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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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

Vol. III. No. 68.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1916.

Price: 1 Cent.

Big Battles Raging French Russian Fronts

French Keep up Vigorous Bombardment Round Points North-west of Verdun—They Also Hammer German Positions East of Argonne Forest—Russians and Germans Are Hard at Grips Round Vilna With Berlin Claiming Heavy Russian Losses—Italians Capture Austrian Positions in Cordevolo Valley—Artillery Duels Are Reported From Serbo-Greek Front

LONDON, Mar. 25.—It is still in the French and Russian war theatres that the heaviest battles are in progress, but fighting is also continuing along the Austro-Italian zone, Serbia, near the Greek frontier and in Asiatic Turkey. The French are keeping up a vigorous bombardment of the woods at Malancourt and Avecourt, north-west of Verdun, which is held by the Germans. They are hammering away with their guns at the German lines of communication on the eastern fringes of the Argonne forest. To the north-east of Verdun intermittent bombardment by the Germans of French second line positions is still going on, with the French replying energetically. The only infantry encounter along the Western front took place in the Argonne Forest, where the Germans gained a portion of the French first line trenches, but were expelled from it by a counter-attack and lost some 30 men, who were taken prisoners.

All along the Russian front, from the region of Friedland to the district around Vilna, the Russians and Germans are hard at grips. Petrograd says, near Widsy, between Dvinsk and Vilna, the Russians forced all the German lines and barricades, and repulsed a vigorous German counter-attack. Berlin, however, says that here the Russian attacks failed, with heavy losses, before the German entanglements.

Bad weather prevails on the Austro-Italian theatre, but despite a blizzard, the Italians have attacked and occupied Austrian positions in the Cordevolo Valley.

Berlin reports that in the region of Gievgl, on the Serbo-Greek front,

artillery duels have been in progress. The statement does not give the nationalities of the contending batteries.

A defeat of a British force which attacked a Turkish position on the right bank of the Tigris River, near Felahie, is chronicled by Constantinople. The report also says the Turkish airmen have again dropped bombs on Kut-el-Amara, where a British force is under siege.

The Kaiser Soon Due at Vilna

London, March 25.—Newspapers in Petrograd, according to a despatch from that city, publish the report that preparations are being made for the arrival of Emperor William in the near future at Vilna, where he is to supervise the direction of important operations.

Another Neutral Is Torpedoed

London, March 25.—The Norwegian steamer Blaaklakken was torpedoed in the North Sea a week ago while on a voyage from England to Norway, according to a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Four survivors picked up half unconscious off the Dogger Bank by the Norwegian steamer Active were landed at Copenhagen to-day.

Other members of the crew are believed to have perished. The Blaaklakken was a small vessel of 280 tons, built in 1914 and owned in Bergen.

New Prefect

Rome, March 25.—Pope Benedict has appointed Cardinal Domenico Serafini to be Prefect of the sacred congregation of the Propaganda.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

List Imports Prohibited is Long One

Proclamation Prohibiting Certain Imports After March 30 Will Be Issued Soon—Certain Goods Now Contracted For Are Allowed in Under License

LONDON, Mar. 25.—A lengthy extension of articles of importation, which are prohibited, and which was forecasted by Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, in an interview with the Associated Press last week, was announced to-night by the Board of Trade.

The Board gave notice that a proclamation will be issued shortly, prohibiting, after March 30th, the importation of the following goods:—Baskets, basketware (except of bamboo), cement, cloisonne wares, cotton yarn, cotton piece goods, cotton manufactures of all kinds (except nosiers), lace, cutlery, fatty acids, furniture, manufactures, joinery, and other wood manufactures (except lacquered ware) hardware, hollow ware, oilcloth, soap, toys, game playing cards, wood timber, beech, birch, elm and oak, and woollen worsted manufactures of all kinds (except yarns).

The importation of these goods will be allowed only under a license, but the Board of Trade states that such licenses will generally be granted only for goods on the way to the United Kingdom or goods actually purchased when the notice is issued.

