

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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

Vol. II. No. 99.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MONDAY, MAY 3, 1915

Price:—1 cent.

Official Report From London Source

Aircraft Uncover German Guns—French Report Progress at Ypres—German Attacks in North Poland Fail—Russians Capture 4 Thousand Prisoners—Escaped German Steamer Captured

London, May 1 (official)—German guns bombarded Dunkirk yesterday. Their position was verified by aircraft reconnaissance and was attacked and bombarded.

General French reports that the French counter-attacks on our left in the neighbourhood of Ypres made sensible progress.

A German aeroplane was brought down in our lines east of Ypres.

The French Government reports progress north of Ypres on the whole front, on a depth varying from 500 metres to a kilometre. Two successive lines of trenches were captured, with numerous prisoners.

The Russian Government reports further unsuccessful German attacks in Northern Poland. Austrian night attacks north of Uszok Pass have been defeated. In the direction of Strij the Russians took the offensive and attacked enemy trenches, capturing 4,000 prisoners.

The German steamer Macedonia, which escaped from the Canary Islands, has been captured by a British cruiser.—HARCOURT.

French Official

Paris, via St. Pierre, May 1.—The representative of the Associated Press of America visited to-day Hartmanns-willer summit, which has not been attacked by the enemy for two days. One of our balloons bombed the railroad lines and sheds at Valenciennes district. One of our aeroplanes was destroyed by an explosion and fell in the German lines.

Yesterday the senate held a short meeting. The French Chambers continued the debate on the proposed bill to extend to agricultural, exploitations the law on labour accidents. Next meeting will be on Thursday. Yesterday a delegation of the Irish members of the British Commons arrived at Paris headed by Mr. O'Connor, Liverpool Deputy, and Devlin, President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This delegation was received in the afternoon by the President of the Council, by the President of the Republic, and by the Cardinal and Archbishop of Paris. This demonstration is without a precedent owing to its national and religious character.

Paris, via St. Pierre, May 2.—Yesterday was relatively quiet in Belgium. Nothing new in Argonne. During the night of Friday to Saturday two German attacks near Bagatelle were easily repulsed. In Le Pretre Woods we captured several trenches, took 130 prisoners and a maxim, also maintained our gains.

One of our aeroplanes while overflying Homme Py was hit by a shell splinter which burst the tank, but nevertheless it managed to reach our lines by crossing over the enemy's first line at a height of only 400 metres, dodged with bullets. During this difficult passage the aeroplane, on the point of grounding, ran the gauntlet of the German artillery fire, and, in spite of all, the aviators escaped safely.

The bombardment of Dunkirk by artillery of heavy calibre is another proof that the Germans cannot succeed in breaking through our lines or obtaining any appreciable result. They are only bent on influencing neutral opinions by demonstrations of no military efficiency as regards the development of operations. This bombardment has no importance: its effect is simply local, the destruction of a few houses and the death of peaceful inhabitants of Dunkirk, new victims of German barbarism. The situation of the armies in Belgium has not been modified by this in any way. Nine shells having been fired at the second and last bombardment, there is good ground to believe that the cannons have been damaged by a style of firing to which most powerful cannons will not withstand long, or that the continual flying of our aeroplanes in that region caused the stoppage of their firing.

On our side we bombarded yesterday, one of the forts on the south front of Metz entrenched camp.

Country Travelling With Shut Eyes Does Not Realize True Position With Regard to Germany

Laboring Under False Apprehension that Germany is in the Last Stages of Complete Collapse

SEAMEN, as a class, are religious: this applies to both services. The children who join the Navy—and at thirteen a boy is only a child—find no difficulty in kneeling down and saying their prayers. Common prayer finds its appointed place in our ships of war, and though this is not the rule in our Mercantile Marine, except in passenger vessels, still the bulk of our seamen have more or less religious beliefs. The more thoughtful of us cannot but have great searchings of heart as to the rights or wrongs of this awful war which has convulsed Europe for so many months. Looked at in the light of history there is a strong similarity between this and the last great European war of 100 years ago.

