

## FIONA GOT BUFFETING IN STORMS

Western Star Tells of Revenue Cutter's Three Attempts to Tow Disabled Schooner from Bonne Bay to Bay of Islands

Buffeted by tempest and storm, the s.s. Fiona arrived at Curling on Saturday, after a most eventful trip to Bonne Bay, whither she was ordered a fortnight ago, by the Marine & Fisheries Department, to tow to Bay of Islands, the disabled schr. Francis Willard, Capt. Paul Young.

On the morning of the 23rd the Fiona, under the command of Captain English, steamed out of Bonne Bay, having the Willard in tow, and it looked promising for a good run to Bay of Islands.

**Had to Put Back.**  
The wind was from the south-east at first, but later shifted to north-east, suddenly chopping around from the westward, blowing with hurricane force and raising mountainous seas. The barometer quickly dropped two tenths, and fearing disaster may befall the schooner, the Fiona had to return to Bonne Bay after being as far as Chimney Cove.

**Put Out a Second Time.**  
On Christmas Day, the Fiona again put to sea. The wind was at first blowing moderately from the W.N.W., but it increased in fury, and the frost was very intense, the spray flying over both steamer and schooner being quickly frozen, making them appear like huge icebergs.

**Successful at Last.**  
On Saturday, Captain English, undaunted by old Neptune, made a third attempt to reach his desired port. When outside the headlands of Bonne Bay he found the seas pretty choppy, but by skillful manoeuvring of his ship managed to reach Curling that afternoon.

**Nickel Crowded**  
The Nickel Theatre was the popular resort last evening, hundreds of citizens being in attendance. Everyone was delighted with the pictures especially the big Pathe play "Race Memories," showing the prehistoric and modern love making.

**Prospero Sails**  
Prospero sailed his afternoon, taking a full freight and the following passengers: Messrs. G. Blandford, H. Spurrell, H. Collins, Moore, G. House, S. K. Bell, J. Norris, C. H. Burton, B. Greydon, O'D. Jones, W. Strong, J. Oldford, T. Hyde, G. Yetman, H. Murcell, A. Moore, F. March, C. A. C. Bruce, P. Noel, J. Short, G. Newell, N. Keen, F. Yetman, J. Harris; Mesdames Collins, Hous, Norris, O'Connor, Blackmore, Chalk; Misses Whalen, March, Hoskins, Williams, Hopkins, and 35 steerage.

**PERSONAL**  
Mr. D. Sacks leaves this evening for New York where he will remain three months. On arrival there he will attend the wedding of his sister. A number of his friends tendered him a farewell banquet yesterday at the residence of Mr. F. Wellausky. A pleasant time was spent.

## Gets More News From 'The Mail' Than He Gets In English Papers

Mr. S. James received the following letter from Harold Lidston, one of the First Newfoundland Contingent. It was written from Fort George on Dec. 15th.

The opening paragraph is most complimentary to this paper. Everyone at home and abroad agrees that *The Mail* is Newfoundland's best and brightest newspaper. We publish the following extracts, feeling sure that it will be read with interest by all.

"I got the nice card and papers O.K. There is more war news in *The Mail* than in the English papers.

"We are having a nice time in Bonnie Scotland. I am sending you a twig of heather. It is what I get when out skirmishing. It is a pity, it is not in bloom. I hope you will get it all right.

**Long Run on Train.**  
"We left Bustard's Camp on Monday and walked about six miles to Amesbury Station and had a run of twenty-two hours on the train to Adersier Station, then we walked about one mile to the Fort.

"This Fort and barracks is very comfortable; we have an open grate

in each room with only six men in a room. So you see we can have toast or any kind of a feed we like. You know that a soldier at midday gets only a hot dinner, so we can boil the water and have cocoa. We get plenty of bread and tea for breakfast and tea, but I can't enjoy dinner if I don't get a cup of tea.

"It is so much better than the camps, where we don't see fire and are up to your knees in mud all the time.

"This little village of Adersier is a nice place, but there is nothing to see, only soldiers wives, so I won't get married this trip. There are only one or two small shops.

"We had a route march this morning. It was about fourteen miles, but it is only playwork to march here. It is not like the mud and high weren't in the mud, you were tangled in the grass; it was hard to march.

