

GERMANS LEAVE DIXMUDE; Middelkerke NOT TAKEN BY ALLES; BATTLE FOR WARSAW BEGUN

HATRED HAS CLOUDED THE GERMAN VISION, LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY SAYS

English Navy Awaits Opportunity which Will Surely Come, to Avenge German Raid — Their Hate a Measure of Their Fear — Stigma of "Baby Killers of Scarborough" Will Brand Officers and Men of Enemy's Navy as Long as They Sail the Seas.

London, Dec. 20.—Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, in a letter to the Mayor of Scarborough in which he expresses sympathy of himself and of the navy at the losses sustained through the German bombardment of Scarborough, and disapproval of the escape of the German warships, says: "We await with patience the opportunity that will surely come. But viewed in its larger aspect, the incident is one of the most instructive and encouraging that has happened in the war. Nothing proves more plainly the effectiveness of the British naval pressure, than the frenzy of hatred aroused against us in the breasts of the enemy. "This hatred has already passed the frontiers of reason. It clouds their vision, it darkens their counsel and it convulses their movements. We see a nation of military calculators showing calculation to the winds; of strategists who have lost their sense of proportion, of schemers who have ceased to balance loss and gain. "Practically the whole of the fast cruiser force of the German navy, including some great ships that are vital to their fleet and utterly irreplaceable, have been risked for the passing pleasure of killing as many English people as possible, irrespective of sex, age or condition, in the limited time available. "To this act of military and political folly they were impelled not by other outlet. This is very satisfactory and should confirm us in our course. Their hate is a measure of their fear, its senseless expression is proof of their impotence and the seal of their dishonor. "Whatever feats of arms the German navy may hereafter perform, the stigma of baby-killers of Scarborough will brand its officers and men while sailors sail the seas."

DEMONSTRATION IN HONOR OF PREMIER CLARKE AT ST. STEPHEN

Congratulation by fellow citizens in his honor on his arrival from capital—Reception and Procession.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Dec. 20.—Hon. George J. Clarke, the new premier of the province was accorded an enthusiastic reception on his return to his home town last evening. A large delegation of citizens met him at the depot, and as the train drew into the station the Milltown Band rendered music. Friends of Premier Clarke on both sides of politics met him as he alighted from the train, and when three cheers for the premier were called for he was given with a will. He was escorted to an awaiting auto, and with the band at the head a procession was formed and moved to the home of the premier on Union street, where Hon. Mr. Clarke briefly addressed his friends and neighbors and thanked them for the kindly welcome home and their expressions of good will. The demonstration was entirely unexpected by Mr. Clarke, and would have been even more largely participated in had it not been that rain was falling heavily when the train arrived. Daniel McConkey, one of our best and most worthy citizens, passed away at his home on Union street at an early hour this morning, after a protracted illness from heart trouble though he had only been confined to his home for a few days. Mr. McConkey was sixty-two years of age and came here from St. John's, Quebec, over thirty years ago, but was a native of England. He conducted a large tailoring business and was known in many parts of the province. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and of the Orange Order and a vestryman in Trinity church. A widow, who was Miss Helen Dinamore, of this town, survive him with two young sons. A sacred concert given in the Bijou Theatre this afternoon, under the auspices of the Milltown Cornet Band, drew an audience that completely filled the theatre and netted a very nice sum for the Belgian relief fund. Many pleasing solos, duets, and quartets with inspiring selections by the band, a cello solo and an impressive address by Rev. B. B. Wylie, the esteemed pastor of the Presbyterian church, formed a programme that was both pleasing and inspiring.

CIVIL SERVANTS NOT TO ACT AS MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS OR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AFTER THIS YEAR

All those connected with inside and outside service earning over \$500 a year affected by order which will be passed by Government.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 20.—According to the present intentions of the government this will be the last year during which civil servants will be allowed to take part in local politics as members of school boards or municipal councils. Politics in the civil service has become such an abuse that many government employees use their positions simply as a means of revenue to carry on their political work, and heads of departments who are responsible for these men and their work have appealed to the government to take drastic action to compel them to attend strictly to their duties. The question has been before the cabinet officially and it was thought that action might be taken in time to prevent civil servants taking part in the forthcoming elections. However, the elections are so near that it was considered advisable to let the matter stand until the January elections are over and serve notice early next year. The order will apply to both the inside service and the outside service. The abuses have been very noticeable at Ottawa and other large cities but there are instances of it from coast to coast. The reason why civil servants who earn less than \$500 are to be allowed to take a place on municipal councils or school boards is that these are not regarded as civil servants proper, that they are not dependent upon their government positions for their livelihood. It is understood that the government in taking this action will have the support of the opposition. The method of procedure in laying down the new regulations will probably be by order in council.

Von Hindenburg's Army Reaches Russians' New Positions and New Battle for Warsaw Begun — Czar's Army in Strong Positions Ready to Drive Back Enemy — Two German Detachments Almost Annihilated — Russian Campaign Against East Prussia Goes On — Siege Warfare in Western Theatre with Allies Making Some Gains— Servians and Montenegrins Join Hands Against Austrians.

