
* Notice to Advertisers. *
* In order to ensure changes *
* being made in advertisements, *
* copy must reach this office not *
* later than 9 a. m. on the day of *
* publication. *

The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Moderate winds, *
* fair, moderately cold; Thurs- *
* day, winds increasing to gales *
* from eastward. *

L. XXIII., No. 20

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

REPORTS OF THE NAVAL FIGHT ARE SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING

Successful Raids by French Troops South of Somme

German Report Tells of Artillery Duels Southeast of Riga--- German Airplanes Brought Down---Victims of Com- merce Raider Landed at Bahia By British Steamer.

PARIS, Jan. 24.—French troops made several successful raids last night near Chully, south of the Somme, and in the Woevre district, the War Office announces. Patrols were unusually active in the Seille region, near the eastern end of the front.

BERLIN, Jan. 23 (via Sayville).—The artillery battle in the neighborhood of Riga, on the Russian front, has been renewed, it was announced tonight in a supplementary headquarters statement, which reads: "On the eastern front artillery duels have been revived southwest of Riga."

PARIS, Jan. 23.—An official communication issued tonight reads: "A German airplane landed today west of Devroux. Two officers in the machine were made prisoners."

RIO JANEIRO, Jan. 24.—Twenty-nine members of the crew of the Asnieres and twenty-five members of the crew of the Nantes, victims of the German commerce raider, have been landed at Bahia by the British steamer Ceara. They report that there were 400 prisoners on board the German cruiser at the time they were transferred to the Ceara. The Asnieres was sunk on Dec. 2 and the Nantes on Dec. 25."

PARIS, Jan. 24.—The Chamber of Deputies has unanimously adopted a bill providing for the indemnification of persons whose houses and properties suffered damage by reason of the war.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The presidents of the parliaments of the Central Powers have issued a manifesto declaring that the nations they represent are resolved on any sacrifice necessary for victory, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuter's by way of Amsterdam.

German Official Account of Naval Fight

Says Only One Destroyer Was Damaged

BERLIN, via London, Jan. 24.—The official announcement of the naval engagement is as follows:

"In the course of an enterprise undertaken by a portion of our destroyer forces, an engagement occurred early in the morning of January 23, with British naval forces. One enemy destroyer was sunk during the fight. After the engagement a second was observed by our airplanes to be in a sinking condition. One of our torpedo boats, which was in distress owing to damage sustained, according to news received, has arrived at Yumiden. All the other boats returned with slight damage."

The official British account of the engagement, which was given out last night, said that a British destroyer was torpedoed with the loss of 47 men, and that a German destroyer was sunk.

Leader of Prussian Upper House Hopes the

Present Year Will Bring Peace to Germany

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The president of the Prussian upper house, in a speech at the opening of the session, expressed the hope that the present year, despite its disappointing beginning, might bring peace, according to a Berlin despatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam.

After commenting on the rejection of Germany's peace proposal by the Entente, the president said: "The fateful hour of the German Empire is approaching. For the second time war has been declared on us, and today we, a more serious and matured people, accustomed to victory, are standing behind the Emperor. Our iron will shall burn to deeds, and the sharp steel of a clean sword in our hands shall hew the way to a more prosperous future."

GOVERNMENT INCOMPETENCY CONDEMNED

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—The debate on the address was continued today by Mr. E. M. Macdonald, who made a spirited address in which he strongly attacked the government for its incompetency in connection with the war. He declared that there has been government incapacity, inefficiency and lack of leadership. He made a slashing attack on Sir Robert Borden and said that the government had been tragically inefficient and worse in its handling of war problems.

Mr. H. H. Stevens, of Vancouver, followed in a lame defence of the government.

Hon. Frank Oliver, who has lost a son at the front, also handled the government in vigorous style. Among other things he said: "The people of Canada do not look at the war as they did even a year ago. It is but right that they should now be given the opportunity to express their ideas through a free and a new parliament."

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Premier Clarke Not Yet Willing to Step Out, it is Said.

The members of the Provincial Government met informally at St. John yesterday and discussed the political situation. Premier Clarke was present and it is said that his colleagues intimated that he would please them very much if he would pack his duds and quit the ship. The Premier has been promised the lieutenant governorship, but feels disposed to cling to his present job until the goods are delivered. His colleagues, on the other hand, would like to get him out of the way so they can reconstruct the government. Hon. J. A. Murray, who will succeed to the Premiership when Hon. Mr. Clarke steps out, is said to be strongly in favor of an election before a session.