"Write and tell me how the Highlanders are going on and who got my job with the recruits. I know the recruits must be flocking in. Remember me to all my old section and all the boys."

## THE SOLDIER

He answers the call when his country Asks for men to protect her might, And he dreads not to do the bloody tasks, He steepleth forth in his might. He leaves his home, and loved ones, dear, The cot of his boyhood days, The scenes of youth and the dreams so fair,— He heeds them not when the bugle plays.

He marches past— Amid the ever growing throng With the young, with the old, and the strong— To the sound of the drums, And with measured tread, he marches on And he fears no dread. He thinks of those he may meet no more,— Of his children romping on the floor, And the faithful wife, will she watch in vain? When the troops come marching home again.

He fights And the cannon shots fly fast And the battle breaks with fiery blast, The columns pass, The call of the bugles passes by And the colors flash against the sky, Here men are dead and men will die; But he thinks of nought but his country's fight, And he knows wrong shall not conquer right.

It is night; the battlefield is cold, On the damped earth lies the soldier bold; The clash and the tumult now is o'er, The flash of the guns is seen no more; Darkness reigns supreme and still And the moon creeps slowly o'er the hill; Her yellow beams shine far and wide, Shine on the heroes side by side. Many are dead—their fight is done; Dead, but their courage the victory won. And the soldier dreams he is far away In the vine-clad fields at the close of day. He dreams of those who love him dear, And remember him with a sigh and a tear.

The war is o'er And the troops march back, But the ranks are thinned, and the men are wracked; And the soldier marches, his heart beats free, As he waits for his loved ones smilingly. He tells of his deeds; of his mighty fights, And the neighbors gather 'round at nights. In years to come, when he's old and grey, He'll tell them how they won the day. He sees the troops go marching by And he thinks again of his liberty. He joins in the Nation's great rejoice, And thanks his God that he heard her voice.

C. HARRY SYNYARD.

**Stephano Arrives**  
S.S. Stephano arrived in port shortly after 2 this afternoon. She left Halifax Sunday evening at 6 and made good time. She brought a full cargo.

## KNIGHTHOOD FOR BELGIAN SCOUT HERO

Youngest Belgian to be so Decorated—Reward For Gallantry in Battle and for Keen Discovery of Spies

Northern France, Jan. 1.—The youngest Chevalier of the Belgian Order of Leopold, and the first Boy Scout to be decorated for gallantry on the field of battle is Joseph Leysin. King Albert recently pinned the cross on his breast in the presence of his Ministers and military staff, and in giving him the accolade said: "I have the honor to decorate you with the Order of Leopold. You are the youngest Belgian hero. I congratulate you and all Scouts who have done such service for their country."

**Only 18 Years Old.**  
Joseph, who is 18 years old, was working in a shop in Brussels when the war broke out. Already an enthusiastic member of Baden-Powell's Belgian Boy Scouts he at once volunteered for any duties at which the military authorities might wish to set him, and was soon in the thick of things. In the words of the officer under whom he served, "he became an 'enfant du regiment, posing as a priest."

It is difficult to get him to talk of his experiences, but one of his earliest feats was the tracking down and arrest of two spies, and of this he gives the following account:

**Suspected Them.**  
"One afternoon I saw a crowd of people, and found that they had gathered around two men who had been arrested by our outposts. They claimed to be priests, but I noticed that they did not wear the usual white collar and black cravat. Getting permission of the officer who had made the arrests I questioned them, but they replied: 'You had better run away and play instead of insulting 'no honest men. We are priests on our way to the convent at Liege.'"

"They were searched and released as nothing incriminating was found but I was convinced that two spies were being allowed to escape, and so I got permission of the Lieutenant to follow them to Liege. Jumping on my bicycle, I overtook the two men near Renori. As soon as they saw me they ran into a wood, but I went after them and called out: 'In the name of the law, come out of that wood, and follow the road, or I will fire on you!'

**Arrested and Confessed.**  
"They at once returned to the road, and just at that moment two lancers lashed up in a motor car. The two priests at once tried to make off, but I collared them, and, with the help of the lancers, made them get into the car. Then we drove to Liege and handed over our captives to the authorities.

