ITALIANS TORPEDO LARGE AUSTRIAN DREADNOUGHT AT POLA

One of Austria's Four Big Battleships Sunk by Italian Torpedo Boat—Seaplanes Also Destroyed in Simultaneous Air Fight.

A despatch from Washington says:—The Italian Embassy late on Thursday afternoon received from Rome an official communication confirming the press report of the destruction of an Austrian Dreadnought of the Viribus Unitas type at the Austrian naval base at Pola on Wednesday morning by Italian officers who were able to penetrate the harbor successfully in a small Italian torpedo boat. The message to the Embassy read:

"In the early hours of May 14 Captain Mario da Vignola of Medina, Antonio Milani of Lodi, Francesco Anselmi of Syracuse and Giuseppe Corrias of Cagliari, in a small torpedo boat, with admirable individual spirit of sacrifice and extraordinary military and naval skill eluding the sentinels and searchilghts constantly searching the water, succeeded in penetrating the well protected and fortified military port of Pola and successfully torpedoed a large Austrian Dreadnought of the Viribus Unitas type.

"Simultaneously, Italian seaplane squadrons attacked Austrian battleplanes over Pola, brought down two and forced several others down out of control. The Italian machines all returned safely to their bases."

There are four Austrian battleships of the Viribus Unitas class, which comprised the largest and most modern fighting vessels completed for the Austrian navy up to the time the European war broke out. The other ships of the class are the Tegetthof, the Prinz Eugen and the Ezent Isthvan. The nameship was completed in October, 1912, and the others at intervals between then and the beginning of the war, with the exception of the Szent Isthvan, which was not finished until 1915.

Each battleship of the class displaces 20,000 tons, is 525 feet long over all, 89 feet beam and 28 feet draught. Their armament comprises twelve 12-inch and twelve 5.9-inch guns in the main battery, with eighteen 11-pounders and various smaller guns, and from two to six torpedo tubes. The complement of the battleships ranges from 962 to 988 men. All are heavily armored, and are classed as Dreadnoughts. The Viribus Unitas developed a speed of 20.9 knots on her trial trip.

FIRST AIRPLANE MAIL SERVICE

Inaugurated Between Washington, Philadelphia and New York.

A despatch from Washington says: The first regular air mail service in the world has been successfully launched between Washington, the nation's Capital; Philadelphia, the cradle of American independence, and New York, the metropolis of the nation.

Three of the four airplanes utilized in the inauguration of the service delivered safely, and on time, the mail entrusted to their care. One of three—that which left the Polo grounds in Washington in the presence of President and Mrs. Wilson, Postmaster-General Burleson and other high officials—failed only because of a broken propeller, which forced the machine to land in Maryland after it had made a brilliant flying start from Washington.

PLANT TO REFINE NICKEL AND COPPER.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The contract for the construction of a nickel and copper refining plant at Deschenes, Que., for the British-American Nickel Corporation, calls for completion of the job before the snow flies.

The buildings and machinery will cost over $1,000,000. It is understood that both British and Norwegian interests are back of the scheme.

PAPER FROM SALT MARSH GRASS

If Britain's Experiments Prove Successful Good Supply Will Be Available.

A despatch from London says:—The new regulations limiting the supply of news-print paper and forbidding returns by newsdealers after June 15th, has caused renewed interest in the problem of substitutes. The Controller of Paper Supplies has decided to allow the newspapers of Middlesex, Kent and Surrey to collect waste paper from subscribers for the purpose of tapping a new source of supply.

The Controller also is interested in experiments which are being made with sawdust with the design of remaking old paper with a large percentage of sawdust. Experiments are also being made in the manufacture of paper from salt-marsh grass, which is abundant in the estuaries of the south coast. If these experiments are successful a plentiful supply of material will be available.