London, Dec. 21.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam, says: "The Germans have evacuated Dixmude, but the report that the Allies have taken Middelkerke is untrue."

THE BATTLE FOR WARSAW.

London, Dec. 20.—Field Marsall Von Hindenburg's army, which is advancing on Warsaw over a wide front between the Vistula and the Pilica rivers and which on Friday occupied Lowicz, reached on Saturday the new Russian positions along the Bzura river and southward to Rawa, with the result that another big battle is in progress.

The Russians retired across the Bzura river, destroying the bridges behind them, and two German detachments which followed over a partly burned bridge were attacked and are said to have been annihilated, fifty survivors being taken prisoners.

This is only the beginning of the great battle for Warsaw, from which the Germans are now only thirty miles or less. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, however, expects a stern resistance, which the strongly reinforced Russian army is certain to offer to his further advance, protected by the Vistula river, which the Germans have been unable to cross. The general opinion of military men here is that the Germans expect to make any marked progress. Besides being in fortified positions, which could only be taken after having been thoroughly searched out by the artillery, the Germans still have more machine guns than the Allies, and as has been proven in previous battles, these, so long as they can be successfully operated, make infantry attacks too costly to be attempted.

SIEGE WARFARE IN WESTERN THEATRE.

The offensive operations of the Allies in the west are being carried out under conditions of siege warfare and are being stubbornly opposed by the Germans, who, in their entrenchments and surrounded by wire entanglements, make an advance of even a few yards a costly matter for the attacking force. In Flanders a little ground has been gained at considerable cost, despite the fact that along the coast the Allies have the assistance of warships which continually bombard the German positions. The advance has been more marked from the Belgium border south to the River Oise, where the ground is not so wet as in the flooded regions of and the Champagne district the French artillery which is now probably stronger than the German, has been busy keeping the Germans on the move, but in the Argonne region it is the Germans who are on the offensive, and they claim to have made a slight advance. The general opinion of military men here is that the Germans expect to make any marked progress. Besides being in fortified positions, which could only be taken after having been thoroughly searched out by the artillery, the Germans still have more machine guns than the Allies, and as has been proven in previous battles, these, so long as they can be successfully operated, make infantry attacks too costly to be attempted.

SEA FIGHT OFF FALKLAND ISLANDS DESCRIBED BY BRITISH SAILORS

Montevideo, Dec. 20.—Several interesting descriptions of the recent naval battle off the Falkland Islands in which a British squadron sank the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig and Nürnberg, became known here today when Admiral Stuedde, the British commander, and his staff came ashore to attend a reception given by the British and French ministers. The naval officers were warmly received. It is said that the cruiser Invincible, which led in the attack on the Scharnhorst, Admiral Von Spee's flagship, and, after that vessel had been sunk was in at the death of the Gneisenau, was struck twenty times by projectiles but sustained no serious damage. The vessel's casualties were light, considering the number of times she was hit, only fourteen members of her crew having been wounded. When the battle began and while the Germans were firing at long range, it is said, the British commanders reserved their fire and permitted their men to have breakfast before answering the attack. When the British did come into action, however, little signalling was done, as each vessel's commander already knew what his task was to be. When the Gneisenau sank she was without ammunition but had refused to surrender. Her officers and men stood on the deck singing patriotic songs, as she took her plunge beneath the waves. A large number of her crew, including several officers, were rescued. Some of these men died later from wounds or from shock sustained by submergence in the cold water. The Scharnhorst was blown when she sank with all hands, including Admiral Von Spee. Two sons of the admiral, one aboard the Gneisenau and one aboard the Leipzig, also were lost. The commander of the British flagship was slightly hurt on the foot by being struck by a flying splinter. He ordered his six-inch guns manned there doubtless would have been fatalities aboard, as one of these guns was smashed by a German shell. The Germans saved from the disaster have been sent to England.

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATE FOR NONE BUT CANADIAN FLOUR

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 20.—As a result of the reciprocity agreement between Canada and the West Indies and British Guiana, Canada shipped to the latter colony in the first nine months of this year 113,000 barrels of flour, worth \$494,262 as compared with 61,000 barrels, worth \$275,492 for the same period of the year before. The customs department of British Guiana, however, has decided that Canadian flour shipped via New York must be bonded through and not re-shipped at that port. Other West Indian colonies are likely to make the same regulations in order to ensure that all flour getting the preferential tariff rate shall be Canadian flour.

GUNS OF BRITISH FLEET PLAYING HAVOC WITH GERMAN LAND FORCES

Trainloads of Enemy's Wounded Arriving at Bruges Evidence of Damage Britain's Naval Guns Are Causing — German Positions Heavily Shelled and Big Guns No Match for British — Mine Sweeper Blown Up in North Sea.

