

Isn't it sad to think of a man who claims under knowledge of which able to distinguish different brands. This is an easy one for anybody but we have no desire to be informed from experience, you Grasy was on Tuesday he gave us understand that the wish between Scotch Whiskeys. The painful admission a ment shown by some sence was evidence of the community are grave on the serious We hope the young own sake, will soon

FROM FLANDERS

Send the boys letter parcels; send them home. They appreciate little acts, and they can always work better than the boys' spirits. Look at the send home; see how gloat over the tur pudding, they feast trenches. They talk things, and the such events gives spirits that will fight. Pte. Falk an exception, he is of the ordinary. He soldier, and withal boy, He looks for ment, just as other likes to tell what he likes to know what home, and the little however insignificant appear to us are him. Here's a letter parents from the glad to see him. "I received your days ago, pleased all well, and glad all well here. I received quite a letters today. Some and Bertha in Toronto from Thos. Coolace. You may be pleased boy, to see not forget me. So shall nose, I was a not come through, authorities are very things like that. He over from England to come. Am sorry to say not turned up yet. ing out for it and sure it won't last very it lands here. I see by the paper Canada is going to men for overseas. they may succeed the men very bad. I expect it will be some though, to rail as the average can realize the danger. We are in a rest, enjoying a well at our horses are pick top, so we have not as we generally have lated in a large, quite comfortable. So I see that the likely to start an in Egypt, well, I if they would move else now, as we see in the Flanders m. Of course we do t are, we will do what ever front the now, and are begin move, but expect t comes we will mo for we are expect when the warm w Have not seen Jo long time now. I from him today. I and dandy, and I me, so I am going lop over to see him. I expect there will few soldiers now and Mt. Forest, who were a curiosity. lough before Chris days, Nelson Cam me, we had a gre one day in London, curiosity shop, the famous London o ham palace, and other places. The days at Selby, w and brother, then zia, then to Barns Tom and aunt. Th to see our cousin Newcastle to see a wounded and sent back to Selby and light train, and the mid shells and sh Well, I must st ordered back to the au revoir." Januar "Well, here I am finish my letter. I letter again yester that box. And my everything in it w

GERMAN OFFENSIVE FROM BELGIUM TO THE VOSGES

Enemy Launching Terrific Attacks Which Are Meeting With No Success—Russians Make Gains

The Germans, attacking along the whole line from Flanders to Champagne, claim to have penetrated the allies' lines at five different points. At three points the attackers were again expelled, but at one point in Flanders and at another in Champagne they claim to have maintained their gains. All reports indicate terrific and repeated attacks, with the Germans mainly on the offensive in the infantry actions. The most violent fighting occurred around Hill 140, in Artois. West of this height the Germans launched five desperate attacks. The final assault carried the Germans through the French first line defences. The French immediately launched a counter-attack, which drove the Germans out with heavy losses in dead and wounded. Five successive counter-attacks also were made by the Germans in an effort to retrieve the trenches lost to the French northeast of Butte-du-Mesnil, in Champagne. All were repulsed. The British official report stated that a German attack on the Pilkem road penetrated the British line, but the foe was driven out by bombing parties. Later two small infantry attacks were repulsed. North of the Ypres-Comines Canal an underground fight took place, resulting in the enemy being driven back, our miners successfully firing their charge. In Belgium, after quite a violent artillery preparation, the Germans several times attempted to cross the Yser Canal at the Steenstraete heights and at Het-Sas. Under the combined fire of allied artillery and machine guns these attempts failed.

Russians Continue to Gain

In pursuit of the retreating Turks, the Russians have won additional successes in the Caucasus, near Erzerum, where their troops, advancing through deep snow and encountering a temperature sometimes 25 below zero, have forced almost inaccessible passes and took prisoner dozens of Turkish officers, and over 700 Turkish regular soldiers. They captured seven guns, many machine guns, and a quantity of ammunition wagons, stores and cattle. After a bombardment of the forts of Erzerum, which is being besieged, a violent explosion occurred in one of the forts. The Russian force operating southeast of Erzerum dislodged the Turks from a position near Khynyskala and occupied the Town of Khopy after fighting a successful engagement. This fighting is about 50 miles distant from Erzerum, and it is on the road to Mush. The Russians have also occupied the Town of Duletabad, near Hamadan, in Persia.