37 PLANES DOWNED BY BRITISH IN ONE DAY.

A despatch from London says:—Thirty-seven German airplanes, 25 of which were destroyed, were accounted for by British airmen on Wednesday. The official statement on aerial operations on Thursday night reports a marked increase in the activities of both aerial forces on the western front. The British continue to bombard railway stations and billets behind the German lines.

ITALIANS LAUNCH STRONG OFFENSIVE ON THE ASIAGO PLATEAU

Take Initiative With View To Break Up Arrangements For Teutonic Assault—British Troops Also Defeat Austrians.

A despatch from London says: Among the rugged peaks of the Asiago Plateau, east of the Brenta River, the Italian front has again flamed up into violent action. The aggressive has been taken by the Italians, however, and the Austro-German forces, instead of launching their long-expected assault on the Italian lines, have been compelled to fight hard to maintain the positions where they have stood since last November.

The fighting seems to have centred on the comparatively short section of the battle-line between Monte Asalone and Monte Pertica. These two heights, about three miles apart, rise to an altitude of about 5,000 feet, while between them there is a sort of "saddle" on which the Teuton forces have taken up strong positions. Both the Vienna and Rome officials' statements tell of bitter fighting on this particular front, the latter stating that the Italian soldiers have entered Austrian trenches on Monte Asalone in two places.

The fact that the Italian armies have taken the initiative in the fighting would seem to indicate that they have sought to carry the fighting to the enemy in such a way as to break up any arrangements for the launching of a strong Teutonic assault.

While the fighting has been fierce east of the Brenta, the whole Italian line from Lake Garda to the Piave and thence to the sea has been marked by patrol engagements, in which the British participated, and which appear to be isolated actions, but which may be component parts of a plan of campaign in that theatre of the war. Nowhere have the Italian lines been reached by attacking parties of Austrians.

Germany is Now Menacing Holland.

The above map shows the reasons why both mouths of the Rhine are in Holland and the southern section of Holland forms a barrier between Germany and Belgium.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, May 21.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.23½; No. 2 do., $2.20½; No. 3 do., $2.17½; No. 4 wheat, $2.10½; in store Fort William, including 2½c. tax.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 80¼c; No. 3 C.W., 77¼c; extra No. 1 feed, 77¼c; No. 1 feed, 74½c, in store Fort William.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, kiln dried, nominal; No. 4 yellow, kiln dried, nominal.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 80 to 81c; No. 3 white, 79 to 80c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2. Winter, per car lot, $2.22; basis in store Montreal.

Peas—Nominal.

Barley—Malting, $1.50 to $1.51, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.84 to $1.86, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $2.30, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—War quality, $10.95; new bags, Toronto.

Ontario flour—War quality, $10.65, new bags, Toronto and Montreal freights, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $35; shorts, per ton, $40.

Hay—No. 1. per ton, $16.00 to $17.00; mixed, $14.00 to $15.00, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8.50 to $9.00, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Eggs, new-laid, 41 to 42c; selected, new-laid, 44 to 45c; cartons, 45 to 46c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, 44 to 45c; do., prints 45 to 46c; do., fresh made, 46 to 47c; choice dairy prints, 41 to 42c; ordinary dairy prints, 38 to 40c; bakers', 36 to 38c; oleomargarine (best grade), 32 to 34c.

Cheese—New, large, 23½ to 24c; twins, 23¾ to 24¼c; spring made, large, 25½ to 26c; twins, 26 to 26½c.

Beans—Canadian, prime, bushel, $7.50 to $8.00. Foreign, hand-picked, bushel, $6.75 to $7.00.

Comb Honey—Choice, 16 oz., $3.50 per dozen; 12 oz., $3 per dozen; seconds and dark comb, $2.50 to $2.75.

Maple Syrup—Imperial gallons, $2.25; 5-gallon tins, $2.10 per gallon. Maple sugar, per pound, 24 to 25c.

Provisions—Wholesale

Barrelled Meats—Pickled pork, $49; mess pork, $47.