Irish Papers Seized

Dublin, March 25.—The military civil police yesterday visited the publishing offices and seized copies of five Irish publications. In some cases they dismantled the printing machinery. This step was taken on the ground of disloyalty.

In Sporting Circles

New York, March 25.—In same ring here to-night two world's champions successfully defended titles. Freddie Welsh, lightweight title holder, scored a technical knockout over Frank Whitney of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; while Johnny Kilbane, featherweight champion, defeated Harry Donohue of Peoria, Ills.

Rumours

NEW YORK, Mar. 24.—A news agency despatch from Amsterdam to-day says, Flushing correspondents of an Amsterdam newspaper to-day reported rumours of heavy firing in the Channel from the direction of Ostend and Westende.

Allies Have Declined Lansing's Proposal

WASHINGTON, Mar. 24.—The Entente Allies, replying individually to Secretary of State Lansing's suggestion for the disarmament of all merchant ships, have declined the proposal.

Dominion Liner Sunk

LONDON, Mar. 24.—The steamer Englishman, of the Dominion Line, has been sunk, according to Lloyd's. It is stated that, thus far, sixty-eight survivors have been accounted for. The last record of the steamer Englishman shows that she sailed from Portland, Maine, on Feb. 17th for St. Nazaire and Avonmouth.

May Be; But

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Mar. 24.—Reports from Mexican sources that Villa had been defeated by the American and Mexican troops at Elizoar near Maminiquia, were accepted to-day by Major General Funston as probably true, although no confirmation by General Pershing had been received.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, Mar. 24 (Official).—The enemy exploded mines last night and to-day near Culinchy, just north of LaBassée Canal. No damage. We bombarded hostile trenches south of Comines Canal.

LONDON, Mar. 24.—Reorganization of the British forces in Egypt, following the satisfactory turn of affairs, it is officially announced this evening. The War Office statement says: "The military position in Egypt being satisfactory, owing to the failure of attempts by the Turks on the west frontiers, reorganization of the forces of that country have been effected. General Sir A. Murray has assumed sole command in Egypt, General Sir E. Maxwell left for England to-day."

London, March 25.—A British expeditionary force campaigning against German East Africa is making further progress with aggressive operations, according to an official statement issued to-night. General Smuts is in charge of operations and reported the occupation of Arusha and driving the Germans from their line along Ruwu River. Field Marshal Kitchener, Secretary of War, has telegraphed his congratulations to the Commander General.

OFFICIAL FRENCH

PARIS, Mar. 24 (Official).—Bombardments by French and Germans of positions in the woods of Malancourt and Avecourt, both on the German and French positions, on all sides of Verdun, continue, according to a French official to-night. No infantry action has taken place except in the Argonne Forest, where the Germans entered the first line of French trenches, but were immediately expelled with the loss of some men taken prisoners.

PARIS, Mar. 24, via St. Pierre, Mar. 25.—In Argonne, at Vauquois, following a mine explosion, the enemy succeeded in gaining a footing in our first line, but was immediately dislodged by our counter-attack, which secured us thirty prisoners. We still keep up a destructive fire on the German lines, convoys and roads in eastern Argonne. North of Verdun there

is nothing to report, but there is an intermittent cannonade along our lines east and west of the Meuse. Our batteries are joining in most vigorously. North of St. Mihiel, our long-range batteries struck a German convoy train, causing an explosion.