For many years we fought against the French Directory personified in Napoleon. Now we are fighting against united Germany personified in the Kaiser.

The French Directory decided by law that there should be no Christianity. Germany through the mouth of the Kaiser professes to call upon "Gott." In what way? In love? (He is the God of Love.) By no means. Germany's prayers are hate. "God punish England!" is her chief prayer. What an idea of a God to be held in this twentieth century! This God would seem, in the German mind, to be a fierce tribal deity and "culture." What an awful state must the mind of a nation be in to imagine such a thing!

We, as a people, are remaining quiet. In all better sorts of churches no jarring note is heard. This is, of course, as it should be. But the thought is irresistibly forced upon the careful observer—go where he will—that the country does not realise the true state of things. Most of us are expecting that in a few months Germany will be obliged to cry for peace through exhaustion, and yet travellers with their eyes open say that in Germany things are much as ever. There is no want, no shortage of money, no shortage of men. The 1914 units have not yet been called out! Here nearly four million young men refuse to come forward. Is it not time that Government took action? Let us have military law. Let every man be compelled to work and let us have strikes put a stop to. If Government in doing this has to see the fair rate of wage is paid, well, so much the better, but let us all understand that we must work for the good of the State, and let us see that those young men, who can, are forced to join the colours. As to the Mercantile Marine no such force is needed. We, all of us, are serving our country which cannot do. Not a recruit for the Army should be taken from our merchant ships.

Can a Christian take part in this war with a quiet mind? Let us see. First we know that the founder of Christianity did not promise peace, very much the reverse. He also said very plainly "Fear not them that kill the body." Now, to the thoughtful Christian seaman, are there not worse things than war? Would not a country's degradation be worse? Suppose a country sunk in bestial vice, the rich living a life of reckless pleasure while their poorer brethren are sunk in misery, would not war be an actual benefit to such a nation, either purifying it or ending it? Tennyson had such thoughts at the time of the Crimean War.

Why do they prate of the blessings of Peace? We have made them. Pickpockets, each hand rustling for all that is not its own, and just of gain in the spirit of Cain is it better or worse than the heart of the citizen rustling in war on his own hearthstone?

Is there nothing in these strong words applicable to the present? Take our Mercantile Marine. Is it run on honest lines? Any master of a freighter can answer that question, nearly every managing owner can answer it, and what of ship repairers and surveyors? Then, as now, many who ought to have been helping their country were hanging back. Tennyson goes on—

I trust if an enemy's fleet came round the hill, And the rushing battle belt rang from the three-decker out of the foam, That the smooth-faced, snub-nosed rogue would leap from his count or and till, And strike, if he could, were it but with his cheating yard wand, home.

The truth is that we have had too easy a life for years, for the whole life, we may say, of those now living, and we are inclined to shirk any service which takes us away from that slothful ease. In many cases old men shame the young. We know of a case where a retired Royal Naval Reserve lieutenant volunteered as soon as war was declared and was given an inspection job, which he performed well, until one day the authorities found out that he was seventy! He was then sent away.

What is Germany fighting for? Frankly, she began to fight in the hope of becoming the leading power in the world. She would force her rule and her "kultur" on all nations whether they would or no. Now she is fighting for her existence. What, then, is a Christian's duty? He need not go so far as "my country, right or wrong," for there is no doubt that in this war we are in the right, we are on the side of freedom. Sixteen years ago the thoughtful Christian might well have had doubts, but—

There's a Divinity which shapes our ends, Rough hew them as we will. And the Boer War—undertaken it is to be feared, under the pressure of Jew financiers—has given us a united South Africa, another colony where our young men may go and snatch benefits denied them in the home land.