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 20.—The Sluis, Netherlands, correspondent of the Telegraaf sends the following: "A despatch says that violent fighting continues on the Yser. The British fleet's guns are playing havoc in the German ranks. Trains filled with wounded are entering Bruges; most of these trains proceed eastward. The allies have not occupied Roulers, but the fighting is raging between there and Ypres and Dixmude."

GERMAN GUNS NO MATCH FOR BRITISH.

Dover, via London, Dec. 20.—Between Nieuport and Middelkerke, the German positions were heavily shelled by the British warships between Friday midnight and seven o'clock Saturday morning. It is said that the Germans replied at one point with 12-inch naval guns.

During the earlier stage of the action the German fire was heavy, but apparently the guns were destroyed or withdrawn, as the reply early in the morning was very slack.

MINE SWEEPER BLOWN UP.

London, Dec. 19.—Lloyd agent at Scarborough sends word that a mine sweeper which, with several others was engaged in sweeping for mines five miles southeast of Scarborough, was blown up Saturday. One man was rescued but the rest of the crew are missing. It is reported that two other vessels have been blown up in the region visited by the German squadron which raided the eastern coast.

TWO KILLED IN EXPLOSION IN STELLARTON, N. S. MINE

Deputy Inspector and Superintendent Overcome by Black Damp—Explosion Due to Fire—All Horses in Mine Lost

Stellarton, N. S., Dec. 20.—At 9.30 this morning an explosion took place in Allan's Shaft No. 1 as a result of which Deputy Inspector of Mines Thomas Blackwood and Mine Superintendent Jas. Brown lost their lives. A pumpman and a boy were in the mine at the time of the explosion but were rescued alive. Four men, Thomas Blackwood, Jas. Ryan, Alex. Sutherland and Overman Nell McLean went down the shaft to investigate. Sutherland came back alone and reported that his companions were overcome by gas. Immediately a small force of dragoons went down the shaft found Blackwood, McLean and Brown overcome by black damp and sent them to the surface where folk doctors worked over them but were only able to resuscitate McLean. A slight fire had been in progress and though walled off, it is thought that it broke through elsewhere causing the explosion. The mine has been closed down and some time will elapse before conditions can be ascertained. All the horses in the mine are lost. The fatalities, connected with this latest mine catastrophe have cast a deep gloom over the town and county.

SEVENTY-FIVE SYDNEY WILL BE CENTRE FOR MOBILIZATION

CELEBRATE A DOZEN FOR EGGS

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Considerable quantities of Canadian eggs are being sold in England but the demand is so far in excess of the supply that new laid eggs are selling in Birmingham for seventy-five cents a dozen according to latest trade reports. Last year Russia shipped \$23,000,000 worth of eggs to Britain, and Denmark shipped over \$10,000,000. These sources of supply have been very largely cut off by the war and there is a great market for all the eggs Canada can supply. In all probability the scarcity will become still more acute in the near future. The war is costing the country at the present time about \$250,000 per day or about \$100,000,000 per annum. The cost will increase considerably as more troops are recruited and sent to Europe. Ammunition alone will be a tremendous item.

FIFTY-FIVE OFFICERS BACK FROM ENGLAND

Went With First Contingent — Preferred to Return Instead of Joining Kitchener's New Army.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—Fifty-five surplus officers from the first Canadian expeditionary force at Salisbury Plain arrived at Halifax today by the Allan liner Granpian from Liverpool. These officers are from many different regiments of the first contingent, it being noted in some cases that there were more officers in a number of these regiments than the British establishment permitted. A large number of the returning officers are from the 5th Battalion. This battalion was formed at Valcartier from a number of cavalry regiments, including the Eighteenth Mounted Rifles, the Fort Garry Horse, the 24th Border Horse, the 32nd Manitoba Horse and others. Though an infantry regiment requires far less officers comparatively than does a cavalry regiment, the surplus officers accompanied the contingent to England. There it was decided to reduce the number of officers of the battalion to the proper establishment. Not one officer of the Eighteenth Mounted remained with the battalion and there is hardly a non-commissioned officer of that regiment still with the battalion. All the surplus officers of whom there were twenty, were offered positions in Lord Kitchener's new army, but the majority preferred to return to Canada in the hope of being appointed to the next Canadian contingent. As the list of officers for the second contingent has practically been made up, the majority of the returning officers will in all probability have to wait until mobilization of the third contingent commences. Among those who arrived by the Granpian were Lt. Col. C. A. Andrew of Mahone, of the 7th Regiment, Lunenburg; Major J. H. Creighton, also of the 7th; Lt. Col. Kirkpatrick, of Woodstock, N. B.; Major A. Havard, Altamont, Man.; Major J. J. Bull, of the same town; Major J. T. N. L'Heure, Ottawa; Lt. Col. G. A. S. Hamilton, of Montreal; Major Dekam, of Ottawa; Lt. Col. Bols, Ottawa; Lt. Col. MacPherson, of Portage La Prairie, Man.; and Major Wallbridge, of Belleville, Ont.