

GOSSIP ON KAISER'S ILLNESS

Very Conflicting Reports as to Appearance of Emperor.

Some Say That War Has Made Him Ten Years Younger.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 19—A London cable to The Herald says:

The description that different correspondents have given of the Kaiser has aroused an interest—one might almost say curiosity—in the present condition of the man who is reported to have been seriously ill.

He has been described as a broken old man. His hair has grown white with anxiety. He has dyed it; he has been too agitated to dye it; both versions are current. His aspect is haggard, almost maniacal. His eyes are reported to have shined off his terrible mustachios. Earlier reports, however, represented him as bearded but found too little credence to persevere. This may be described as the triple entente view of the German Emperor.

A very different Kaiser is pictured by German and Austrian and even Italian writers. Baron Von Skoda, a name made almost as famous as Krupp by the efficient Austrian motor howitzers—recently made a trip to the German headquarters and dined with the Emperor. He communicated his impressions to the Neue Freie Presse of Vienna. He said he found the Kaiser in the best of health and looking extremely fit. The rumors of his ill health and of his hair having turned grey he dismissed as idle invention. Every day the Kaiser was occupied with exhausting work and he executed it with surprising elasticity and energy.

An Italian journalist bore similar witness in the Giornale D'Italia. He saw the Kaiser several times after the start of the war. He wrote as follows: "Each time he was struck by the hard, flinty tragic look on his face, in which not a nerve quivered even at the most enthusiastic ovation and which did not evince even the slightest sign of weariness. The Kaiser, whom the British and French papers describe as an elderly broken down man, makes, on the contrary, the impression of having grown ten years younger.

Baron Von Skoda's trip to see the Kaiser was not simply to write a pen picture for the Vienna press. The Baron is head of one of the greatest armament factories in the world—the Skoda works in Pilsen—and armament makers never lose an opportunity of making hay while the sun shines. It would be surprising if Baron Von Skoda's trip to German headquarters was unconnected with the provision of guns. Certainly he wrote like an enthusiastic commercial traveler.

In Berlin twenty-five hospitals have been improvised with accommodation for about 20,000 wounded, says the British medical journal. Such buildings as are one erected for the Olympic games have been converted into hospitals to cope with the thousands of wounded. Factories, museums, picture galleries and the like have been transformed into hospitals, where sculptures and paintings have had to give place to the wounded. The severely wounded are conveyed singly from the station to these hospitals in motor ambulances, and a constant stream of which is to be seen daily in and about Berlin. Many of utter weariness and collapse. A Berg were in a miserable condition after the long railway journey. In many cases they had not taken their clothes off for several weeks, and they left on the mind an impression of utter weariness and collapse. A shortage of gauze and gun cotton wool is already imminent.

AERO RAID.

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—(Via London)—Two of the allies' aeroplanes flew over Saarburg, Lorraine, at midnight Thursday and dropped ten bombs, which killed a Uhlan corporal and a cavalryman and severely wounded a servant girl. The material damage done in the town was considerable. The aviators also threw two bombs at the railroad station at Rieding, and two bombs at the village of Heming.

The expenditure of the Department of Works in Toronto during the past year amounted to \$10,906,188. The Workmen's Compensation board has notified manufacturers that the assessment rates to be charged under the new compensation act.

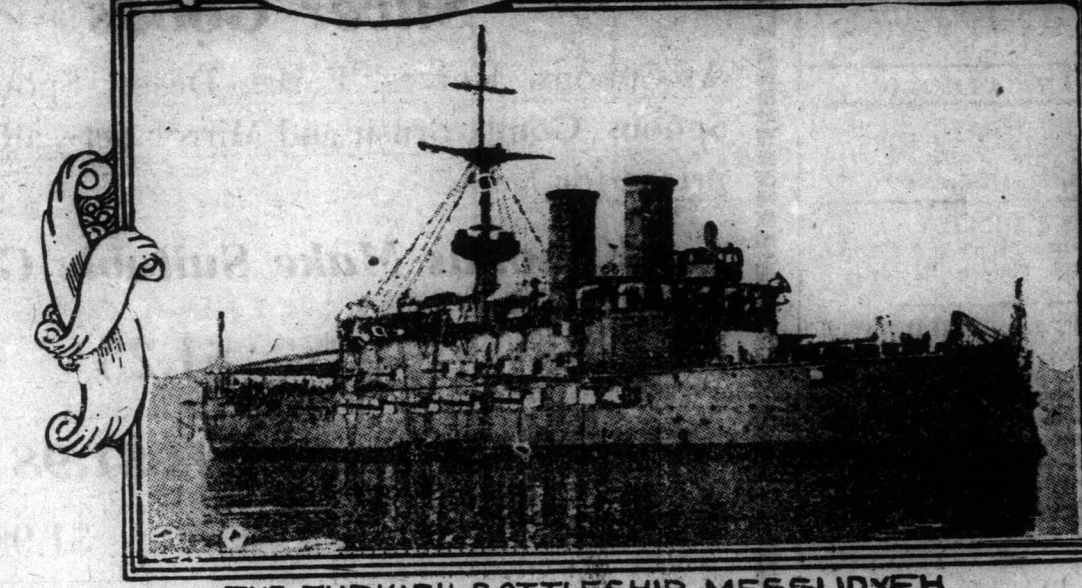
BRITISH SUBMARINE THAT BRAVED CHAIN OF MINES AND SUNK TURKISH BATTLE SHIP.