The missionary argument comes in. But it is a mistake to argue this on a narrow basis. The objection may say, "We are a nice lot to take the gospel of peace" to heathen who are living quiet, blameless lives." Where will you find heathen living quiet, blameless lives? The merchant seaman knows no such race. Is not civilisation better than the bestial rites of idolatry? Is not India better under British rule? Is it not well that liberty should oust slavery? The British flag carries freedom.

What would be the world's fate should Germany conquer? The German is no colonist; under his rule coloured races gain no benefit, they are more likely to be wiped out of existence. Is it then nothing to be privileged to fight for the freedom of the world? Surely! Not that, for a moment, we can say we are sinless, but looking at all sides of the question, the British rule is the best, the freest and the most beneficial of all earth's rules. Is it then nothing to be helping to keep that rule where it is—to spread it further?

It may be that we are rich. Some of our rich men will certainly

Naval Activity In North Sea

Two German Torpedo Boats and One British Destroyer Sunk in North Sea—Trawler Colombia also Attacked and Sent to Bottom

London, May 2.—The British Admiralty stated this evening that two German torpedo boats had been sunk in the North Sea, and the British destroyer Recruit also was sunk. The text of the Admiralty statement follows:—

"A series of small affairs took place in the neighborhood of Gallaper and North Hinder Lightships on Saturday. During the forenoon H. M. destroyer Recruit was sunk by a submarine, four officers and twenty-one men being saved by the trawler Daisy.

A 3 p.m. the trawler Colombia was attacked by German torpedo boats, who approached her from the westward, and commenced action without hoisting their colours. The Colombia was sunk by a torpedo, only one deck hand being saved by other trawlers.

A division of British destroyers, comprising the Laffrey, Leonidas, Lawford and Lark, chased the two German vessels, and after a brief running fight of about one hour, sank them both. The British destroyers sustained no casualties.

Two German officers and forty-four men were rescued from the sea and made prisoners of war."

Much Activity On Austrian Frontier

Venice, May 2.—A despatch from Udine, Italy, reports active military preparations on the Austrian side of the frontier. Trains with heavy artillery are proceeding by night, and said to occupy commanding positions on the Italian frontier. Night traffic in the districts of Garitz, Gradisca, Monfalcone and Tolmin, all in Austria, near the frontier, is prohibited without special authority. It is stated recruits from the southern part of the monarchy are being concentrated at Lubiana.

British Capture Greek Steamer

Blyth, England, May 2.—The Greek steamer Fortis, which sailed from Galveston, Norfolk, three weeks ago, found for Rotterdam, has been brought into Blyth in charge of a prize crew, stating that the vessel carries contraband.

A Big Demand On the Credulous

Eight German Submarines Said to be Captured But Don't Know Whether the Crews Were Taken or Not

London, May 1.—It is reported in a despatch from Paris, as yet without other confirmation, that the true explanation of the recent embargo on British traffic with Holland, now partially lifted, with the successful springing of a trap for German submarines, in which eight were taken. According to this story, the British fleet guarding the Channel was deliberately withdrawn with the object of drawing the German submarines into a tangle of mine-fields and nets, carefully prepared beforehand.

It is not stated whether any of the submarines' crews were saved, but the inference is that all were lost.

There is more in this submarine warfare than appears on the surface.—Philadelphia Ledger.

ly "go down quick into hell," but by their side are other rich men who made good use of their money. The general result is good, and after this is over we shall not be quite so rich and shall be better for it.

The war is already teaching us brotherly love, self-sacrifice. Is there a person in the country who is not doing something; fighting in the trenches, watching in our Fleet, bringing us the munitions of war, making comforts for soldiers and sailors? Is not all this Christianity, or, at least, Religion?

