the enemy. All the session the German military cliques batteries and observation posts have land. Twenty-six years ago it might means of bomb-proof galleries, and well have been likened to an island the roads which unite the summit of health resort, its contented popula- the island with the lower sections are

It is worth noting, incidentally catering for the thousands of holi-that when this was written, Italy

Whether Heligoland is impregnable the war may show-or it may not The British Navy has no particular it knows, if only through its experi ences at the Dardanelles, that a na rigidly tied down to the sandy flat val attack on land positions is one that projects seaward under the of the most risky adventures that a of mines, submarines, and controlled torpedoes. Local fortifications is in Advance parties of military engin- many cases a vital necessity, and it eers came across from Cuxhaven, is only in such cases that a naval measuring and sketching, boring and attack can be justified—and not al-

A Place of Importance.

It is clear enough that Germany regards Heligoland as a place of tremendous importance, for otherwise she would not have spent sufficient upon it to build a fleet of eight or

ten dreadnoughts. You will often read that "Heligoand commands the approaches to he German coast," whereas in point of fact it commands—or, rather covers-just as much of the sea as lies within reach of its own guns That it does not "command" such an area is plain from the fact that our first naval success was achieved well within their reach, though no that occasion a sea-fog played no small part in blotting the island out of the fight. It does not command he approaches to the German coast any more than Margate commands the entrance of the Thames, and no ordinary ship desiring to approach Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven, or Em-

den need pass within sight of it. As an advanced observation post facing the open sea, and as a base for torpedo-craft, Heligoland possesses undoubted merits, and these have been recognized in the three or four years by the construction of a harbor for destroyers adnificance that in the spring of 1914 joining the Unterland, at a cost of was best not take any chances and I over across the ocean was an uneventlarge numbers of heavy guns were \$10,000,0000, and the establishment of an extensive depot for naval air-

The latter is believed to include well and we proceeded through the to return in due course. two revolving sheds for Zeppelins channel into the Atlantic Ocean withwhich can be lowered to the level of the surrounding earth when not required, as well as a range of seaplane hangars. It will be remembered that aircraft which were believed to come from Heligoland helped to prevent a number of Germans being rescued from the sinking Bluecher, land that after the air raid on Cuxat all, he likes to err on the safe side. haven on Christmas Day, 1914, one of our submarines picked up three of our seaplane pilots while a Zeppelin

Most of the heavy guns mounted in from the same place hovered near. Heligoland are Krupp 12-in., firing Is Heligoland Worth Attention? a shell of 860 pounds, but, according It remains to be seen whether the to report, during the last few years responsible authorities in Great ling and good service. Can you there have been mounted a number Britain regard Heligoland as being of 16-inch fortress guns, whose pro- of sufficient material or moral imjectile weighs 2,028 pounds. All portance to Germany to warrant an these main, guns are mounted in attempt to reduce it. Long before great armoured caissons sunk into the war the German coast defence the earth and protected above by system was regarded as being as near armoured hoods of enormous thick- perfection and impregnability as anyness, while invisible galleries of light-, thing well could be, and we may be er guns are recessed into the face of perfectly certain that it has not dethe cliffs like the secondary arma- teriorated under the ever-present ment of a pre-Dreadnought battle- menace of overwhelming naval

New Martin Building, St. John's.

stroyed—at a price; and submarines, strength of their sea defences, while under cetain conditions, can be out- it absorbs a good deal in the way of manoeuvred and checkmated. But men, money, and attention. If no when we look back to the abortive matter what the cost, we should deassault on the Dardanelles, attempt- termine to take it, the Germans ed in face of the feeblest of naval would get just the opportunity of powers supported by a few German meeting the British Fleet on the submarines, it is difficult to imagine ground and under the conditions of the vast account we should probably Germany's own choosing. have to settle for any attempt to mined area, no more than 120 miles wide at the entrance, behind which from the nearest British naval base, ond greatest naval power in

The chances are that the forceful transferance of Heligoland to the British flag would be a greater mis-It adds practically nothing to the Navy.

in the Atlantic because of British war-

straight course from the English

the Azores. Altogether from Heligo-

land to Baltimore we covered 3,800]

miles. Of that distance 90 miles were

driven under the surface of the water.

"Throughout the entire trip the offi-

to stay under water for four consecu-

"There is little to tell of the trip,"

crew for ten days or two weeks, hav- le.

ing proceeded from Bremen to our

trials on the Deutschland.