THE BRITISH SUBMARINE, B-11



SCENE OF BRITISH SUBMARINE EXPLOIT



THE TURKISH BATTLESHIP MESSUDIEH

Even greater than the rejoicing which followed the victory of Vice Admiral Sir Frederick C. D. Sturdee in the South Atlantic was the measure of enthusiasm throughout the United Kingdom which greeted the official announcement of the daring exploit of the British submarine B-11.

With the stealth of a panther and daring which surpasses everything hitherto recorded in British naval history, the B-11, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Norman B. Holbrook, of the Royal Navy, braved destruction by five separate chains of mines laid in the most treacherous of currents and sent the Turkish battleship Messudieh to the bottom of the Dardanelles.

As a just reward for their intrepidity Lieutenant Commander Holbrook and his crew escaped in their submerged craft, running the gauntlet of heavy gunfire from other war ships of the Turkish fleet and the shore forts.

Elusive as a living thing, the submarine diver manoeuvred, came to the surface and dived again, finally escaping unharmed from the guns, pursuing

destroyers and difficult currents. On one occasion she was under water several hours.

Although her torpedo thrust did not take such toll in human life as did

of the German submarine U-9, which sent the British cruisers Creesy, Aboukir and Hogue to their doom off Heligoland in September, the B-11's feat is regarded in England as much

greater. The raid by the U-9, however, was made in the open sea, in home waters, where the danger from mines was all on the side of her victims.

The feat of the B-11 has served to convince the British public of one fact concerning which there might have been a lingering doubt. It is that the efficiency of the British submarine is as great as that of the German, and that when opportunity presents itself the British commanders may be relied upon to dare as great dangers as have hitherto been dreamed of.

BLUFF IS CALLED RE THE GAOL

County Council Asks Inspector Smith to Prove Assertions.

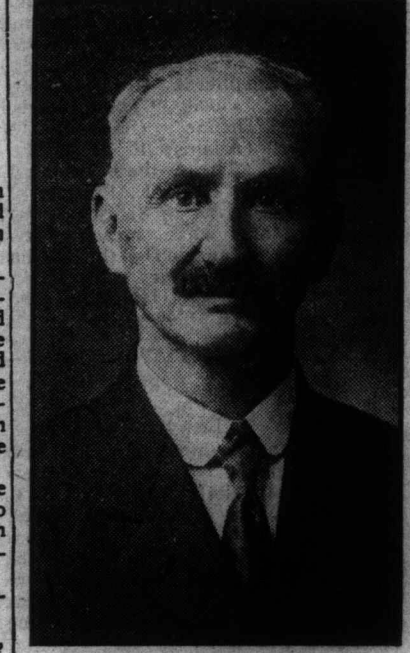
Conditions Not at All as Bad as Painted in the Report.

In the matter of Dr. R. Bruce Smith's condemnation of the Brant County gaol, the County Council does not propose to let the inspector get away with the raps that he so liberally applied on the alleged structural defects of the institution. Dr. Smith has been in the habit for some time of condemning certain features of the gaol and the habit apparently has grown with time. His last report was such as to lead to a vigorous inspection by the County Council committee, the result of which follows. The committee practically asks the inspector to prove his statements, otherwise the Government should take steps to prevent what is considered a serious reflection on the humanitarian principles which govern this community.