Air Raids in Italy

Austrian aeroplanes made a raid over Ravenna and the neighboring towns of Codogno and Bottrighe, in northeastern Italy, near the Adriatic. A Havas despatch from Rome says 15 persons were killed and a number of others wounded. Several women and children were injured. A hospital and the Basilica of Santo Apollinare, at Avavenna, were damaged. The Church of Santo Apollinare was erected in the years 532-538 and was consecrated in 549 by St. Maximilian.

French Cruiser Missing

The following official statement was given out at Paris: "The Ministry of Marine fears for the fate of the cruiser Amiral Charner, which has been patrolling the Syrian coast. No news has been received from the cruiser since Feb. 8, when, according to a German telegram, a submarine sank a French warship."

Activity at Zeebrugge

The Amsterdam telegraph says the German scout vessels in the North Sea are believed to have gone out of Zeebrugge, as it is known armed trawlers are stationed there, and that some vessel, which formerly was not at that port have been lying there under steam.

German Gunboat Sunk

A despatch received from the Belgian forces operating on Lake Tanganyika, Africa, says the German gunboat Hedwig Von Wissmann has been sunk in a naval combat off Albertville. Two of the German crew were killed. The remainder of the men on board the gunboat were made prisoners.

Separate Peace Sought by Bulgaria

A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, from its correspondent in Athens, says that it is confirmed in eulentic circles that Bulgaria has made overtures to the entente allies for a separate peace. According to a despatch from Vienna, via Amsterdam, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria will arrive there Monday for a short visit to Emperor Francis Joseph.

Danish Neutrality Broken

A Copenhagen despatch says that a German aeroplane has passed near Copenhagen. The Danish Government has instructed its Minister at Berlin to protest to the German Government. According to a Reuter despatch, it circled twice over the city at a height of 3,000 feet, disappearing over the harbor and navy yard.

Rioting in China

Tokio despatches state that the Chinese rebels who advanced from Yunnan Province into Sze-Chuen and captured Luchow and Chung-King have been joined by Government troops.

Berlin Denies German Plot

The charge that a German agent was responsible for the fire that destroyed the Canadian Parliament Buildings at Ottawa is utterly false, the North German Gazette of Berlin, Germany, official organ of the German Government declared. The paper added that the destruction of the buildings by such means would have been a "detestable and nonsensical crime."

The Daily Chronicle : ates that the

Government will immediately requisition all the large whiskey distilleries in the country for use as munitions factories. The Chronicle adds that the Government intends to prohibit the importation of barley for distilling purposes.

CANADIAN TROOPS STILL MAKING PROGRESS

Eye-witness Report Covering Week's Fighting Tells of Much Activity on Canadian Front

Major-General Sir Sam Hughes has received the following from the Canadian general representative, covering the period Feb. 2-9: "Canadian General Headquarters in France, Feb. 11, via London: On the night of Feb. 4 a patrol of our 10th Western Battalion under Lieut. S. H. Kent and Sergt. Milne discovered a gap in the German outer wire. On reaching the wire they cut a lane right up to the German parapet without attracting attention. Early on the morning of Feb. 5 a strong patrol under Lieuts. Kent, A. H. Trimmer and L. Younger, with Sergt. Milne acting as guide, again approached the enemy's lines at the same point. When within a few yards of the trench a large German working party was observed at work on the parapet and a second enemy working party was discovered still further to the right. While our patrol was engaged in watching the German working parties, an enemy patrol of between 20 and 30 men was detected advancing in close formation. This patrol, which was probably intended to cover the enemy working parties, failed to observe our patrol until almost upon it. It then commenced firing and throwing bombs, but our men rushed in to the attack, using their bombs, bayonets and knobberries. A sharp hand-to-hand tussle ensued, during which five Germans were seized as prisoners. Meanwhile the German working parties took alarm and jumped back into their trench. A number of bombs were thrown into the trench by our men at close range undoubtedly causing a number of casualties. A violent fire of machine guns rifles and bombs was then opened from the enemy trenches in the vicinity, thus adding to the confusion into which the German patrol had been thrown.