Green Meats—Out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

Smoked Meats—Rolls, 32 to 33c; hams, medium, 37 to 38c; heavy, 30 to 31c; cooked hams, 49 to 50c; backs, plain, 43 to 44c; backs, boneless, 46 to 48c. Breakfast bacon, 40 to 44c. Cottage, rolls, 35 to 36c.

Dry Salted Meats—Long clears, in tons, 30c; in cases, 30½c; clear bellies, 28 to 28½c; fat backs, 25c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 31 to 32c; tubs, 31¼ to 32¼c; pails, 31½ to 32½c; 1-lb. prints, 33 to 33½c. Shortening, tierces, 26 to 26½c; tubs, 26¼ to 26¾c; pails, 26½ to 27c; 1-lb. prints, 27½ to 28c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, May 21.—Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, 92½c; No. 3, 90c; extra No. 1 feed, 90c: No. 3 local white, 84½c. Flour—New standard Spring wheat grade, $10.95 to $11.05. Rolled oats—Bags, 90 lbs, $5.25 to $5.35. Bran, $35.00. Shorts, $40.00. Middlings, $48.00 to $50.00. Mouillie, $60.00 to $62.00. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17.00.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, May 21.—Extra choice heavy steers, $14.50 to $16.00; choice heavy steers, $13.50 to $14.00; good heavy steers, $13.00 to $13.25; butchers' cattle, choice, $13.25 to $13.75; do., good, $12.00 to $12.25; do., medium, $11.65 to $11.85; do., common, $11.00 to $11.25; butchers' bulls, choice, $12.00 to $13.00; do., good bulls, $11.00 to $11.50; do., medium bulls, $10.25 to $10.50; do., rough bulls, $7.50 to $8.50; butchers' cows, choice, $12.00 to $13.00; do., good, $11.00 to $11.50; do., medium, $10.25 to $10.50; stockers, $9.50 to $11.25; feeders, $11.25 to 12.00; canners and cutters, $6.25 to $7.50; milkers, good to choice, $90.00 to $140.00; do., com. and med., $65.00 to $80.00; springers, $90.00 to $140.00; light ewes, $15.00 to $18.00; lambs, $17.00 to $22.00; calves, good to choice, $14.00 to $16.00; hogs, fed and watered, $21.00; do., weighed off cars, $21.25; do., f.o.b., $20.00.

Montreal, May 21.—Choice steers, $13 to $14; good, do., $12 to $12.50; medium, do., $10 to $12; choice butchers' bulls, $11 to $12; good, do., $10 to $10.50; medium, do., $9 to $10; choice butchers' cows, $11 to $11.50; good, do., $10 to $11; medium, do., $9 to $9.50. Calves—Milk-fed, $12 to $14; good, $8.50 to $11. Sheep—$10 to $13; lambs, $16 to $17. Hogs—Choice selects, off cars, $22; sows, $20 to $20.50.

A British anti-aircraft gun which is playing havoc with German airships in France. Many of these are also in position in England and have been of great value in air raids.

HERO OF THE CLOUDS.

Lieut. Fonck is a Remarkably Cool and Daring Fighter.

Lieut. Fonck, who in one day brought down 6 Hun airplanes and who recently took a leading place among the French aces, was credited unofficially nearly a month ago with having shot down 34 German machines. He is described as a remarkably cool and daring fighter. Recently he fought two German machines in a squadron of eight, felled one of them and put the other to flight.

A year ago Lieut. Fonck was unknown as a fighting aviator. He entered the aerial service as pilot of an airplane regulating artillery fire. After more than 500 hours of flight over the line and two victories over German planes which had interfered with his work, he was sent into a squadron of pursuit planes. Eight days later, on May 13, 1917, he became an ace, being cited officially as having destroyed his fifth airplane. He is 23 years old.

ARMY OF 1,500,000 BEFORE END OF 1918.

A despatch from Paris says:—The United States has promised to have 1,500,000 fighting men in France by the end of 1918, says L'Homme Libre, Premier Clemenceau's newspaper. These troops, it adds, must have their own organization and services, which will mean at least 2,000,000 specialists, workers, men in the quartermaster's department and others.

