

GREAT VICTORY

At the Falklands Told by a Wireless Man.

THE BIGGEST SHIPS

OF ADMIRAL VON SPEE MADE FOR MARCONI STATION

When Sturdee Signalled That the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau Had Been Sunk, Wild Cheers Went Up

London, March 4.—Some interesting points which do not appear in Admiral Sturdee's report of the Falkland Islands battle are given in a letter from W. A. Lacey, the wireless operator at the Marconi station at that outpost of the enemy, Lacey says:

"The Germans were well aware of the utility of the station, as a determined attempt was made to destroy it on December 7. This day must have been specially set apart by the meteorological diety in charge of the Falkland Islands weather, for contrary to our usual leaden skies and high winds, the day was perfect. Scarcely a ripple on the sea and the clear-cut horizon were both helpful factors to our outposts in sighting the enemy and to our ships in the engagement which followed.

"At 7.30 a. m. smoke was sighted to the southward, which materialized into two enemy cruisers and later the smoke of three others was seen. The first two, Gneisenau and Nürnberg, headed straight for the station until they were about four miles off, when they presented their broadsides to us and trained their guns on the power house. Their movements were clearly visible through glasses. Orders were given to abandon the station—not from the Germans, but from our governor—which we did, retiring about 250 yards west, and taking shelter behind the rocks, where we had a clear view of the proceedings.

"As soon as we were clear the guardship in Stanley Harbor let go two 12-inch shells at the foremost German cruiser, and, considering that the enemy was not visible from the harbor, the shooting was admirable. The shells fell one just forward and one just aft of the Gneisenau. The water right ahead of the Gneisenau ricocheted and landed aboard. The firing was directed from the observatory.

"The enemy did not appear to like being shot at from an invisible battery which outranged their guns, and they turned southeast to get out of range without firing a single shot at us. A paring greeting landed alongside the Gneisenau, which was by this time stern on. Survivors state that Admiral von Spee, who went down with his ship, was at a loss to know where those shells dropped from.

"Meanwhile our cruisers were forcing steam and put to sea before the Germans were lost to sight, the fast British cruisers preceding for scouting work. We re-occupied the station and started the engine for power, working without ships. In the Germans touched their keys, making indescribable noises by alternating their spare frequencies rapidly. It has never been my lot to receive through such a jumble, and I trust never will be again. Our signalling continued without interruption despite their efforts.

"For about two hours pandemonium reigned in the ether. After all orders had been given by wireless, the working ceased until the Germans tried to work with each other and our fleet returned the compliment by jamming them, with what success we do not know. The Germans disappeared in a southeasterly direction with our cruisers in hot pursuit.

After some further details, which cover the ground of the official report, Lacey continues:

"At 3 p.m. Admiral Sturdee made a signal which would have warned Nelson's heart, and one which should be recorded in the annals of the British Admiralty: 'God Save the King.' The signal was taken up and flung far and wide through space by each of the fleet in turn until it seemed as though it would never cease. I consider it a privilege to have been one of the few to hear the signal. Had the wireless been in vogue in Nelson's day, no doubt his memorable signal would have been marconied.

"Later the flagship signalled: 'Scharnhorst and Gneisenau sunk. Where are the others?' Immediately the news was received a wild cheer went up from the small band gathered in the power house and we felt justified in drinking to the king."

Lacey further describes a visit to the British warships on their return. His testimony further disposes of the German claims that the invincible was badly damaged. "One shell," he says, "struck the flagship's forward turret fairly between the guns, leaving scarcely a visible dent in the armor. The superstructure of the flagship is perforated with shell splinters."

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ACQUITTED YOUNG MAN

HELD SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET ON THURSDAY EVENING.

The Refusal of the City Council to Repair the Fair Grounds Buildings Was a Topic of Criticism.

The Kingston Industrial Agricultural Society held its second annual banquet in the British American hotel on Thursday evening. The banquet and programme were a success in every way and great credit is due to the committee who worked so energetically in arranging the details.

The refusal of the City Council to consider the repairing of the fair grounds was referred to in several of the addresses, and general disapproval at the council's action was felt.

After the very excellent menu was partaken of, the president of the association, E. E. Weller, in a few words, welcomed the guests and introduced Ald. R. E. Kent as the first speaker.

Ald. Kent said he very much appreciated the efforts of the association in giving Kingston a fair. For some time the city had had no fair, but R. J. Bushell had brought the matter to the attention of other worthy individuals and for the last two years splendid exhibitions had been given. The citizens appreciated the work that had been done, and he saw no reason why Kingston in time should not have an exhibition that would surpass Ottawa's. Kingston was better situated, and if it had not been for the scarcity of money the council would have financially helped the association this year by repairing the buildings. He regretted that such action by the council had been found necessary. The speaker was very anxious that the country people co-operate more with the Horticultural Society in its show.