Shackleton Back Antarctic Trip ---Ship Adrift

Reaches the Ross Sea Base When Party Intended to Embark on Aurora for New Zealand—Aurora Goes Adrift While Party of Ten Were on Shore—Explorer Has Apparently Achieved his Purpose of Crossing the South Pole—Present Appearance Indicate Party Will Have to Spend Another Year in Antarctic Regions

LONDON, Mar. 25.—Lieutenant Sir Ernest Shackleton arrived at his base on the Australian side of the Antarctic Continent, apparently having achieved his purpose of crossing the South Pole. Report from Sydney, N.S.W. announced the arrival of the expedition at the Ross Sea base. Later despatches, however, make it appear that the explorer and most of his party will have to spend another year in the Antarctic regions, because of an accident to the expedition ship, in command of Lieutenant Aeneas Mackintosh, which had been in the Ross Sea awaiting Shackleton's arrival. Sydney reports that the Aurora had broken from her moorings and gone adrift. If this report is true, probably Lieutenant Shackleton and his party have remained at the Ross Sea base until a relief ship comes to their rescue.

LONDON, Mar. 24.—Lady Shackleton has received no news of the expedition except the press bulletin announcing that the Aurora had gone adrift. She was greatly distressed, as this means that she cannot receive news from her husband for another

Earl Derby's Resignation Demanded

Married Men Hold Big Meetings Over the Country Protesting Against Derby Scheme of Calling up Married Men While Single Men Are Available

Manchester, March 25.—Earl Derby's resignation as Director General of Recruiting, was demanded by a resolution passed at a meeting of married men who have attested under the Derby scheme. The meeting was held for the purpose of protesting against married men being called to the colors before all available single men had joined the army. The speakers called upon Earl Derby and Premier Asquith to fulfill their pledge that every available single man whose work could be done by married men or by women would be called up. They also demanded that there be general recognition of decisions of recruiting tribunals medical certificates regarding single men throughout the country. A similar meeting of protest was held simultaneously in other cities.

To Adjust Complaints Made by Neutrals

LONDON, Mar. 25.—As a result of complaints from the United States and other neutrals over the delays which shipping suffers from the operation of the blockade, the Government has appointed a committee of inquiry, headed by Viscount Peel, with authority to make all necessary recommendations for reform, if any be found necessary.

A hood of tin which fits over a rooster's head and neck in such a way to prevent chanticleer's hearing the dawn has been invented.

There were 30 Americans aboard the Sussex, which left Folkestone yesterday, shortly after noon, in clear weather. She proceeded without incident until 4.30, when she was struck amidships and a crash followed. Several hands in the engine-room were badly injured. Wireless messages brought help from both sides of the Channel, and it was thought all the passengers were rescued. Fear of mines and torpedoes, has caused special precautions to be taken by Channel boats during the last few days, and owing to their tight draught it had been generally thought they were safe from torpedoes.

LONDON, Mar. 25.—"I think it is probable there were a number of Americans among the passengers on the Sussex," said Robert P. Skinner, American Consul-General in reply to a question by the Associated Press, "because during the last few days my office received passports for many Americans going to France." Both the American Embassy and Consulate-General said there were rumors that the Sussex had been torpedoed, but neither had received any details.

The Brighton Railroad to-night issued the following account of the accident to the Sussex, sailing under the French flag, on the Dieppe-Folkestone service, which met with a mishap somewhere off Dieppe, on her passage to-day: "There were 386 passengers aboard and a crew of about 50, but it is impossible at present to give further particulars, as no passenger list is available. At 8.30 o'clock this evening the vessel was still afloat in charge of a tug. It is assumed, therefore, that all the passengers were saved. The Sussex left Folkestone at 1.20 o'clock this afternoon, flying the French flag, and met with a mishap somewhere off Dieppe at seven o'clock to-night. When the alarm signal was sent out, a number of vessels in the vicinity hurried to her assistance, while others rushed under full steam from Dieppe Harbor."