THE COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the committee is as follows: To the Warden and Councilors of the County of Brant, Gentlemen:—Your committee, to whom was referred the report of Dr. R. W. Bruce Smith, Inspector of Gaols, on his inspection of the Brantford gaol on November 24th last, beg to report as follows:

At the request of your committee, the whole Council visited the gaol



WILLIAM MILMINE, Brant County's retiring Warden, whose honorarium for a year's hard work goes to Charity and Red Cross

and thoroughly inspected the same. As a result of the inspection by the Council, your committee consider that so far as could be ascertained by such inspection, many of the statements contained in the inspector's report are not substantiated by the facts, as the gaol was not in a "wretched condition" as stated by the inspector. As the Inspector has several times used very strong language in connection with the condition of this gaol, and each time, the council on inspecting the gaol felt that the Inspector's report was in many ways a misstatement of the actual conditions in the gaol, your committee feel that steps should be taken to have the Inspector either verify his charges or that such charges should be discontinued, as it is detrimental to the best interests of the public that the Inspector should continue to issue reports in connection with the Brantford gaol as he has done in the past. With this object in view your committee would recommend that the council take steps to have the gaol inspected by representatives of the city council, the members of Parliament representing the county, and such other prominent ratepayers of the county, as the council may select, with the object of thoroughly discussing the situation, and if in the opinion of such a deputation it is deemed advisable that the Honorable Mr. Hanna, the head of the department, having control of this matter, should be asked to consider the situation himself.

Your committee desires to express the opinion that the question as to whether a Prison Farm in connection with the county is or is not advisable, is not one that should be dealt with or urged by the Gaol Inspector, that

ALLIES RECAPTURE ROULERS SAYS UNOFFICIAL DESPATCH

British Troops Are Also Fighting the Enemy in the Streets in the Outskirts of Lille.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A despatch from Northern France to the Chronicle dated Friday, Dec. 18, says: "A week of successes for the allies has followed the resumption of hostilities in France and Flanders. Roulers has been captured after our fierce assaults on German trenches outside the town. Incursions between Dixmude and Nieuport have been surrounded by allied troops, who have pushed northward from Dixmude and southwards from Nieuport and joined forces on the northeastern side of the floods. Repeated bayonet attacks have been pushed home at Lombaertzyde with the result that four patrols have advanced to Middlekerke, a few kilometres from Ostend.

"The fighting on the borders of the flooded area was particularly furious. The Belgians advanced towards the entrenched positions of Germans at Oosterkerke, but were driven back by the well posted mitrailleuses of the enemy. Three times they rallied to charge, and three times they were repulsed. The fourth assault, however,

crowned the gallantry of the Belgians with success, and the trenches were carried at the point of the bayonet.

"So interwoven were the allied and German trenches in this region that the defeat of the enemy at Oosterkerke was responsible for the capture of nearly 1000 German prisoners. They were caught in parties varying from thirty to three hundred in number.

"For a time the reckless dash of two armored auto cars into the Belgian lines nearly saved the situation for them. The cars fired with deadly effect until they were compelled to withdraw.

"The wounded are beginning to arrive at the base hospitals. The German casualties are reported to be very heavy. "Our sweeping offensive has been no less successful to the south. The French and British troops have arrived at the gates of Lille. Fierce bayonet fighting in the streets of this great industrial city is reported, and a general withdrawal of the main German forces to Tourcoing and Roubaix has taken place."

NOT MARKING TIME, ALLIES ON THE MOVE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 19.—It would be a mistake to imagine that the allies are marking time. On the contrary, Lieut. Col. Rousset says in the "Liberte," notwithstanding the inaction of the official bulletins, it is clear that the Franco-Anglo-Belgian forces all along the front from Alsace to the North Sea are making continuous progress.

"Ypres has been free from pressure by the enemy," he says, "and Arras is on the point of being completely freed. Yet these two places, we were assured by despatches from Holland,

but 'made in Germany,' were to be the centres of a new and furious offensive movement."

Lieut. Col. Rousset's view, summed up in that the "war is progressing remarkably well for the Allies, not only in France, but also in Poland, where the latest news shows the Russians have the Germans in their grip."

A complimentary, non-partisan reception and banquet was tendered to Hon. Wm. H. Hearst, Premier of Ontario, at his old home town, Tara, in Bruce county.

