

RACE HATRED NOT KNOWN TO FIGHTERS IN TRENCHES

Fraternise and Exchange Gifts at Every Opportunity—Allies and Germans Attend Funeral of Dead Soldier—Exchanged the Season's Greetings on Christmas Day

Aire-sur-Lys, Dec. 25.—The hatred between the soldiers of the fighting nations is not so great as it might be thought, and in fact the actual slaughter is a question of politics and nothing more. It is all the more terrible to think that millions of men are busy killing each other for the sake of personal interest and ambition. The following anecdote shows quite plainly that if the armies were left to act at their will the first movement would be to shake hands with the enemy and to relieve the sufferings of the greatest sufferers.

We are a few kilometres from La Basse, where the fighting has come to such a close range that the French trenches are not 35 metres distant from the Germans'. On the 13th of November here is what happened:

Were Mutual Undertakers.
Between the two enemy's trenches a corpse was lying and putrefaction was beginning. It was the body of a dead German soldier. The smell was so horrid that two French troops offered to go and bury the body. At night they approached crawling, but the Germans saluted them with shots and they had to come back in a hurry to the trench. Then one of them wrote on a sheet of paper, "You dirty pigs, we bury your dead ones and you shoot at us," and putting the paper around a stone he threw it in the facing trench. With the same postal system, the Germans answered that they would not shoot any more and on the contrary would help to do the

job. In fact a few Germans came out without weapons, and French and Germans together proceeded to the funeral. After it they seized the opportunity to say a few words in broken language and they exchanged cigarettes and cigars.

Artillery Shelled Them.
From other trenches, other men of both nations had come out, privates and non-commissioned officers. A small gathering was formed thus. But a French observer seeing the light of the cigarettes signalled the place to one of our batteries, which sent a shell that fell quite near the group. In the nick of time everyone joined his own trenches, ready for the sake of his country to cut the throats of his friends of the preceding moment.

There is in this small affair a great teaching to the Governments. It is not the first time that such a thing happened, and during the war of Crimea, French and Russian soldiers between the fights were quite friends. What a pity then to have to commit murders which have not even for an excuse a bitter hatred of races.

Christmas Truce.
In Northern France, Dec. 30.—Two British soldiers on Christmas morning, after signalling a truce of good-fellowship from the crown of their trench walked across to the German lines taking a plate of mince pies. The reasonable messages were well received. After a good feed and a bottle of liebramlich they were sent back with a packet of Christmas cards for distribution among their fellows.

The Germans later sent a couple of caparisoned heralds across to return the compliment. An officious soldier promptly arrested them and sat them down in a corner of his trench.

"What in the world have you got there?" asked an officer.
"By pardon, sir," replied the soldier, "but a couple of landstremers said they'd come to wish us 'appy returns, so I nabbed 'em, sir."

Gave Him a Lecture.
The officer gave the sentry a lecture on the amenities of the festive

PANIC-STRUCK AUSTRIANS FIRE ON OWN SHIPS

Raid of French Submarine so "Rattled" Artillerymen in Pola Forts That They Almost Sunk the Austrian Battleship "Radetsky"

Rome, Jan. 6.—An astounding story of the recent attack by the French fleet on the Austrian naval base at Pola has become known here. It now appears that when the submarine Curie passed through the defending lines of mines and launched torpedoes at the Austrian warships the artillerymen in the forts guarding the city became panic-stricken and sent out a series of wild shots, one of which struck the Austrian battleship Radetsky and damaged her so badly that she had to be towed to a dry-dock. Further than this, the commander of the forts, realizing what his guns had done, committed suicide.

The fire from the forts literally sprayed the harbor when the first alarm over the submarine attack was spread. The big Austrian guns directed their fire at every part of the harbor, and the defending warships suffered most. Discipline was disrupted and the utmost confusion prevailed. The repairs to the Radetsky will require several weeks.

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

season, and asked the landstrem men to depart with the compliments of the season to their own lines.

Writing home of the Christmas truce between the Germans and the British, a British soldier says:

"After Christmas dinner nearly all our boys went out in front, where we found the Germans also had turned up in force. The result was a huge mixed crowd of men swapping butt ends of cigarettes, etc."

"Some of the German officers came up and actually took our photographs while we were all sitting on the ground."

"I wouldn't have missed that experienced for the most gorgeous Christmas dinner in England."

NAVIGATION WAS A PUZZLE TO GHURKHAS

But They Finally Decided the Wake of the Ship Was the "Path" the Captain Followed—Story of Two Sikhs Who Brought in a Rifle

An artillery officer writes: The Gurkhas are funny little people. The other night I went to their headquarters and asked for someone to hold my horse. One of the Gurkha guards was woken up to do it. He did not know what his job was to be, but he came out prepared for any thing, with his kukri in his hand and his eyes beaming. He was quite disappointed when he found he had to put his armory away and only hold a horse.

They were very funny coming over in the boat, I believe. When they had been on the sea for two whole days without seeing land, they became very perturbed. "Without doubt the captain of the ship has lost his way," they said, but they counselled together and decided at last that all was well. Some one asked them how the captain knew where to go. They led him to the stern of the vessel and pointed to the long wake of water boiling behind them, and with a smile as broad as the greatness of the discovery—"without doubt he follows the path."

