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Jan 14, m. w. f. 602

THE TRAGEDY OF SCHLESWIG UNDER THE IRON HEEL OF PRUSSIA

(By a Danish Journalist.)
The horror is nowhere felt so acutely as in Schleswig, or Saderjyl-land, as we Danes still prefer to call the ancient home of the Angles. No fewer than 25,000 of the Danish-speaking population have left their homes in this old Danish Crown-land to fight for that Prussia which they loathe and hate more than anybody else. And in a few days' time the remainder of the Danish man- hood between 18 and 45 are to follow. These are the men who, before the war, were declared absolutely unfit for military service— young men with weak hearts, varicose veins, lung trouble or kidney disease.

Now these "unfit" will do all right. The German authorities probably think that chronic invalids are exactly those most fit to be used as "cannon fodder." And they will probably be given a chance of distinguish- ing themselves at the front, as their sturdier and fitter brothers were given at the beginning of the war. In an assault the front line was never denied them. That ex- plains why more Danes have been killed in this war than in 1864, when Denmark tried single-handed to keep back the invading forces of Germany and Austria. These Danes are sent against a foe that is not their foe. On the contrary, they love and wor- ship France and England, and most deeply felt is their sympathy with Belgium and the Belgians. They know from bitter experience what it means to writhe under the Prussian iron heel.

Tragic Mockery of War.
War at its best is a gruesome af- fair. Even fiery patriotism in a gal- lant soldier cannot prevent his shud- dering at the sanguinary bestiality of battle. He feels, however, the glory and satisfaction of killing or be- ing killed for the greatness and sac- rifice of the country he loves. But for the Danish soldiers in the German army the war is nothing but a tragic mockery. They entirely lack that na- tional enthusiasm which excuses and justifies the killing of fellow-beings. And they have not lived sufficiently long under the Prussian yoke to ap- pease their consciences by the typical German excuse that their authorities have compelled them to murder. The German citizens by the injustice of might, their hearts and minds remain Danish, and in their veins runs the blood of forefathers who changed their laws but not their convictions, free men who never dreamed of sil- encing their conscience to suit the whims or crimes of a tyrant.

While these Danes from Schleswig have to fight the battles of their tor- mentors and are fighting for Prussia, the Prussian authorities are more brutal than ever towards their non-combatant relatives in Schleswig. From the very moment that war has declared Schleswig was placed under martial law. Military dictatorship replaced civil government. The highest authority was no longer invested with the Lord Lieutenant of Schles- wig, but was transferred to the com- manding officer of the Altona garri- son, whose rule is one of blood and iron. No other opinion is tolerated than that of the military caste. The editors of the Danish newspapers in Schleswig were hung into prison or dispatched to the front, and their papers are now written with a Ger- man sword. These papers must be better edited now than before the war—at any rate the German Press never quoted them before, except in fits of Teutonic wrath; now it finds many proofs of the love of evil thing German by the Danish population.

The province swarms with spies, and denunciators flourish as in Bel- gium. No one feels safe. Innocent people are kept in prison for months without trial and then released with- out any explanation or excuse. Minor offences are punished with incredible severity, the judges publicly justify- ing their savage sentences by point- ing out that the transgressors are known to harbour Danish sympathies! On the night following the outbreak of the war the military authorities arrested in the most brutal way no fewer than 300 prominent Danes in Schleswig. The men and women were dragged half-dressed through the streets and freely insulted by the Ger- man rabble. Most of them were kept in prison for weeks. None was pros- ecutied, for even the German spies failed to trump up a charge against any of these highly respected citi- zens. The wholesale arrest was only undertaken with the object of fright- ening the population into submission. In fact, this was "frightfulness" which has placed the German nation outside the pale of civilization. Many fishermen were put in prison

"Baralong" Case-- Story of the Gunner

LONDON, Jan. 14.—The Daily Chronicle publishes the story of a gun- ner who was a member of the Bar- along's crew, concerning the attack on the Nicosian and the sinking of a German submarine.

"On Aug. 19, at 2 p.m.," says the gunner, "we received a wireless mes- sage from the Nicosian saying she was being chased by a German sub- marine. We accordingly proceeded full speed to her assistance. At 3 p.m. we sighted the Nicosian which was being shelled by the submarine while the crew was getting the life- boats out.

"We got plenty of ammunition ready on the poop at 3.30 p.m. the mar- ines took cover behind the bulwarks on the port side of the after deck with rifles. The gunners also took cover behind their guns. The ex- cellent seamanship of our captain brought our ship upon the starboard of the Nicosian, the submarine being on the port side, so that for a few minutes we were hidden from the sub- marine's view. During that short in- tervale we cleared for action, trained our guns outboard, set the sights for 700 yards, and hoisted the white ensign.