THE QUESTION UNSETTLED BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN

Things Look Warlike in the Far East—China Determined to Resist the Efforts of Nippon to Disrupt the Empire

Although Chinese and Japanese diplomats have spent several weeks in negotiations relative to the demands submitted by Japan to China which in effect would place a large measure of the control of Chinese affairs in the hands of the Japanese and affect the relations of China with most of the other nations, no agreement has yet been reached. Material differences exist over some of the concessions demanded but both nations evince a purpose to adjust them peacefully and diplomatically without a resort to the sword force, although Japan has sent troops into Chinese territory and has not yet complied with China's request to remove them.

Some time ago a new letter was published purporting to give an interview with President Yuan Shi Kai of China in which he was quoted as saying that the United States would not be affected by the European struggle, intimating that in giving this assurance it was voicing the feelings of some of the European countries. President Yuan was also represented as having said that the United States had given China assurance that Japan intends no aggression in China.

In a note to Japan the American government is said to have called the attention of that government to the ultimate effects of China's concession to the Japanese demands, pointing out that if Japan insists that China must consent her in the selection of foreign advisers the sovereignty of China might be interfered with and suggesting further that if Japan insists that China shall purchase munitions of war from her and that she shall be consulted concerning foreign loans in Manchuria the principle of equal opportunity provided for an agreement consummated between Japan and the United States might be violated.

Japan has replied that she had the understanding that Americans wish to build dock yards in the harbor at Santuao, a strategic position in south

Manchuria; the Japanese government it is explained, desired a means from preventing the United States and other nations from gaining special rights in that territory. Reports say that the Chinese government has been informed that Japan will not insist on her demand for special commercial privileges in the province of Fukien if the American government pledges itself not to construct a naval dockyard at Santuao.

About two years ago agents of an American steel company visited Santuao at the request of the Chinese government and considered the project of a naval base there. The Japanese minister informed the American minister that he could not allow should a project be consummated by the American minister replied that there was no treaty to bar Americans from such an undertaking and that Japan's declaration of a sphere of influence was without force in the case. An American steel concern is said to have a contract with China amounting to \$20,000,000 for the construction of a dock. This contract is practically nullified by Japan's demands.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, former president of the Chinese republic, declared in a letter recently that President Yuan has entered into private agreement with Japan to concede that government's demands, having been promised in return the support of Japanese arms for suppressing "liberty-loving Chinese." In the former president's opinion China is facing a grave crisis for if Japan is allowed to carry out her plans the other great powers will possess themselves of Chinese territory with the ultimate result that China will be dismembered. He declared that it is Japan's purpose to "Egyptianize China" and that the only salvation for her is a complete reformation of the Chinese government. "Immediate action is necessary," he says, "by the quickest step possible, that step is revolution."—The Pathfinder.

Formidable Task Awaits the Allies

London, April 28.—Too great expectations were raised by the preliminary operations of the allied fleet in the Dardanelles, according to a representative of British newspapers who is officially accredited to the expedition.

"The British navy is convinced," the correspondent says, "that the narrow straits could be forced if occasion justified the loss of ships that would result, but unless there were a powerful army ready to occupy the Gallipoli Peninsula the moment the fleet passed into the Sea of Marmora, the Turks and Germans immediately would close the Straits behind it, so that the warships would find it difficult to fight their way out again.

"Nothing amazed the British and French gunners more than the resisting power of the old forts around the Dardanelles. For example, those at Sebül Bahr and Kum Kale were subjected to a devastating bombardment in February, yet when landing parties examined them they found the material damage done was comparatively small. Although they were mere shambles, many guns were still intact and one 9-inch piece actually was found loaded.

"Similar conditions existed in the forts nearer the narrow. After the terrific bombardment of March 18 their gunners were forced to seek shelter and the fortifications were silenced, but the fleet does not claim to have put many guns out of commission.

"After the disasters to the battleships Ocean and Irresistible, some of these guns were re-manned, concentrating a heavy fire on these vessels while the work of removing the crews

to destroyers was in progress." The correspondent considers the Turks such poor gunners that the Allies would have been at Constantinople already if there had been only Turkish troops to deal with. He says, however, that praise must be given German officers for their skillful use of the defences to meet the ships' fire. For this reason, he believes it is essential to have a very large expeditionary force supplied with heavy artillery, both field and howitzers, if the expedition is to be a success.