"Then the false priests at last confessed that one of them was a German and the other an Austrian. When they were searched carefully there were found in their boots plans of forts and trenches. The authorities hereupon gave me a written declaration that I had arrested two spies, and I returned to my regiment."

Besides his decoration from the King, this enterprising youth has received the Cross of Merit from the Boy Scouts of Belgium.

## Penetrated Slick Device Of Germans

British Officer Found That Apparent Norwegian Ship Was Really German Owned

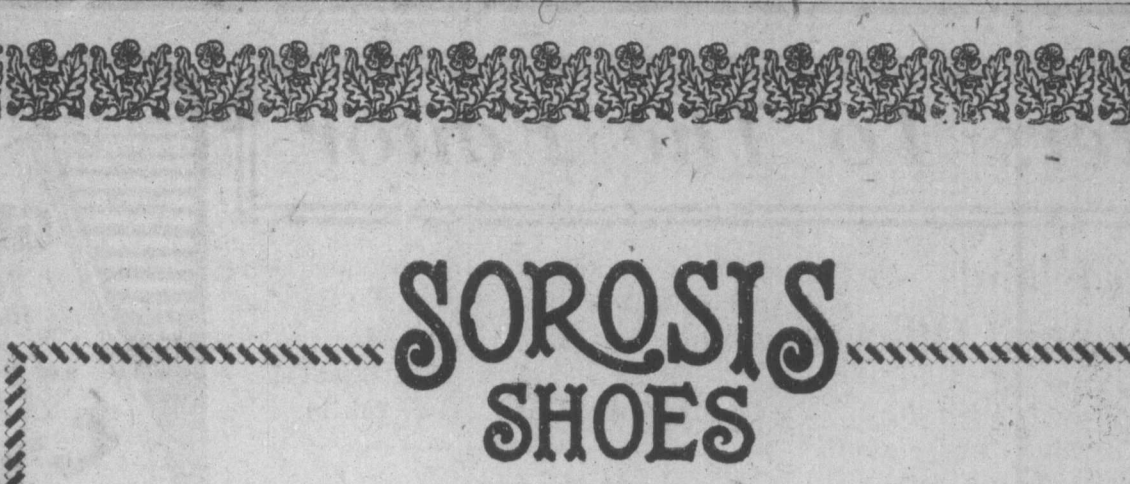
London, Jan. 4.—The Daily Telegraph's Copenhagen correspondent says: "A Norwegian merchant captain who has just returned here from Gibraltar, says that the Hamburg-American liner Grascia attempted to cross the Atlantic flying a Norwegian flag under the name of Bjoevin, but she was stopped by a British cruiser which discovered her real name which had been painted over.

The cruiser thereupon took the steamer as a prize to Gibraltar.

The steamer carried a cargo of provisions for German warships in the Atlantic.

Patrick Walsh, Rossiter's Lane, was taken to the hospital in the ambulance this morning. He is suffering from pneumonia.

"Only a few Germans returned to the silent trenches and later we could see companies coming up from the second line of trenches under our artillery fire.



## SOROSIS SHOES

The name SOROSIS on a pair of Shoes is a Guarantee of Quality, Style and Fit. As a wear-resister, and a shape-retainer the Sorosis has a high reputation with particular women.

A shipment of these celebrated Shoes has just come to hand. Below we list the styles we are showing.

### Buttoned

Dongola, with Self Tip.  
Dongola Vamp, Gray Cloth Top.  
Tan Vamp, Brown Cloth Top.  
Tan Vamp, Fancy Fawn Top.  
Pat. Leather, Black & White Top

### Laced

Dongola, Patent Tip.  
Dongola, Self Tip.  
Gun Metal.

**Ayre & Sons**  
LIMITED.

## Placentia Greets Her Soldier Lads

Capt. G. T. Carty, 1st Nfld. Regiment, Fort George, Inverness. Please convey heartfelt greetings Placentia boys. Friends here well, and join in wishing all our boys a Happy Christmas.

V. F. REARDON,  
W. F. O'REILLY,  
W. J. WALSH.

Fort George, Dec. 31st.  
Monsignor Reardon, Placentia. New Year's greetings from Placentia boys: all well.