"As soon as we appeared round the bows of the Nicosian the submarine fired one shot at us, which went wide. The marines then opened fire with a well-aimed volley which swept the decks of the submarine and seemed to demoralize her crew, for they im- mediately left their guns and rushed for the coning tower, several going overboard, but whether they were shot by rifle fire or whether they dived over from panic I cannot say.

"We then opened fire with our port and stern guns, but the first shot hit short. However, I should say it hit the submarine below the water line. The next shot hit the coning tower which appeared to split in half, send- ing two men flying into the air. The next and successive shots all hit the sub- marine, which gradually sank, every one of her crew being either drowned or shot, and only a few parts and a large quantity of oil remained on the surface.

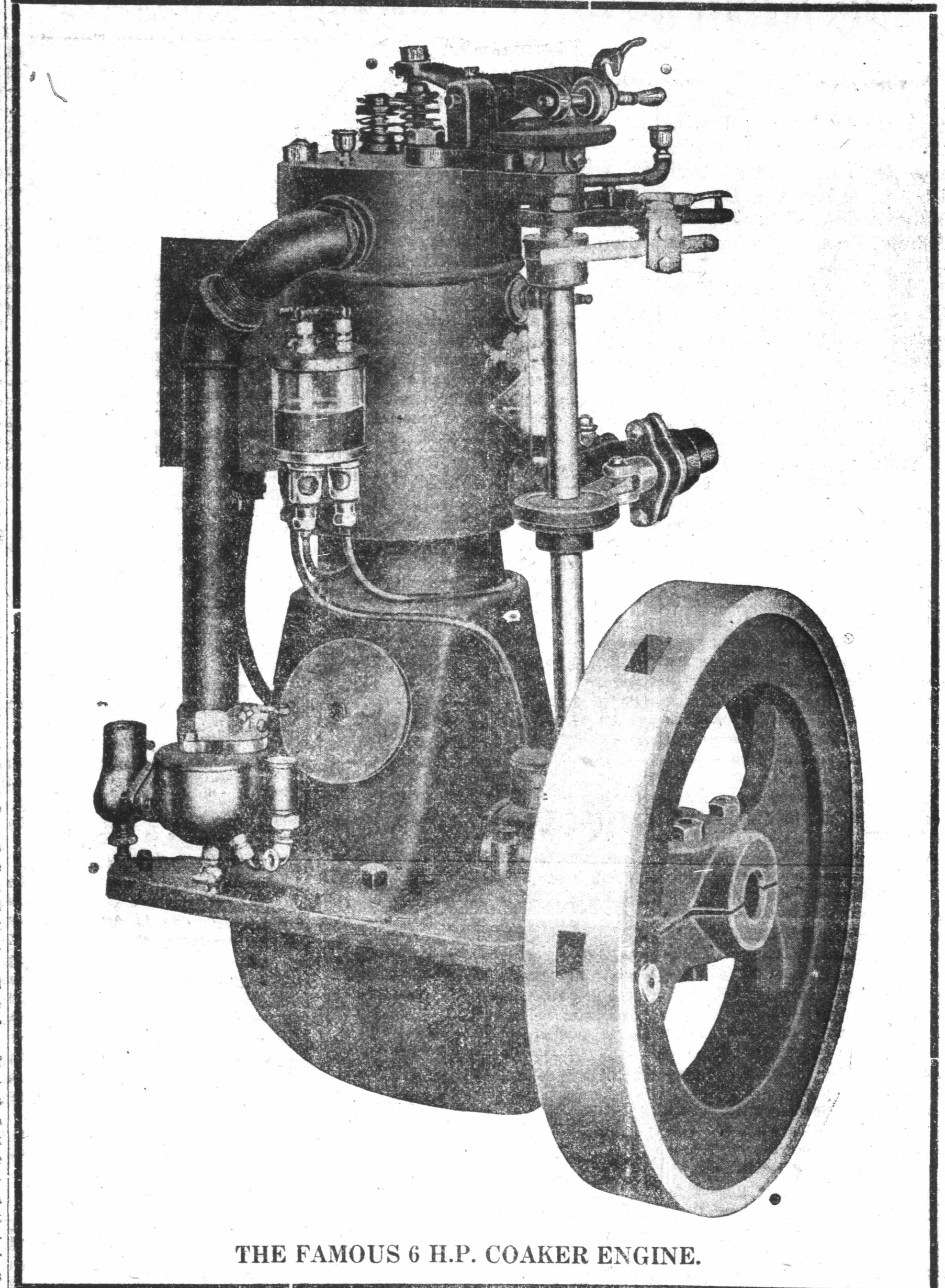
"The action lasted four minutes and thirty seconds, during which time we fired thirty-seven rounds between the two guns. We then took aboard the crew of the Nicosian who 107, not one of whom was injured or killed. Our casualties were nil.