"The first great obstacle," the British observer states, "lies in the constantly renewed mine fields, then the concealed batteries of heavy howitzers and the direct fire guns placed in position since the first attack on the outer forts.

"Then there are the moveable light batteries which bombard the ships from the most unexpected quarters. The severity of the fire from these batteries frequently check and make exceedingly difficult the work of mine sweeping.

"The more the task of forcing the straits is examined the more tremendous proportions does it assume. Moreover, we do not know the strength of the enemy's land forces, but they are entrenched everywhere and the lesson of Flanders brought home early what is the inevitable cost of assaulting entrenched positions."

On the Run

For the first time since the start of the European war, the most pessimistic of the supporters of the allies must be prepared to admit that Germany is on the run. From many sources information to support such a view may be drawn at will.—Montreal Mail.

London, April 16.—Life insurance claims in respect to British officers killed in the war amount to nine and one-half million dollars.

Casualties Among Fleet at Dardanelles

When Covering Landing of Troops at Gallipoli—Twenty-six Killed and Fifty-three Wounded

London, May 2.—A casualty list issued this evening by the British War Department, shows that during the landing of British troops in operations against the Dardanelles, between April 25th and 30th, 26 men of the British fleet were killed and 53 wounded.

Steamer Torpedoed Off Scilly Islands

Gulf Light Flying American Flag Goes Down—Captain and Two Sailors Lose Their Lives

London, May 2.—The oil tank steamship Gulf Light, flying the American flag, was torpedoed at noon on Saturday off the Scilly Islands, according to a despatch to the Central News. The officers are quoted as saying that the captain of the vessel has been killed and two sailors lost their lives by drowning.

The crew of the Gulf Light was taken off by a patrol boat and the tank steamer was towed by another vessel. The Gulf Light was a steel vessel 3,200 tons, built at Camden, N.J., in 1914. She sailed from Port Arthur, Texas, on April 20, for Rouen.

China Rejects Japanese Demands

Peking, May 1.—China's final reply to Japan's demands is quoted to have been handed to the Japanese Ambassador. According to information from Chinese sources, the reply was a flat rejection of the demands in so far as they relate to the virtual surrender of Chinese sovereignty.

Capetown Reports British Victory in S.A.

Capetown, May 2.—The following official statement regarding operations in South Africa was issued to-day:—

General McKenzie's mounted force, which was designated to cut off the Germans, who, after evacuation of Keatmanshop, retreated northward along the railway, inflicted serious defeat on them in the vicinity of Gibcoon, captured a whole railway train, a number of transport wagons, a great quantity of live stock, two field guns, several maxims, and 200 prisoners. A remnant of the German force, which was 300 strong, escaped owing to rough ground obstructing the Government's cavalry.

Turkish Report Appears Correct

No Invaders on Asiatic Side of Dardanelles Straits

London, May 3.—It appears the Turkish report that the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles is free from invaders was correct, the French having simply gone ashore there to make the landing of the British on the other side easier, and this accomplished, they have been withdrawn, doubtless to land at some other point.

Austrian Prisoner Shot by Sentry

Montreal, May 3.—An Austrian war prisoner, who was trying to escape yesterday, was shot by a sentry. Major-General Hughes witnessed the shooting. He was on his way to Quebec at the time. "You did your duty, my boy," he said to the guard who had done the shooting.

The guard in question is a French-Canadian soldier.

Blazed Away to the Last

London, May 2.—In the British "Eye-Witness" story of the latest stages in the battle of Ypres, mention is made of a machine gun detachment who kept their gun in action until all were dead or wounded.

The Bruce's Express with passengers and mail is due at 6 p.m.