Foe Killed by Comrades

Word was passed to our men to retire. It is thought that few, if any, of the German patrol survived the fire from their own trenches. Our casualties were few and of those the majority suffered only slight wounds. Immediately on the return of our patrol, our artillery shelled the enemy front line trenches so effectively that the rifle and machine gun fire soon ceased. During the week of Feb. 2-9 the enemy has been unusually busy repairing his trenches and raising the height of parapets. Our snipers and machine gunners have scattered several enemy working parties and inflicted some casualties. Numerous useful reconnaissances of sections of the enemy's line have been made by our scouts and patrols, spite of large numbers of flares used nightly by the Germans. On three occasions Lieuts. Hooper and Burnham, with Corp. J. R. Holt of our 19th Western Ontario Battalion, reconnoitered a small enemy salient, obtaining useful information. On the night of Feb. 4-5 Lieut. Shepherd, with Corps. Watters and Ford, and a patrol of the 21st Eastern Ontario Battalion, entered a German sap, and in spite of the proximity of enemy sentries, made close examination of the enemy defences. Some German grenades and other articles found in the sap were brought back. On the same night Lieut. Shepherd, with another patrol, investigated a second German sap, and the following night went out and verified his observations.

Artillery Exchanges

The artillery activity has remained average. In retaliation for occasional bombardment of farms and villages in our area, our artillery and trench mortar fire has been concentrated on strong points in the enemy defences in several places the enemy works and parapets have been damaged by our high explosive shells, and a direct hit was obtained on a German grenade gun. Hostile aeroplanes have been unusually numerous over our lines, and on more than one occasion bombs have been dropped without effect close to our trenches and rest billets. As a result of effective patrol work and successful minor operations carried out by units of the Canadian corps, Lieut. S. Dalennes of the 26th Chasseurs, a pier of the French army, has been temporarily attached to our second infantry brigade to observe our methods. A party of five Canadian journalists have arrived in France and arrangements have been made to allow the correspondents to spend a full day and night in the trenches. The weather has been fine and warm. The health of our troops remains excellent."

Germany's Lie Nailed

Sinking of British Cruiser Merely a Piece of Romance

The German Admiralty announced the sinking of the British cruiser "Arabic" and the torpedoing of another cruiser by German torpedo boats in the Dogger Banks, a shallow piece of water in the North Sea, roughly about half way between the coast of Schleswig-Holstein and the British coast region around Newcastle. The German statement adds that the commander of the "Arabic," two officers and 21 men were rescued. The German torpedo boat flotilla suffered no damage or losses, it is claimed. In reply to this statement the British Admiralty asserted officially that the "cruisers" referred to by Berlin were mine sweepers, adding that four craft of that denomination were returned safely. The German Admiralty statement follows: "On the night of Feb. 10 to 11 (Thursday night), in the course of torpedo boat attacks, our boats encountered near Dogger Banks, about 120 nautical miles east of the British coast, several British cruisers, which took flight. Our boats commenced pursuit, sank the new British cruiser Arabic and hit another cruiser with a torpedo. We rescued the commander of the Arabic with two officers and 21 men. We suffered no damage or losses." A Reuter version of the German official report gives the British cruiser's name as "Arabia," instead of "Arabic."

"STATES" ADOPT THE URIAH HEAP ATTITUDE

Trory Humbly Bows Down to Germany's Suggestions—Bluster Ends as Usual in Smoke

The United States will adopt the suggestion of the German Government and warn Americans not to take passage on armed merchantmen. Definite information that this is the intention of President Wilson, and that an announcement to this effect will shortly be made by the State Department, was forthcoming from an authoritative source. In November, 1914, the United States took the position that merchant vessels may carry small guns for defensive purposes. A different position is taken now, inasmuch as developments in submarine warfare have proved since that time that any armament may be used offensively against a submarine.

Discuss the Consequences

In diplomatic circles discussion centred on the probability of the President taking this course and its inevitable consequences. Even the most conservative opinion holds that the resultant situation will involve this country in a controversy with Great Britain and her allies which may easily prove to be the most troublesome and embarrassing any of the United States has yet had to face. No one conversant with the facts in the case goes so far as to forecast anything more serious growing out of the controversy than a loss of foreign trade. But that the United States must expect to suffer seriously in this respect if the German contention as to armed merchantmen is upheld by this Government is considered inevitable by best informed statesmen. This loss, it is pointed out, can be inflicted on American commerce by retaliatory measures which it must be expected the allies will promptly take. If the United States prohibits the clearance from its ports of armed merchantmen the allies may be counted upon to reply by disconting the entrance into American ports of all kinds of their merchantmen. Denied the use of allied merchantmen, which now carry almost all the foreign trade of the United States, the seriousness of the loss may easily be calculated.