More Battery Men Leave For Service

Again the 32nd Battery commanded by Col. Ashton has responded with more men for active service. They will leave on the 11.40 car for Hamilton, and then go to Toronto where they will be attached to the battery now in training. The new roll of honor has these names to it:

- GR. A. C. HARVEY—44 Emily St., age 38, 38th Dufferin Rifles, corporal 3 years. GR. EDGAR STORER, 15 Gordon Street, age 40, 3rd Bedford regiment, Central and South African campaigns, Ladysmith siege. GR. HORACE UNDERWOOD, 102 Terrace Hill Street, Age 19, 38th Dufferin Rifles, 25th Brant Dragoons, 2 1/2 years signaller. GR. ALBERT HOUGHTING, 185 Rawdon street, age 38, no former service. This unit has since its inception responded nobly to the call for active service men, no battery in Ontario has a finer record.

LOST 100 LIVES

[By Special Wire to the Courier] ATHENS, via London, Dec. 19.—Semi-official announcements is made here that 100 lives were lost, including some German officers, when the Turkish battleship Messudieh, which was torpedoed by a British submarine sank in the Dardanelles. The fact that the Turkish battleship, Messudieh had been torpedoed by a British submarine, was made public by the British official bureau on Dec. 14. The work was accomplished by Lieutenant Norman B. Holbrook in charge of submarine B-11. He took his little ship into the Dardanelles and dived under five rows of mines before he discharged the fatal torpedo into the Messudieh, which was stranding the mine fields.

TEN CANADIAN MISSIONARIES HAVE ARRIVED FROM TURKEY

Were Subjected to Many Indignities in Their March From the Interior—Military Guards Surround Them As They Slept.

BERLIN, Ont., Dec. 19.—After laboring in the interior of Turkey for five years, Rev and Mrs Daniel Eby, of the United Orphanage and Missionary Society, have returned to Canada, being forced to do so by Turkey's entrance in the war. They are staying with relatives here and in an interview to-day the missionaries related the thrilling experiences and narrow escapes which accompanied their departure six weeks ago. They were stationed at Hadjin, having charge of an orphanage. The trip from the interior was made to the sailing port on horseback and detachments by military authorities were harsh and frequent. Military guards with fixed bayonets surrounded them as they slept and at every point they

were harassed. It was only through the good influence of the United States Consul that they succeeded in reaching an immigrant steamer. At the outbreak of war Mr Eby declared the government seized everything it desired. Merchants buried their wares and treasures to evade confiscation. Confusion reigned everywhere. Army officers would give drastic orders to civilians and foreigners and then deny having given them when formal protests were made by the United States.

Mr. Eby's impression was that the Turkish soldiers did not want to fight. Repeatedly they saw men in ranks of marching armies being whipped into line. The Canadian mission party numbered ten and all escaped.

GREAT VICTORY IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

[By Special Wire to the Courier] NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A cable to the Herald from London this morning says: "The scene of the reported victory in Poland, which caused such a great celebration in Berlin on Thursday night, and yesterday, when even the school children were given a holiday to join in the demonstrations, remains

shrouded in mystery. Nothing from Berlin or Vienna localizes the battle, provides details of the fighting or gives any tangible results. Despatches from Amsterdam still further cloud the situation by quoting Berlin newspapers as expressing their disappointment that in announcing a decisive victory no battlefields were mentioned and no information of any kind on which to base a report of the event had been offered.

THE KIDDIES' CHRISTMAS

Now is Your Chance to Help—Organized Effort to Give Good Cheer to Little Ones Who Might Miss the Joys of Yuletide.

"Though I am trafficking hard at the mobilization camp, at Toronto, I have not forgotten the good people in Brantford, and I would like to contribute to the Kiddies Christmas Tree fund." This letter, together with a subscription was received from Mr. H. Ellins, who is training with the 38th, with the 19th. Battalion of the 2nd. Overseas contingent. There is no appeal so far reaching as one to help the children, and if there are any deserving kiddies in Brantford that are overlooked this Christmas, it is because they or their friends have not taken the trouble to send the names to the committee. Readers are reminded that the names and ages of the children must be given or suggestions cannot be considered at this late date. It will be impossible for the com-

mittee to make many more personal investigations, but citizens may still have the names of children whom they know to be deserving, added to the list, but the recommendation must be signed by the writer as a guarantee of good faith. This is important. The committee want to provide for as many deserving cases as possible, but citizens must send in complete information of any cases they wish given attention. This morning Mr. Messecar, Manager of the Brantford Cordage Company, phoned to state that his firm and the employees had contributed \$25.00 for the Kiddies Christmas Tree fund, and that cheque for this amount was being sent in. This will bring the

(Continued on Page 6)

ONLY MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS IF WISHES WUZ REINDEERS W'D ALL BE SANTY CLAUS

VECTROLA... \$20... Settles question... "What to give?" is best answered by a Victrola.

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