TO JOIN PALESTINE AND CAIRO BY RAIL.

A despatch from Cairo says: The swing bridge over the Suez Canal at Kantara has been completed, affording direct railway communication from Cairo toward Palestine.

Half of Russia to Remain Untilled.

A despatch from Samara, Russia, says: Less than half the tillable land of European Russia remaining in control of the Bolshevik Government will be cultivated this year. General unrest among the peasants, the unsettled conditions of land distribution, and shortage of seed, horses and agricultural implements are responsible for this condition of affairs.

WEST GETTING NEEDED RAINFALL

General Showers Relieve Anxiety Regarding Crops.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Rains have been fairly general over northern Alberta, northern and central Saskatchewan and western Manitoba, while heavy rains in southern and central Alberta have been followed by a snowstorm. There are indications that the precipitation area will cover southern Manitoba, where it is badly needed. With all the wheat in and a good start on seeding of coarse grains, nothing could be more propitious than a general heavy rainfall. Owing to the very early spring and the dry March the land needed moisture to an extent unusual at this time, for although there is plenty in the ground, the top soil was very dry and on light land there had been considerable drifting. Any anxiety on that score is now relieved.

Brandon, Man., May 16.—"The rainfall last night was very beneficial for the crops," declared Superintendent McKillican of the Experimental Farm to-day. "It came at a time when it would do the maximum amount of good."

An electrical storm of about an hour's duration raged over this city and district just before midnight. The rainfall was about three-tenths of an inch and the moisture was heartily welcomed.

OVER $12,000,000 FOR THE RED CROSS

1,917 Subscriptions More Than Doubled Those of 1916.

A despatch from London says: According to Reuter's, Limited, the report of the British Red Cross fund for 1917, just issued, shows that the response to the appeal from overseas and at home resulted in a gross amount of £2,577,888, as compared with £1,210,037 in 1916. With the exception of enemy countries, virtually every country in the world figures in the list.

The collection throughout the Indian Empire realized £280,000.

The home return shows an increase over 1916, being more than £700,000, as against £400,000. The result in Ireland was particularly good, the total, £111,307, being nearly five times the amount collected in 1916.

KAISER TOOK DECORATION BACK WITH HIM.

A despatch from British Headquarters in France says: A German non-commissioned officer captured lately throws light on the disappointment the Germans sustained in their unsuccessful attack on the Belgian front on April 17th. He says the operation was designed to develop into a great flank-turning movement. So certain was the high command of success that the Kaiser came to the Yser to witness the battle, having in his pocket the "Eicheulaus," the next highest German decoration to the Ordre Pour Merite, which he designed to bestow upon the general directing the attack. But when the Kaiser left the Yser the Eicheulaus still tinkled in his pocket.

172 BRITISH SHIPS ELUDED U-BOAT ATTACKS.

A despatch from London says: "On the whole, the general trend of the warfare against submarines has progressed quite satisfactorily since January 1st," Doctor Macnamara, financial secretary of the Admiralty has announced in the House of Commons. MacNamara said that 172 steamers were unsuccessfully attacked by German submarines between January 11th and April 30th.

QUEBEC CITY NOW HAS NO DRUNKS.

A despatch from Quebec says: Recorder Dery still finds time hanging heavily on his hands since the bars went out of existence. Yesterday not a single case of drunkenness was up for disposal before him and the old court-room seems kind of lonesome. In fact, drunks have been conspicuous by the absence there since May 1, only one offender having made his bow before the tribunal within 14 days.

FROM SUNSET COAST

WHAT THE WESTERN PEOPLE ARE DOING.

Progress of the Great West Told in a Few Pointed Paragraphs.

Word has been received that Major Oldfield, of Elk Lake, B.C., has died of wounds received on April 6th.

Primrose Day at Victoria netted $1,234.72 for the Red Cross by the sale of primroses in the streets.