THE SECOND WAR BUDGET

Sir Thomas White Announces Few Taxations to be Enforced

Sir Thomas White estimates the profits above the "fair annual return in normal times" which are being reaped by various corporations and companies in Canada at \$100,000,000 to \$120,000,000 per annum. He proposes to take for public purposes \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 of these profits. The taxation on profits will cover the "picnic" from August 4, 1914, when the war began, to August 3, 1917, when it is hoped the war will have ended. "Upon individuals, firms, partnerships and associations" the tax is one-fourth of all profits above ten per cent. per annum when the capital employed is over \$50,000. Upon all incorporated companies—such as banks, railways, trust companies, and commercial and industrial corporations—the tax is one-fourth of all profits above seven per cent. per annum of the capital stock. The minimum capital limitation does not apply to companies which have no orders. Non-Canadian companies will pay pro rata on the profits made from the Canadian end of their business. Insurance companies are required to invest in Dominion bonds and debentures, thus taking a part of the next domestic war loan. They escape the tax on profits. The machinery for collecting the taxes and assessing profits is left entirely in the hands of the Finance Minister. Only two tariff changes are made. The duty on apples is increased by 50 cents per barrel—a protective measure for the British Columbia growers—and illuminating and lubricating oils are made dutiable at half a cent per gallon. The increased duty on oils is estimated at \$500,000 per annum.

Northcliffe Refuses Position

The Daily Mail heads its editorial columns with the following: "Some newspapers and many thousands of correspondents suggest that Lord Northcliffe should be put in charge of the Air Department. Lord Northcliffe's reply is that there are men better able than he to undertake the task. Furthermore, he would not conscientiously take part in a Government that is fighting a defensive rather than an offensive war. He believes it to be instantly necessary to appoint an Air Minister, and he believes that there is no man among the 22 members of the present Cabinet sufficiently informed on the subject to be of any use in the immediate future when the German air offensive, according to all the information which reaches us from Germany, is likely to become much more serious."

Grahame-White Seriously Wounded

Claude Grahame-White, the British aviator, has been wounded gravely, says a French report. No details have been obtained. He was commissioned lieutenant last month. Lieut. Grahame-White, one of the best known aviators, won international prominence several years ago by his spectacular flights in England and America. Lieut. Grahame-White's wife recently obtained a decree for the restitution of her conjugal rights, an action which in England is a preliminary step to a suit for divorce.

Three Ships Torpedoed

Reports of the sinking of two British and one Belgian steamers are current. The British steamship Springwell has been sunk in the Mediterranean while on her way from London to Calcutta. A Reuter despatch to Malta says she was torpedoed without warning. Lloyds reports that the British steamship Cedartwood has been sunk. The Belgian steamer Aduateek of Antwerp has been sunk. Two of the crew were lost.

A LETTER FROM LEMNOS

The following letter from Pte. Pilgrim, a young man well-known in Bentinck, and now at the front and somewhere near Salonica, will be of interest to many. He gives information on physical features of the country that will enable us to see more clearly the difficulties of soldiering. He is hopeful of results:—

"I am writing you a few lines to thank you very much for the paper you sent me. It was a very welcome visitor on this barren island in the far east. It was quite a pleasure for me to read about the folks 'round Durham, Bentinck, and Glenelg, and to know that Durham is growing by leaps and bounds. I notice by your paper that Cecil Wolfe is in Egypt. He was 2nd. Lieut. when I was Color Sergt. of D. Co., 31st Regt. Well, Mr. Irwin we are having some beautiful weather, you can't beat. You can go around in the day time with your shirt sleeves rolled up, and the men go down to the sea and swim every day. It is just like our September weather in Canada.

Well, I must tell you about the internal parts of this island. We are on an island called Lemnos, one of the islands on the Mediterranean sea, where some of the prophets of old may have preached in the days gone by. This is called the Land of the Prophets, being only a few hours ride from Athens, where St. Paul preached his famous sermons. Well, this island is a very rough place, nothing but hills and mountains and dales, and when it is warm weather of course we have the flies with us. You people don't know what flies they are, so numerous, they almost carry away your meals if you don't keep them stowed away, they are here by the millions, clouds of them, especially when we have tam for tea. It is very hard to know whether you are eating jam or flies.

The only fault we have with this island is the bad water, which was the cause of many of our unit getting sick with an ailment called dysentery, which is very prevalent in these eastern countries, and fever is another very bad disease. Well, our unit is situated on the side of a hill on the north of us, and below us is an inlet or a neck of the harbor, and in the far distance is the mountains, the names of which I do not know.