Having taken the place, there force our way into a thoroughly would still remain the problem of what to do with it. It is 350 miles days of mines, submarines, and mine-laying submarines, the task okf holding such a place might well

"No, we did not," Captain Koenig

As he ended the interview the Cap-

tain said he expected the next subma-

rine merchantman to reach the United

The surveyor of the port of Balti

BALTIMORE, July 15.—Following

"The Deutschland, which I have the

"The idea of the building of this

brought his idea in the fall of last

"The board of directors is compos-

"We have brought a most valuable

friends; dyestuffs which have been so

"I am not in a position to give you

full details regarding our trip across

boat has a displacement of about 2,000

tons and a speed of more than four-

teen knots. Needless to say that we

are quite unarmed and only a peaceful

BERNE, Switzerland, July 10 .- The

new Swiss war loan of 100,000,000

francs at 41/2 per cent., issued at 97.

has been oversubscribed by 51,000,000

Since the beginning of the war, the

Swiss national debt has risen from an

average of 28 francs per capita to 150

OVER SUBSCRIBED

NEW SWISS WAR LOAN

Sea we port. While England will not allow

ine merchantman Deutschland.

States within eight weeks.

lies the concentrated force of the and well under 50 from two of the greatest military power and the sec- most important of Germany's-Wilthe helmshaven and Cuxhaven. In these fortune for us than for our enemies. prove too much even for the British

Such Vessels.

merge? That is the simplest and most ning entirely at our own risk.

"We came to Hampton Roads by the tain was asked.

Channel. We did not come by way of replied with emphasis.

effective way to get out of our course, Did you bring a message from the

cers and crew were in excellent health more made an official report to Col-

and spirits. Of course when we were lector Ryan late today advising that

under water for long spells the air the Deutschland was an unarmed

got very stuffy sometimes and there merchantman, entitled to all the priv-

was some inconvenience but it never lileges of any other peaceful ship sail-

was serious. The Deutschland is built ing under the flag of a friendly nation.

anywhere the limit of our submersion day by Captain Koenig of the submar

he continued. "We left Heligoland on honor to command, is the first of sev

June 23 and steamed on the surface eral submarines built to order of the

to the North Sea. Before sailing we Deutsche Ozean-Rhedere, Bremen. She

conducted trial trips and drills for the will be followed by the Bremen short

starting point. It had never been on a submarine emanated from Mr. Alfred

submarine voyage and the training I Lohmann, then president of the Bre-

had all was received in the practice men Chamber of Commerce. He

"Everything went without incident year confidentially before a small cir-

the first day, but on the second day cle of friends and the idea was taken

in the North Sea we were in the zone up at once. A company was formed

of the British cruisers and destroyers. under the name of Deusche Ozean-

We sighted their smoke frequently Rhedere G.M.B.H., and the German-

was danger of our being detected. Of building of the submarine.

battleships in the North Sea, only company.

cruisers and destroyers or at least

bottom of the channel. There were!

the big merchant submarine is prac-

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sfaction of having your goods

arrive early. Your shelves will be

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have your window decorated nice-

ly with new arrivals of rubbers,

and you are likely to be ready for

the "wet weather trade" before

We know we can please you,

but order early, and give us a

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order with us early.

your competitors.

but only dived when we thought there iewerft, Kiel, was entrusted with the

cause we were running so low in the ed of Mr. Alfred Lohmann, president;

water and gave out no smoke. We did Mr. P. Heineken, general manager of

submerge several times in the North the Nordd Lloyd; Mr. Kommerzeinrat,

Sea, staying under some two hours P. M. Mermann, manager of the

and sometimes less. Every time we Deutsche Bank; Mr. Karl Stepolfeldt,

came to the surface if all looked well manager of the Nordd Lloyd, who has

we kept on going. We saw no British taken over the management of the

what we took to be British naval vest cargo of dyestuffs to our American

"We did not, on the entire trip, much needed in America and which

come into close proximity with any the ruler of the seas has not allowed

man of war. We avoided them all. the German American public to im-

went straight through the English anybody the same right on the ocean

Channel and on the night of the because she rules the waves, we have

fourth day we submerged and remain- by means of the submarine commenc-

lots of cruisers near us we knew and hinder boats such as ours to go and

it was very foggy. So we thought it come as we please. Our trips passing

gave the order to submerge for the ful one. When danger approached we

night and until there should be clear went below the surface and here we

weather. The next morning all was are safely in an American port ready

"Our trip has demonstrated that the ocean in view of our enemies. Our

merchantman."

ed still all night-aground on the ed to break this rule.

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Sinnott's Building Duckworth Street, St. John's.

Her Indentity Established

Dora had just returned from Sunday school, where she had been for the What did my little daughter learn

this morning? asked the fond father. That I am a child of Satan, was