GEORGE CARTY.

## Reservists Arrive

A number of naval reservists from Conception Bay arrived by yesterday's train and joined the Calypso.

## Sleigh Upsets

Dr. Fraser's sleigh toppled over on Queen's Road yesterday. The doctor, who was driving, was thrown out, but succeeded in stopping the animal. One shaft of the sleigh was broken.

## Schooner In Ice

Messrs. Bishop had a message this morning that the schooner St. Elmo, Donnelly master, from Green Bay to St. John's with a cargo of herring, was jammed in the ice off Red Cliff Island, B.B.

This craft was with the Maggie Sullivan last week but the latter succeeded in forcing her way through.

## Curliana

The Committee of Management meets this evening at 7.

The first match takes place Thursday and Friday of this week for the pipes donated by the President and Vice-President.

In this contest skips must lead and hind stones skip but they are permitted to consult with skips during the game.

Queen Wilhelmina leaves Liverpool to-morrow, and the Tabasco leaves on the 16th.

## THE SPIRIT OF GERMAN KULTUR

[In printing the following "poem" by Albrecht Schaeffer, the "Berliner Borser-Courier" observes, "In this terrible poem, the dying German gathers up his feeble strength to fling at the Briton." Poems such as this were even in the popular mouth of Germany during the recent Christmas season.]

Oh Fury! Oh holiest Fury! a Briton is in view! Now my heart hold firm, grip tight With iron-fisted grasp on sabre bright, In mine ear the music of a murderous hew!

Again, and for the last time, will I treasure The venom which in my heart doth rage and cry With bitter hate that knows no end nor measure, With which the name of England I defy!

To earth, base Britain, crushed out of being in the mire! God! stand not in the way whilst she is smitten! Or, dying, God! on Thee my soul shall vent its ire!

"Down, England!" and gathering his last remaining strength He stretched his quivering limbs to their full length, To gaze into the eyes Of him who lay there dead!

With snake-like dart his sword 'gainst the sleeping enemy sped, Then, laughing loud, he shook his fever'd head, While in the staring pupils, glazed and set, His own eyes a murdered nation's shadow met

Set free at last from the torment of its hate and pain, From the poison cleansed with consumed it more and more, His soul, pure as an angel's, upward soared, The Lord to follow with His sword of flame!

Mr. H. Bastow for many years in Bowring's grocery has accepted a position at Harvey & Co.'s office.

## Sagona Clear

Hon. J. C. Crosbie had a message this morning that the Sagona was clear of the ice and bound to St. John's. The Fogota is still jammed.

## Magistrate's Court

Two vagrants were before Judge Knight this morning; one was discharged and the other was sent down for ten days.

S.S. Syldand finished coaling at A. Harvey & Co.'s yesterday and continued her voyage to Baltimore.

## WANTED—A Reliable Girl who understands Plain Cooking.

Small family. Good wages. Apply to CAPTAIN ABRAHAM, Ordnance St., next door to the East End Fire Hall.—dec31, jan2,4,5,11

## FOR SALE—One Dwelling House, Store and Work Shop combined.

Will sell at a bargain. For further particulars apply to W. J. DOVE, Chance Hr. East.—dec5,11

## FOR SALE—A Few Barrels of Splendid Partridge Berries.

(preserved in water tight packages) at \$4.00 per brl. A splendid lot for retailers. FISHERMEN'S UNION TRADING CO.—dec31

## FOR SALE—We have a quantity of Large Dry Codfish.

suitable for eating, which we are retailing at a reasonable figure. Anyone wanting eating fish should see this before buying elsewhere. FISHERMEN'S UNION TRADING CO.—dec18

## NOTICE.—Trinity Bay Councils of the F.P.U. will please notice that January 16th will be observed as Union Day in Trinity District.

when every Council is expected according to the Constitution to parade. By order, J. G. STONE.—dec8

## NOTICE.—Owing to the Conception Bay Convention to be held at Coley's Point the second week in January, there will be no meeting of that Convention is closed, when due notice will be given of the time and place of meeting. GEO. F. GRIMES, Chairman, Port de Grave District Council.