We can also see quite plainly an old volcanic mountain. It is about 1000 feet above the sea level. It is said to have at one time burst out in all its great fury upon the inhabitants of this island for six or seven miles around and threw stones nearly as big as a person's head, so they claim for as many miles as I have mentioned above. It is very mountainous and rough, and a trip through the mountain as a friend and I took one day last summer would convince you. On climbing one of these rocky peaks you will find lots of small vines and small shrubby growing. You will find the common holly growing which is very pretty when they have the red berries on.

Now the kind of people that live in these villages which are quite numerous on this island are mostly Greek people, and they are a very curious looking race. You would simply laugh if you saw the funny way they dress. Their trousers andies and you don't think you have your money's worth all you got to do to get some more is to say Buck-sheash, which means, give me some more, and more or likely give you one nut more or whatever you have purchased and always say Buck-sheash. Well, Mr. Irwin, it is very near Christmas and a year ago I did not think I would be so near to Jesus birth place, helping my country to fight for something, which Jesus came into this world for, that is to give us peace and peace we must have at any cost but not until the disturbers of this world's peace have been so badly defeated that they will never be able to disturb our peace and beat up so many happy homes and murder so many innocent people who were not able

to defend themselves against a cowardly mob of tyrants who have mocked God and deceived man. But thanks be to God, who would easily make two pairs of trousers if they were properly tailored. They wear some kind of a moccasin for a shoe. It is made out of some kind of goat skin and it has a funny kind of an odor. They have no horses of any kind, only a few little donkeys, and if you want to go anywhere you would have to hire one of the Greeks and his donkey, and you have to ride side saddle on this donkey until you come to your destination. Some comfortable riding, believe me, but it is the only conveyance that you can get on this island, as the road through the mountain will only allow a donkey or a man through. All the road there is a foot path. I have very often come across a Greek who has been to America, U. S. A., and has learnt to run a business and made well in America, and has come back here to make a fortune. To tell you the truth at the enormous prices which they charge us for things it won't be long before some of them are millionaires. They are very stingy, and if you buy anything from them, such as nuts or still rules old mother earth and in whose hand the destinies of kings lie, and it is to Him we look for a complete victory as He is always on the right side. Well, as I have said, Christmas will soon be here, and we all expect to enjoy ourselves as best we can although it won't be as merry as it would be at home, but there is no use being pessimistic we must be cheerful, and look for better times to come, and everything will come all right in the near future."

I remain yours truly, George Pilgrim

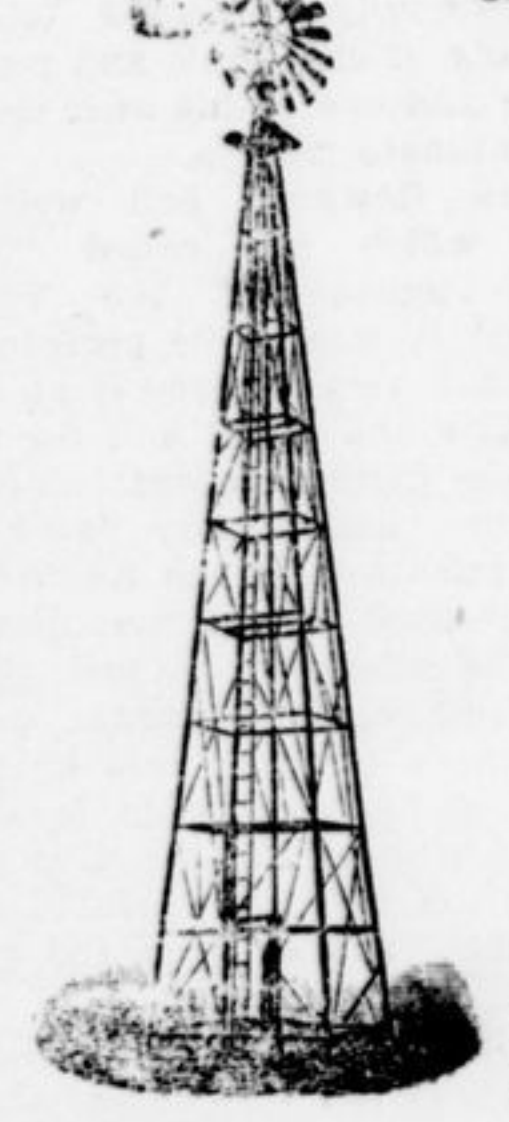
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