Aged Resident Dead.

Mr. William Gregory, an aged citizen who was well and favorably known died at his home on Brunswick street last evening after a lingering illness. He was 85 years of age and is survived by a widow. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon, with services at the house by the Rev. Dean Neales.

DESTROYER FLEETS IN A FIERCE BATTLE IN THE NORTH SEA

Engagement Started at Two O'clock in the Morning and Continued Until Seven---Enemy Ships Reported to Have Been Seriously Battered.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—According to a Hague report to the Exchange Telegraph Company, two German ships were sunk and three others badly damaged in a fight in the North Sea.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Special despatches from Holland give stories of the battle between German and British destroyers in the North Sea, but the details, which on some points are conflicting, are mostly and avowedly derived from hearsay and not substantiated.

It seems, however, certain that the main engagement began about two o'clock in the morning and lasted until about seven. It was fought in intense darkness, while the severity of the cold can be imagined from the fact that eight corpses on the V-69, the German flagship, were so frozen to the deck when the boat arrived at Yumiden, that they had to be hewn free with axes.

Report That From Seven to Ten German

Vessels Were Sunk Has Not Been Confirmed

Practically all details of actual damage to the ships refer to the V-69, which, it is stated, was rammed by a British ship after being seriously battered. The correspondent reports that from seven to ten German vessels were sunk, but there is nothing confirmatory in regard to this. According to one version the Germans started from Heligoland with the intention of raiding the British coast, but were driven back toward Flanders, where some took refuge in Zeebrugge.

It is confirmed that Commander Boehm, of the V-69, is alive, and according to one report uninjured. It is stated that he superintended the removal of the crew of the destroyer, as an examination of the ship proved the impossibility of repairing her within 24 hours. This, of course, implies an intention to intern, but nothing official is obtainable in regard thereto. A number of survivors of the sunken British vessel have arrived on the east coast.

FOOD SHORTAGE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN GERMANY

Economical Feeding is Necessary to Carry the Pop- ulation of the Empire to the End of the War-- Rich People Buy Underhand at Fancy Prices.

BERLIN, via London, Jan. 24.—The advisory committee of the war food bureau has concluded a two day session devoted to a general review of the food question. A detained statement in regard to the conditions throughout the empire was made by Adolph Batoeki, president of the food regulation board. Herr Batoeki said that the chief difficulty lay in the shortage of the potato crop, enhanced by transportation troubles. He said that although the grain crops had been better in 1915, the total nutritive value of the grain and potatoes together was less, and economical feeding was necessary to carry the population to the end of the crop year.

Considerable supplies were available in Roumania, according to Herr Batoeki, but shipments could not be made in the quantities needed, and hence the actual supplies were short and rigid organization of distribution was necessary.

Herr Batoeki complained that the situation was aggravated by the richer people buying underhand at fancy prices what they wanted, and thus thwarting the work of the food office.

SUBMARINE MENACE IS CONSIDERED GRAVE

Naval Expert in the Daily News Says People do not Realize the Seriousness of the Situation--Rate of Losses Has Greatly Increased During the Last Three Months.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The Daily News today gives prominence to an article by its naval correspondent, who called attention to the gravity of German submarine activity.

The writer says he fears the real seriousness of the German campaign against merchant shipping is not realized by a majority of the British people, and adds: "The daily record of ships sent to the bottom has become so regular a feature in the newspapers that no particular notice is taken of it unless some unusual atrocity attends the incident."

The correspondent recalls that when Germany's submarine blockade began in February, 1915, the British Admiralty issued weekly statements of losses, but says that this was discontinued. During that period the weekly average losses were five vessels, but during the past three months the rate of losses has nearly trebled.

The writer gives statistics showing that during 90 days 470 ships were sunk, of which 167 were British. He contends that although neutral boats sunk considerably outnumbered the British, the loss to Great Britain was only slightly less than if they had been British ships, because virtually in every case the cargo was either British or destined for Great Britain. "We are confronted with the most serious menace that ever threatened us," the correspondent says, "and it is imperative that the people cut down their consumption of tobacco and other imported luxuries, and thus free tonnage for essentials."