They are setting down now and fighting very well and with terrific zeal, especially when they are allowed to get out of their trenches and go for the Germans. Two Sikhs, finding themselves tired of sitting still, wandered forth the other evening and returned later to the commanding officer. "Sahib," they said, "we found a man with a rifle; here is the rifle."

THE BEST IS CHEAPER IN THE END



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NOTICE TO F.P.U. COUNCILS

A Meeting of the Officers of the Local Council of the F.P.U., operating in the Districts of Harbor Main, Port de Grave, Harbor Grace and Carbonear, will be held at Coley's Point on the afternoon and evening of **Wednesday, the 13th instant**, to consider the advisability of combining the Councils embraced in the above Districts into one District-Council of the F.P.U., and to consider matters affecting the welfare of the Fishermen of Conception Bay who prosecute the Labrador Shore Fishery.

By order,
W. F. COAKER,
President F.P.U.

St. John's, Jany. 6th, 1915.

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NOW is the time to buy a fashionable Blouse for that particular event.

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A SPECIAL lot of fine twill, all-wool, Navy Serge Dress Robes going at liberally cut prices during this sale.

These Dress Robes are handsomely trimmed and quite suitable for people that dress well. Here are some prices:
Orig. Value \$7.00. Sale Price \$4.
Orig. Value \$8. Sale Price \$4.25.
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FIVE hundred yards fine-make, light-weight, woollen, dress fabric, richly Embroidered with a handsome Art Spray—suitable for making garments for Evening wear for yourself or child. Original price 70c. Sale price 40c. yard.

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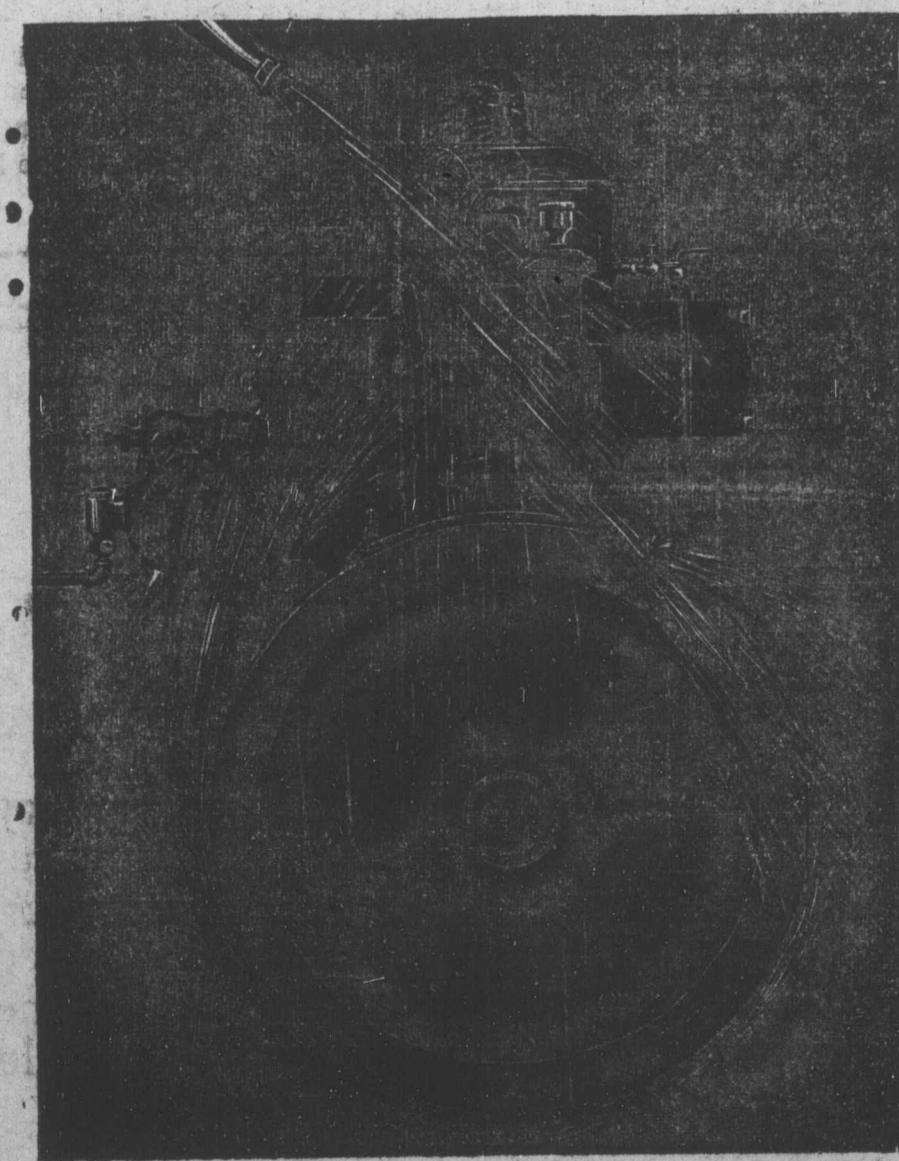
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