C. C. Main chose as his subject, "Our Heroes." The man who sacrificed his time, business opportunities and life if necessary in the defense of his country was a hero. The man who was a farmer and had no liking for office yet attended the agricultural course (there were six this year) to gain a more advanced knowledge of agriculture, was also a hero. Mr. Main advocated the unifying of all the fairs in the district into an exhibition, and with such an energetic manager as R. J. Bushell the larger exhibition would undoubtedly be a success. "He, too, is a hero," were Mr. Main's concluding words. Queen's University to assume to do.

Dr. A. W. Richardson, in his usual eloquent style, complimented the splendid attendance of ladies. He said that he was "ashamed of the action that had been taken by the City Council in refusing to repair the fair grounds buildings." The proposition was too good for the city, better than it deserved, and might never be made again.

Dean Starr spoke of the heroes overseas. Many splendid men have gone to the front, he said, and when the time comes for the V.C.'s to be distributed, he hoped that the men of the County of Frontenac would be recognized. Canada was only gradually realizing the seriousness of this war. The speaker knew that war is a necessity and was glad that God would use England in such a God-given cause. Agriculture, he said, was the basis of everything, and the work must be carried on more intelligently and strenuously now than ever.

Miss Mary Yates, Port Credit, spoke a few words on "The Management of Poultry," and promised to return in the near future with a more detailed address. Canada was to provide a great percentage of the world's food, and, therefore, more scientific treatment of poultry was necessary.

J. L. Wilson, Superintendent of Provincial Fairs, said that for a long time Montreal and Kingston had not had industrial fairs. Kingston's reputation was being revised in earnest and bids fair to equal the London Toronto exhibitions. He mentioned that the local Board of Trade had been the first to take up the matter of fairs. He advised a \$10,000 mortgage being put on the exhibition grounds and this money used in buildings to replace the present ones.

R. Meek, President of the Board of Trade, said that the citizens as well as the Board knew that the buildings must be repaired. The city originally purchased the property for \$17,000, and he could see no advantage in selling the present grounds and buying another property further from the city, where there was no communication. With the present buildings a successful fair cannot be held.

In the concluding address of the evening, R. J. Bushell said that last year's fair was a success despite indifferent citizens and poor buildings. The gate had been increased 300 per cent. From the 1913 fair there had been a deficit of \$95, owing to two rainy days, and now, after an expenditure of \$2,600 had been made, there was a surplus of \$119.31. The price list this year was \$200 more.

He spoke of the visit of G. C. Case, of the Hydro-Electric Commission, and his remark on the buildings was: "What kind of a council have you that will not repair these buildings?" During the evening Charles Harvey gave solos that were heartily enjoyed.

A Copy of the Report. G. P. Patterson, Mount Chesee, has received from the Board in England a translation of the official report of the French commission which investigated acts committed by the Germans in violation of international law on French territory occupied by them. The report is very full, covering over thirty pages. A considerable number of atrocious and revolting acts were everywhere disclosed. Human life seemed to be the object of complete scorn on the part of the German military authorities. The reading of the crimes makes one sick as the frightful outrages are disclosed.

A Card. All the leading grocers of Kingston have agreed to sell a package containing five standard 2c. boxes of Silver Tip Silent Matches for 20c. Quality guaranteed.

"Buy Spring Tonics" at Gibson's.

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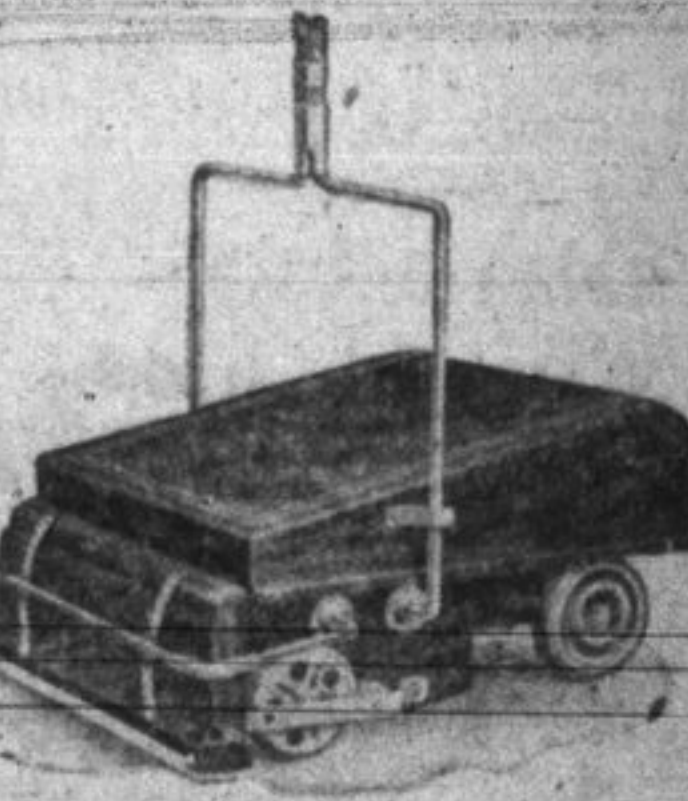
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