"We were all absolutely disgusted at the cowardice displayed by the crew of the submarine, who were more heavily armed than ourselves. "Not only with their two guns of heavier calibre than ours, but in addition they had several torpedo tubes whereas we could only get two guns to bear upon them. If they had stuck to their guns they would at least have stood a sporting chance, but appar- ently submarines although always ready to attack defenseless merchant ships and kill and maim their passen- gers and crews, have no stomach for fighting armed ships of His Majesty's Navy, even when the odds are in their favor."

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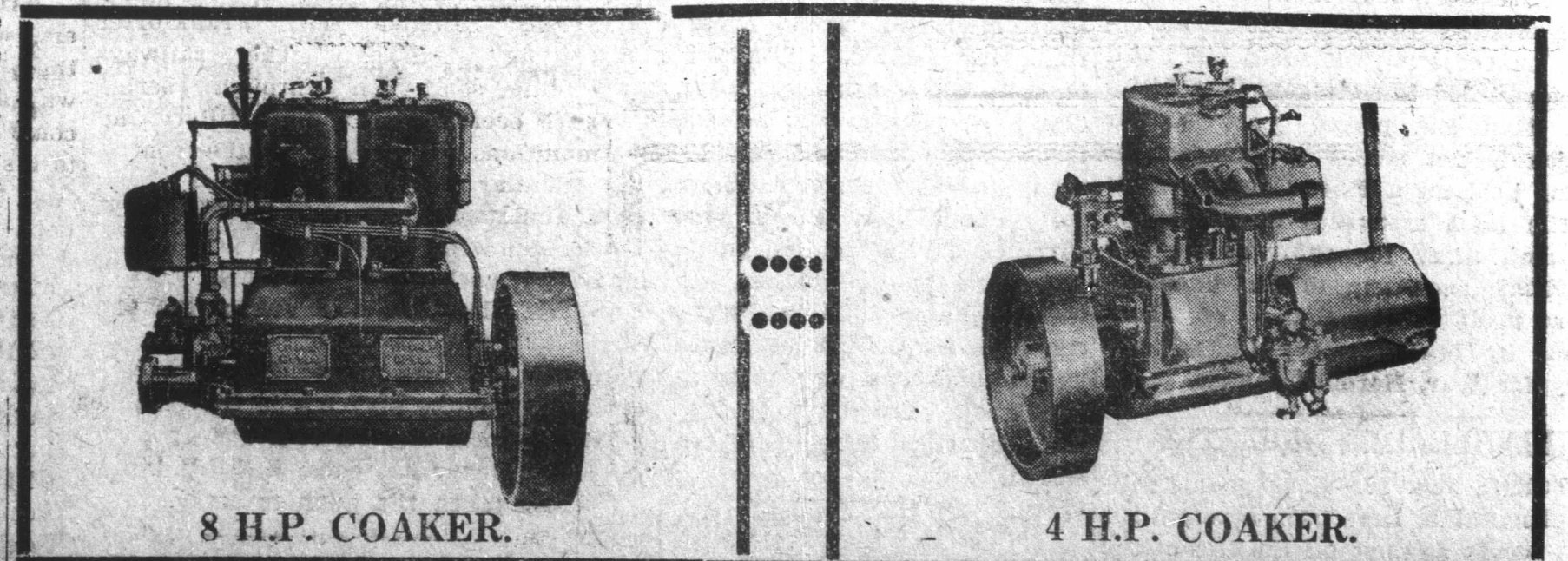
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Good Fishing at Halifax

Fishing out of Halifax has been good since the first of the year and fairly large catches have been landed here in the past few days. The National Fish Company, on Bissett's wharf, has had a number of fishing vessels in recently. Some of these were the Leon V., Captain Smith, which arrived here on Monday with 5,900 pounds cod and haddock; the Pearl Beatrice, Captain Hubley, which arrived on the same day with 19,000 pounds of cod and haddock. On Tuesday the schooner Orilla, Captain Henneberry, and the Eunice F., Cap- tain Flemming, arrived with catches of 6,000 pounds mixed fish respective- ly.

The schooner A. Hubley, which is prosecuting the fisheries for the National Fish Company this year, has been out of this port since Christmas Day and is thought that by now she has secured a very good catch on the fishing grounds. The A. Hubley is expected in this week. The schooner James L., arrived in port last night with 8,000 pounds of fish from Ter- race Bay.

Last week the National Fish Com- pany received a cargo of Newfound- land herring. This was brought by the schooner Colbia. The cargo was made up of six hundred barrels and five hundred half barrels of salt her- ring and three thousand boxes of smoked fish.

The schooner Una F. Hart, arrived yesterday from Sambro with 16,000 pounds of fresh fish, which she landed at the North-Atlantic Fisheries wharf.

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