Seven new wooden vessels, among them the War Cariboo and the War Comox, have recently been launched.

The hospitals at Victoria formerly under the control of the M.H.C.C. have been taken over by the A.D.M.S.

Miss Loretta Murphy, New Westminster, was chosen as the forty-eighth Queen of the May for that city.

All that now remains to make Mrs. Ralph Smith's "Minimum Wage Act" law is the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C.

Citizens of Vancouver recently gave some $60,000 for tuberculosis prevention in the city during the campaign of the Rotary Club.

British Columbia's share of the $2,250,000 which the Y.M.C.A. of Canada hopes to raise in 1918 for its military work is $100,000.

Sergt. Harry Mullin, a British Columbia hero from Victoria, was decorated with the Victoria Cross at Buckingham Palace by the King.

The American-Canadian fisheries conference is to be held at Victoria for the purpose of protecting halibut and salmon in coast waters.

Nursing Sister G. M. Carvolt, who left Victoria in August, 1915, with No. 5 General Hospital, B.C. Unit, is home on seventeen days' leave.

John McLellan, who walked the lonely trails in the days of red men in British Columbia, died at the advanced age of ninety-one at Vancouver.

A beautiful new memorial window was unveiled recently at St. Mark's Church, Kitsilano, by Lieut. E. Lord, of the Imperial army, home on special furlough.

A mine laid some days ago under a sandbar in the north arm of the Fraser river, British Columbia, was fired and a herd of hair seal were blown to pieces.

Second Lieutenant Terence Wood Manley, R.F.C., who enlisted from Vancouver with the 2nd Heavy Artillery, was accidentally killed while flying at Hythe, Kent.

When the bill now before the Legislature to give the Government the right to secure a loan of $4,000,000 is passed British Columbia will possess borrowing powers to the extent of $11,370,000.

Individuals and firms interested in herring fishing are conferring with the executive of the B.C. Manufacturers' Association in Vancouver with a view of furthering the agitation commenced by the association some months ago for unrestricted licenses for herring fishing.

A memorial in commemoration of the Battle of Ypres and a prayer service of intercession for the allied forces has been arranged by the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire and the Great War Veterans' Association at Vancouver.

BLOOD-RED BATTLEFIELDS.

Altar Land of France Transformed By Nature's Kindly Touch.

A correspondent at the front vividly described in the London Times last summer the transformation that time and the effacing hand of nature had worked on the devastated battlefields of France, where the fighting was fiercest. The valley of the Ancre, he says, was hideous last year (1916), when the trickle of the stream ran from one half-stagnant pool to another through a brown waste of shell-kneaded earth; but now it is all waving rushes, dotted with meadow-sweet and hemp, agrimony and purple loosestrife. In Aveluy Wood the riven tree stumps stand out against a background of acres of red rosebay, and so it is all over the battlefields of a year ago.

"An old legend says that roses never grow so red as over a hero's grave. I think it must be true of poppies. Norfolk poppyland itself can show no braver fields of scarlet than these year-old battlegrounds, and, although it may be only fancy, it seems that the sheets of color are richer and more unbroken where the fighting was the most desperate."

Since he wrote those words the tide of war has swept once more over the tragic valley of the Ancre. Perhaps when nature has her way again the poppies will bloom redder than ever in that altar land of France.

The British Crown.

There are no less than 3,000 stones in the crown of the British King. Some very famous jewels are included in this number. One of these is a large heart-shaped ruby, given to Edward the Black Prince in 1637 by Don Pedro of Castile. Another precious gem of the crown is a huge sapphire bought by George IV. The remaining jewels consist of 1,363 brilliant diamonds, 1,273 rose diamonds, 147 table diamonds, 277 pearls, 16 sapphires, 11 emerals and four rubies. Complete with its white silk lining and purple cap, the crown weighs slightly more than thirty-nine ounces.

The Doings of the Duffs.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO