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tion This Paper.

BRITISH NAVY IS DEFEATING THE PIRACY OF THE U-BOATS

London Cable—Sir Eric Geddes who recently succeeded Sir Edward Carson as First Lord of the Admiralty, made his first address in Parliament to-day, and gave some interesting and anxiously awaited figures on the work of the navy and shipping in general.

His declaration that between forty and fifty per cent. of the German submarines operating in the North Sea, the Atlantic and the Arctic Oceans had been sunk, was not the least interesting of his announcements, and there was an indication of the unceasing war the British and American patrols are making on the submarine in his statement that during the last quarter the enemy had lost as many submarines as during the whole of 1916.

The First Lord, speaking directly of his department, said that, in addition to an increase in the personnel, the services of younger officers had been requisitioned, to add strength to the experience of the older officers on the naval staff.

NO INFORMATION FOR ENEMY.

Referring to the question of publishing the tonnage of British merchantmen lost through submarines, he said he had made a most careful investigation, and, had approached the subject with the idea that it was desirable and it ought to be possible to give the public figures, because he added, "it is hardly conceivable that the enemy does not know what he is sinking."

He regretted to say, however, that he had not found it possible to arrive at any form of publication which would not convey most valuable information to the enemy which he did not now possess if information were given in regular sequence for specific periods.

"I have studied from a variety of sources," said the First Lord, "the statements made from time to time by the enemy as to tonnage and position, and have come to the definite conclusion that not only does he not know what is being sunk, but that he would like very much indeed to know what is being sunk regularly month by month, or week by week, or even exactly for a period."

MAKING PROGRESS.

Sir Eric, supplementing the recent statement by Premier Lloyd George in Albert Hall, said that he could give certain information which would show that "we are making reasonably satisfactory progress in overcoming the menace of the enemy's submarine activities."

He added that the House would realize that "however great the loss of mercantile tonnage is—and the figures are still very formidable —we cannot at this stage of the war pick any one item to deduce therefrom that the war, even any phase of the war, is going well or badly."

The kaleidoscopic change which goes on in actual warfare, he added, is continually occurring in workshops and shipyards. To the uninformed observer it must appear sometimes that there is no method in the madness of those who control these matters.

"But," said he, "I would appeal to the country for confidence. There is a method in what we do.

SUBMARINE SITUATION.

"The general situation regarding submarine warfare can best be demonstrated by the following figures: Since the beginning of the war, between forty and fifty per cent. of the German submarines operating in the North Sea, the Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean have been sunk. During the last quarter the enemy has lost as many submarines as during the whole of 1916.

"As regards the sinkings of British merchant tonnage by submarines, the German official figures for August are 848,000 tons of all nationalities. They sank a little more than one-third of that amount of British tonnage and a little more than half of all nationalities.

"For September their official figures are 679,000 tons. They sank far less than one-third of that amount of British tonnage and less than one-half of that amount of all nationalities.

LONG ARM OF NAVY.

"The Germans claim that our tonnage is falling so low that there are not enough ships on the sea to enable their submarine commanders to maintain their bag. Let me give you facts. In April last, the heaviest month of British losses by enemy submarines since the war began, our trade flowed presumably in satisfactory volume for the enemy submarines. In September last, his lowest month of sinkings, our overseas sailings of all ships of over 1,600 tons were twenty per cent. in number, and thirty per cent. in tonnage higher than in April. The enemy must therefore find another and better explanation for his lack of success. I can supply it. The explanation is that the long arm of the British Navy reached down into the depths and thus the harvest reaped is poorer and the number of German submarines which do not return is increasing.

LESS THAN ANTICIPATED.

"Since April, the highest month for British losses, they have steadily decreased, and latterly to a marked degree. September was the most satisfactory month; October was only slightly worse, and better by thirty per cent. than any other month since unrestricted submarine warfare began.

"The net reduction in tonnage in the last four months is 30 per cent. less than anticipated in the estimate prepared for the Cabinet early in July.

"The total net reduction since the beginning of the war from all causes in British tonnage on the official register in ships over 1,600 tons is under two and a half millions of tons gross, or 14 per cent., and that after a period when our great armies and their magnificent equipment received priority and the great growth of our navy was simultaneously achieved, to the detriment of mercantile shipbuilding. Now, that the submarine is for the present doing less damage, and the resources of the country are again being devoted to a far greater and an increasing extent to the upbuilding of the mercantile marine, I look for net results still more formidable.

STEADY REDUCTION IN DAMAGE.

"Summarized, the submarine warfare amounts to this: 'Our defensive measures have during the last seven months proved so efficacious that in spite of the increased number of ships passing through the danger zone there has been steady reduction in the damage done by the enemy submarines. In the meantime we are sinking many enemy submarines to an increasing extent. Our offensive measures are improving and will still more improve and multiply,' but on the other hand, the Germans are building submarines faster than they have hitherto done, and they have not yet attained their maximum strength. It appears to me, therefore, that in the submarine warfare, as elsewhere, it is becoming a test of determination and ingenuity between the two contending forces.

"For the present, I have come to the conclusion that the submarine warfare is going well for us. The enemy has done less damage than he hoped, and less than we estimated. He has done it with a serious and heavy loss to himself. At present, we may be justified in feeling that his attack on our trade is held, and is being mastered, and we are justified in looking to the future with courage and determination, confident that he will fail."

GERMAN MERCANTILE MARINE.

The First Lord said that it was interesting to recall the position of the German mercantile marine, continuing: "At the outbreak of the war, Germany possessed over five million tons of shipping. To-day nearly half of it had been sunk or is in the hands of ourselves or our allies. She had a fifty per cent. reduction to our fourteen per cent. It is well that the British public should be told what they are up against. We must not consider ourselves alone, but the alliance as a whole."

He pointed out that, while Great Britain had plenty of coal for victory, Italy and France have not, and it was essential that there should be the greatest possible economy in food and in all imports in order that tonnage should be saved, so that it may be diverted to other vital needs of the alliance. He declared: "We must lay our plans for a long war. I see no signs of its being a short one, and all by their economy can help the navies of the allies defeat the submarine."

Sir Eric urged Britons to do their utmost, as there were greater calls upon the shipping world.

U. S. ARMY TO BE CARRIED.

"The huge army of the United States," he said, "is preparing and has to be transported and maintained. The French, Italian and other allies require seaboard help. That help can only be given if the nation is prepared strictly and rigorously to curtail its needs, develop home resources and conserve its present potential maritime strength."

It had been asked whether Great Britain was building merchant tonnage at a sufficient rate to replace the sinkings. The answer, he declared, had been given negatively, but it was unsound and inconclusive to take any one factor of output as against losses to be a vital indication of Great Britain's situation.

Britain, he said, was now equipped on a scale never dreamed of before.

"May the country not justly take credit for the fact that in 1917, with our military and munitions effort at the maximum, and when the call upon man-power had reduced our available resources to a minimum," he continued, "we shall have produced naval and mercantile tonnage practically equal to the best year ever recorded in our history. And in 1918 it will certainly be very much greater."

The speaker expressed confidence that the skilled workers would stand by the nation in carrying out the great shipbuilding programme just as they had done in the munitions and other needs of the country.

"For," he added, "they may rest assured that the Parliament and the country will not permit any action calculated to lower the standard of comfort they have won for their families and themselves."

NEW NATIONAL YARDS.

Sir Eric said that the new National yards nowe being built would be ready in six months, and continued: "The output of merchant tonnage for the first nine months of 1917 is 123 per cent. higher than in the corresponding period last year, and considerably higher than the total output for the whole of 1915. Standard vessels have been ordered representing nearly one million gross tons. More than half of these are under construction."

According to the First Lord, there are now 235 large drydocks in the British Isles where merchantmen can be repaired. He expressed the hope that all these vessels would soon be effectively armed, and he paid a tribute to the woman employees in the dockyards. He then dealt with the criticisms against the Admiralty.

QUESTION OF AID TO RUSSIA.

Replying to the criticism that the fleet had not been sent to assist Russia, he pointed out that such an operation would occupy considerable time and that there were extensive mine fields. Responsible naval opinion was unanimous that the step was not one which should be taken.

Replying to a question regarding the recent loss of a Scandinavian convoy in the North Sea, Sir Eric said, had the British navy been informed of the attack, which it was not, its position was such that it could not have wished a better opportunity of intercepting the raiders.

The Scandinavian convoy system had been going on since April, he added, and this was the first occasion on which any ship had been lost.

CONVOY SYSTEM.

Referring to the criticism of the convoy system in general, he said: "In September 90 per cent. of the total vessels sailing the Atlantic trades were convoyed, and since the convoy system started the total percentage of loss per convoyed vessel through the danger zone was one in two hundred.

"I wish to acknowledge fully the valuable contribution made by the United States navy in the convoy work since their destroyers joined us under command of Vice-Admiral Sims, from whom we have received the heartiest co-operation, and whose counsel has been of great value to us. The contribution of the United States navy was given promptly and freely upon their entry into the war and is gradually being extended in this and other ways

"As is known, we have had most valuable consultations with Admiral Mayo, and on the occasion of his visit took counsel with him as to the role the American navy was to play. We also took advantage of his visit to have an international naval conference, from which we hope much good may result."

CHINA ON EVE OF AWAKENING

War Has Greatly Revived Work of Missions.

Presbyterian Foreign Board in Session.

Toronto Despatch—Only one note of alarm was sounded at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, which concluded at Knox College yesterday. It was occasioned by the fact that the cost of mission work in China is gradually increasing due to the higher cost of material and higher rate of exchange. The upward tendency of the value of silver threatens to have such an effect that it may become more valuable than gold in China, and this situation the board will have to prepare to face. This week's gathering being only the semi-annual conference big questions of finance were not introduced, but the several reports submitted were encouraging in their tenor. War had given an impetus to mission work in China and afforded increased opportunities of broadening the views of the people, who now take a wider interest in outside affairs. Many missionaries who offered themselves for service in the war obeyed the advice of the Government to remain at their posts and enlighten the natives of the real cause of the war and of Great Britain's fight to uphold Christianity and civilization. Several medical missionaries had been accepted, and 15 from Honan were with Chinese labor battalions in Europe. The progress of Christianity in Corea during the past quarter of a century had been remarkable it was reported. Thirty years ago there were no Christians in Corea. Now there were over 300,000 attending Canadian Presbyterian missions, 558 members having been added last year. In the 200 schools in Corea there were now 9,000 pupils.

Arrangements were made by the board for the celebration this winter of the jubilee of mission work in Trinidad, where 14,000 children had been educated in mission schools. As in Corea, mission work in Trinidad had met with splendid success during the past 25 years. The former suspicious attitude of the people had given place to one of respect, and there was no longer difficulty in attracting people to the hospitals, schools and churches in mission centres. At the five hospitals and 13 dispensaries in Trinidad 68,000 patients had been handled, and 200,000 treatments given. There was need for still more medical students, but unfortunately the hospital accommodation would not permit of increased staffs.

Mission work among Canadian Chinese was meeting with encouraging results, it was stated, and the board hopes to secure the services of more trained Chinese to work in the fields already opened up.

Dr. Harold Balme, of England, who represents the medical faculty of the undenominational Christian university in Shantung, China, gave a short address to the board on the work there. Miss Margaret E. Luscombe, Nova Scotia, was appointed nurse to a hospital in Formosa. No new missionaries were appointed as the young men who were preparing for the work had gone to the front.

A vigorous campaign is to precede the next Foreign Mission Sunday in Canada, which falls on January 27.

LONDON SAVED FROM RAIDERS

Latest Was Most Elaborate Hun Attempt Yet.

New Defences Disconcerted the Foe Aviators.

London Cable—This morning's air raid was apparently the most elaborate attempt to "lay London in ruins" ever made by the Germans. That it was a failure was due to the new air defences which, with the gunfire of the aeroplanes, harassed the enemy and broke up his squadrons so that at most three machines were able to cross the metropolis, where they dropped a few bombs.

One of the bombs dropped in the south-eastern district of the London area damaged tabernacle houses. There were no casualties, however, as most of the occupants of the houses had taken shelter.

Bombs also were dropped in the south-western district of London, apparently by a Gotha, which had become separated from the other enemy aircraft.

Before the guns broke out over London detonations were heard a long way off and in the east. The people congratulated themselves that the raiders were being kept at bay, but soon sounds were heard which told the tale of aeroplanes having broken through. During some periods the firing seemed the most intense that had been experienced during air raids. The atmospheric conditions prevented anything being seen of the invaders. There was a watery moon and misty clouds, but the sound of the engines of the raiders plainly could be heard. There were several intervals of dead silence in the firing periods during which it was felt that the raid had come to an end, but it only meant that one relay had been driven off, and real relief did not come until Boy Scouts sounded "all clear" on their bugles.

The text of Lord French's statement on casualties says: "Latest police reports state that the total casualties caused in last night's air raid in all districts were: Killed, 8; injured, 21. The material damage was very slight and no injury was done to any naval, military or munitions establishments. A large number of our own machines went up. All of them returned safely."

A feature of last night's air raid was the appearance afterwards of some 300 or 400 Boy Scouts as buglers, sounding the "all clear" signals when the official notice was sent out. After experimenting with motor horns and whistles, neither of which proved satisfactory, the authorities decided that the French system of sounding bugles was the most effective. The widely-heard question of where to get enough buglers arose, and it was arranged by Boy Scouts volunteering in numbers. They assembled at the various police centres when the warning of the raid was issued and dispersed throughout the city immediately the word "clear" was given, apparently finding great pride and enjoyment in the work.

The heavy barrage which was put up to protect the metropolis seemed to disconcert the raiders, who dropped bombs indiscriminately as they approached. Several of these fell upon open spaces, severely shaking little suburban settlements, where there was little or no protection from bombs or the shower of shrapnel.

As the Germans crossed the coast in relays the barrage rose as each relay made its appearance. After the experience of former raids the public now takes to cover as soon as the warning of an enemy approach is given.

BRITISH NAVY'S GREAT EXPANSION

London Cable—In defending the British navy in the House of Commons to-night Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, reviewed its accomplishments in this war, declaring that, unlike the enemy forces, its role was an offensive one.

"During a recent month," he continued, "the mileage steamed by our battleships, cruisers and destroyers alone amounted to one million ship's miles in home waters. In addition to this, the naval auxilliary forces patrolled more than six million miles in the same period and territory. The displacement of the navy is 71 per cent. greater than in 1914, when it was 2,400,000 tons. At the outbreak of the war we had eighteen minesweepers and auxiliary patrols, to-day there are 3,366. The personnel of the fleet before the was was 146,000, to-day it is 390,000.

IS CONFIDENT OF FINAL WIN

New Italian Premier's Message to Cadorna.

Sees "A Victory Which Cannot Fail Us."

Rome Cable—Professor Vittorio E Orlando, the new Italian Premier, has sent the following telegram to General Cadorna, commander-in-chief of the Italian army: "Fully realizing the formidable responsibility I am assuming at the present moment, when I take up the direction of the Italian Government, my first thought is to assure your excellency that the Italian people support your intrepidity in your terrible trial, and that not for one instant has its faith in the army and in its chief been shaken. To those whom it acclaimed in the hour of victory, to those still more closely does the nation feel itself bound in the hour of adversity.

"The immense effort of the adversary, who has gathered and hurled against us the accumulation of his hate and strength, if he has succeeded in bursting in upon a dear and glorious fragment of our country, it has not curbed our spirit nor broken up the inner strength of the country.

"Let the enemy know—let the world know, that the Italians under the burden of their inexpressible grief at the risk of their country invaded, have made it a point of honor to sink all their internal differences so as to strengthen their will and energy in order that again our native soil may be consecrated by a victory which cannot fail us."

It is probably when a man is on his uppers that he feels he can't call his sole his own.

FIRST AID FROM ENTENTE HAS REACHED THE ITALIANS

Washington Despatch—Anglo-French reinforcements have reached the Venetian front where General Cadorna's second and third armies are declared to have retired in good order toward the new line—probably that of the Tagliamento—where the projected stand is to be made.

Official information reaching Washington from Rome to-day asserted that that the Italians had welcomed the British and French veterans enthusiastically, and that the Anglo-French commanders found the personnel and material of the Italian army to be stronger than it was thought they would be after having sustained so severe a shock as that which the Teutons delivered through the back door or the Julian front. Secretary Lansing received a cablegram to-day from American Ambassador at Rome confirming information received at the Italian Embassy that the Italian army is retiring in good order, that the pressure from the direction of the enemy had lessened, and that the Government had the unified support of the Italian people and all political parties.

Despite the elements of hope in the situation, military experts here doubt the ability of the Italians to make a stand and hold it on the banks of the Tagliamento, because of the danger that the left flank of this line may be threatened and turned by Teuton forces moving southward from the passes of the Carnic Alps. To-day's despatches from Berlin indicated that the Italian forces north of the Udine-Cedroipo-Treviso railway line had retired to the west bank of the Tagliamento River, while these south of the same railway were defending the bridgeheads near Punzane, Dignano and Cedriopo.

ARMY PRACTICALLY INTACT.

Washington Despatch—Reassuring news came from Rome to-day in official despatches. While serious, the situation on the Italian front is described as far from desperate. General Cadorna's army is declared to be practically intact, and complete confidence is expressed in his ability, with aid coming from the Allies, to stop the Austro-German drive.

The cablegrams summarize the situation as follows:

"The military situation on the Italian front is serious—it is far from being desperate. At the present moment, having recovered from the first surprise, it may be stated that our Allies are preparing to oppose a furious resistance to the enemy at the point, which without doubt General Cadorna has selected. It is probable that if the retreat should continue for a few days longer the Italian resistance will develop along the Tagliamento, 'quite an important river,' which descends from the Cerna Alps, or, perhaps, if the Austro-Germans attack in Cernia it will be on the Piave River, which flows westward.

"Whatever the number of Italians taken prisoners, the strength of the army of General Cadorna has not been weakened. It must not be forgotten, in fact, that Italy has under the colors more than three million men. As for the guns that the Austro-Germans claim to have captured, they only represent the production of a few weeks of the munitions factories of our Allies.

"The Italian army is practically intact. Besides, the French and British are coming to our rescue. It has already been announced at the beginning of the council, Sunday evening, the French ministers were busy determining the extent and nature of the co-operation of the Allies on the Italian front. This same question was further considered by the council Monday morning and by the War Committee, which was held at the Elysee, M. Poincaire presiding. The British Government has taken prompt measures to rush aid to the Italians and all indications are that this French and British aid will come at the hour when the enemy invades the plain of Freoule.

"Meanwhile, awaiting developments, Italian public opinion realizes thoroughly the gravity of the hour and is bearing the shock with calmness and firmness.

"The Italian press declares that the battle which is about to take place may be the last great battle of the war."

READY FOR BATTLE.

London Cable—The greater portion of General Cadorna's third army apparently has crossed the Tagliamento River to the western bank, and will be in position on a new line of defence to give battle to the Teutonic allies.

The advance of the enemy, although it has been remarkably fast, was not quick enough to carry out the purpose of the military commanders of enveloping the Italians and putting them out of battle from the Carnic Alps to the head of the Adriatic Sea.

The Italians lost heavily in men and guns captured—the latest German official communication asserting that more than 180,000 men and 1,500 guns were taken by the Teutonic allies—and also suffered terribly from hardships due to bad weather and lack of food as they made their way across the country to Tagliamento, with their rearguards everywhere harrassing the enemy. But General Cadorna declares that with the morale of his men still splendid the success of the invaders will be made nil. On the eastern side of the Tagliamento the Teutonic allies have captured along the waterway from Pizano to Latisana bridgehead, positions from which to operate against the Italians on the other side of the stream.

SAVED MOST OF THE ARMY.

The Italian official statement read: "Thwarting the plan of the enemy by the rapidity of their promptly-decided upon movements and by the brave resistance of the covering units which have defended his advance, our troops have effected the withdrawal on the Tagliamento in spite of the extremely difficult strategical and logistical conditions. The third army is nearly complete, a beautiful example of strength and unity.

"The 1st and 2nd Cavalry Divisions and especially the heroic regiments of Genoa and Novara and the untiring aviators are worthy of mention to the admiration of the gratitude of the country.

"Last night enemy aeroplanes brutally bombed several unprotected towns far from the lines of communication, causing a few casualties amongst the civilian population."

OUTFLANKED ON BOTH SIDES.

The text of the German War Office statement follows:

"The fact that the development of our operations against Italy has been so successful may be attributed to our rapid blows in the east, and to the incomparably stubborn endurance of our troops on all fronts, notably in the west. Yesterday the allied troops of the 14th army gained a further great victory. Portions of the enemy army made a stand at the Tagliamento. In the mountains and in the Friuli plain, to the Udine-Codroipo-Treviso railway, the enemy retired, fighting on, to the western bank of the river. Bridgehead positions on the eastern bank were held by him near Pinzano, Dignano and Codroipo. He offered violent resistance at rearguard positions, projecting thence toward Udine via Bertiolo, Pozzuolo and Lavariano, to cover the retirement of his third army to the western bank of the Tagliamento.

"Impelled by the will for victory and capably directed by proper leadership, the German and Austro-Hungarian corps here gained successes which even in the present war rarely have been attained.

"The bridgehead positions of Dignano and Codroipo were taken by storm by Prussian Jaeger and Bavarian and Wurttemberg infantry. Throughout the area of operations tried Brandenburg and Silesian divisions in irresistible assault penetrated from the north the rearguard positions in irresistible assault penetrated from the north the rearguard positions of the Italians east of the lower Tagliamento, and drove back the enemy, while the tried Austro-Hungarian corps pressed forward from the Isonzo against the last of the crossings held by the enemy, near Latisana.

"Cut off by our thrusts from the north and outflanked on both sides more than 60,000 Italians laid down their arms. Several hundred guns fell into the hands of the victors. The number of prisoners captured during the week of the so successfully conducted Isonzo battle is consequently increased to more than 180,000, and the total of guns taken is increased to more than 1,500. The other booty captured is proportionate."

A supplementary statement from general headquarters to-night says: "On the Tagliamento the troops of the enemy who were maintaining themselves on the eastern bank of the river near Pinzano and Latisana have either been driven back or taken prisoner."

THIRD ARMY SAVED NEARLY ALL GUNS.

London Cable—Ward Price, the British correspondent with the Italian army, telegraphing on Oct. 30, says:

"This is the Italian army's first great blow. Of course it has hit them hard—all the harder because it comes not in the first year of the war when it might have been expected, but in its third, and it has come, moreover, with suddenness. But if you look at the details of the situation, even to the very limited extent to which one may give it at present, you will see that there is still reason to keep heart.

"What happened was that some of the troops on the left wing of the Italian second army failed in their duty, as General Cordona said in his communique. Their abandonment of their positions before a most violent attack, carried out with reinforcements with poison gas and new heavy batteries, enabled the Austro German forces to break through the Italian left wing, the wedge thus driven across the Isonzo into the very heart of the Italian position striking at the centre of their whole system of organization and supply. In consequence the whole line from the Carnic Alps southward to the sea—a front of sixty or seventy miles—was compelled to fall back to avoid being cut off.

"I saw a great deal of the retreat of the third army from the Carso, in whose company I made the retirement. The troops were cheerful and good-tempered, and one felt that firmness of command could again take this multitude of men and sort it out into a fighting force. It is to that end that Cadorna and his generals are now straining their efforts. The Duke of Aosta, cousin of the King, who commands the third army, was calm and confident last night. His army, indeed, saved nearly all its guns, which is the best sign that their spirit as a fighting force is still sound.

"The right wing of the second army, too, fell back regularly from Sabotino and Gorizia.

"The troops on the left of the second army are also retiring steadily from their mountain positions so as to get into line with the rest of the new defensive front which the Italians will take up."

TETANUS IN VACCINE.

St. Paul, Minn., Report.—Health officers were asked to-day by manufacturers of vaccine sent here for use in vaccinating against smallpox to return it, as in certain instances it has been found to contain tetanus germs.

The vaccine was accordingly shipped to Washington, where it will be analyzed.

How the supposed tetanus germs got in the vaccine is unexplained, though it was suggested that enemies of the country might be responsible.

Dancing may be the poetry of motion, but it doesn't necessarily follow that we all have poetry in our soles.