The Sussex is owned by the French State Railroads, but is managed by

Channel Steamer Towed Boulogne Badly Damaged

Steamer Sussex Bound From Folkestone for Dieppe, France, Meets With Mishap off Latter Port—Several Lives Lost by Explosion—Had Some Thirty Americans Aboard—In all 386 Passengers—Wireless Messages Brought Help From Many Quarters—Steamer Was Owned by French State Railroads

LONDON, Mar. 24.—It is reported that a cross-Channel passenger boat from Folkestone to Dieppe, was sunk this afternoon. Nothing is obtainable as yet from any reliable quarter here concerning the Folkestone boat, but she is understood to have been carrying 240 civilian passengers in addition to a crew of 60 men. It is rumored that the steamer sank at four o'clock this afternoon. The Continental traffic office on the Brighton railroad says that according to a report received by it, all persons on board the steamer were saved, and that the vessel is still afloat.

LONDON, Mar. 24.—The Central News says that the steamer was the Sussex, and that she was torpedoed off Beachy Head. The Agency gives the number of passengers as 380, few of whom were British. The vessel was under the command of Capt. Moffett, while the crew numbered, mostly French.

LONDON, Mar. 24.—Later report says that the Sussex is still afloat in charge of a tug.

LONDON, Mar. 25.—The cross-Channel steamer Sussex was seriously damaged yesterday afternoon near Boulogne this morning. Information received at Dover states that some lives were lost by the explosion, which caused damage to her, a few of the rescued passengers being brought to Dover, but the majority of those who were taken off the steamer by rescuing vessels, will be landed in France.

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The Sussex is owned by the French State Railroads, but is managed by

the Brighton Railroad. Before the war she was employed on the night service between Newhaven and Dieppe but following the outbreak of hostilities, the run was changed.

Two More Ships Sunk

LONDON, Mar. 24.—Another Danish steamship has been sunk, the Christiansund, 1,017 tons. Crew saved. The British steamship Fulmar, 1,270 tons, is also sunk. Crew rescued.

WHERE'S MURPHY?

With the brave Australian troops who so distinguished themselves in the Gallipoli fighting was a stretcher-bearer with the Irish cognomen Murphy, who was himself killed in the discharge of his duties in the wounded at the announcement of the heroic Anzac stretcher-bearer's death on duty's path, a sergeant answered the question, "Where's Murphy?" by the words, "Murphy's at the Gate of Heaven, helping the soldiers through."

Day after day he had journeyed Where hillsides and valleys were red, Striving to succour the wounded, Closing the eyes of the dead, Cheery, and dauntless, and loyal, They called him the sufferers' friend; 'Twas "Murphy," when happy-go-lucky, 'Twas "God bless you, Jack," at the end.

"Bring your donkeys along here, old fellow, I'm thirsting and wounded full sore, Oh, it's you that's God's own stretcher-bearer— There was never your like on the shore!" Down through the dark rain of shrapnel, Safely his burdens delivered, Back again, swiftly, he turns.

Bravely the dumb beasts beside him Fight every inch of the way, Struggling for footing, and holding— Victors, they too, in the fray. Here, on the side of the mountain, Tremulous voices are heard; "Can't beat good old Murphy for sure needs. He speaks like the wing of a bird.

And ever and ever did Murphy Toll on through the dust and the heat, Bringing to shelter and safety All to whom living was sweet; Death sheathed his sword as he passed, and him.

Love gave his "Victoria Cross," Unknowning, unmindful, he hurried Through War's day of grim "pitch-and-toss."

But there came the lone hour when the wounded, Lying moaning and writhing in pain, For the sturdy and brave stretcher-bearer Cried out to the heavens in vain. "Where's 'Murphy'?" Oh, hasten his coming! Where's 'Murphy'? What keeps him so late?" (Ah, poor stricken lads of the trenches, Love stay not the bullet of Fate!)

"Where's 'Murphy'?" the night hears them calling, "Where's 'Murphy'?" The dawn their cry— Last question on lips of the dying, Which never on earth had reply, "Where's 'Murphy'?" There's no one to answer; Yet, hush!—there's a step and a word— One word with an infinite meaning, By the living with sympathy heard.

A sergeant's eyes grow misty, Then his voice rings clear and true! "Murphy's at the Gate of Heaven, Helping the soldiers through."

—Marion Miller Knowles

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