British Naval Censors Kept Public in the Dark In Extraordinary Manner

KEEP the bad news back in the hope of better news coming along. That seemed to be the policy of the Admiralty during the war, judging by the revelations of Admiral Sir Douglas Brownrigg, Bart., in his book, "Indiscretions of the Naval Censor," says Tit-Bits.

For four and a half years the admiral was chief censor at the Admiralty, and in his book he reveals much of the truth concerning how the public was kept in the dark at times. "I wish," he says, "I could have told the whole truth."

He makes the startling confession that Winston Churchill had made up his mind to admit that the Audacious had been sunk in a German mine field on October 17, 1914, a few weeks after the event. "But just as he was about to go out of the Admiralty door," says Sir Douglas, "he was tackled by Lord Fisher, who cajoled and threatened and browbeat him to such an extent that the First Lord allowed himself to be turned away from his intended course. At no subsequent date could I induce anybody to agree with me that we might as well let the matter out."

The First Lord was a bit of a gambler, i.e., he would hold on to a bit of bad news for a time on the chance of getting a bit of good news as an offset, "and I must say," continued the admiral, "that it not infrequently came off.

An amazing picture of Mr. Churchill is presented by Sir Douglas in his references to the Dardanelles campaign, during which the First Lord did the censoring himself. Sir Douglas took Mr. Churchill the cables at 9.15 a.m., and "he presented a most extraordinary spectacle perched up in a huge bed with the whole of the counterpane littered with despatch boxes, red and all colors, and a stenographer sitting at the foot—Mr. Churchill himself with an enormous cigar in his mouth, a glass of warm water on the table by his side, and a writing pad on his knee. On one occasion he had a badly swollen face, and, with two turns of a flannel bandage round it and a scanty lock escaping here and there, presented a truly extraordinary picture."

As an illustration of the extraordinary methods of the Admiralty it is mentioned that the account of the battle of Jutland was held up for three days in England, although it was common knowledge in practically every other part of the world.

"Our ports were full of damaged ships and the hospitals were full of wounded men, and the Germans had got away with their fairly complete story of the battle through their wireless to every country in the world except these islands," says Sir Douglas. "As it was, some American papers, in fact, on the German statement, assumed that the Grand Fleet had been defeated, and that kind of thing did not do us any good."

Not only this, but "officers and men were wiring to their friends saying they were all right. On this occasion messages of the nature indicated were held up for inquiry before being sent on. It was at once decided, however, that the number—about 6,000—being so enormous it was out of the question to hold them up."

So the Admiralty decided to admit that there had really been a battle, and sent out the famous report on the evening of June 2 (the battle was fought on May 31) which to nine out of ten Englishmen and women "came as a frightful staggerer"—to quote Sir Douglas' phrase.

To Lift Sunken Ships.

A method has been devised and successfully tried by which sunken ships can be salvaged with comparative ease. Instead of using heavy steel tanks, whose weight must be added to the lifting force employed, the new way is to place fabric bags in the hull of the vessel, and inflate them with air. To augment the effect, a number of bags may be attached to the outside of the hull.

The bags are made of very strong rubber waterproof canvas, are from thirty to forty feet long, and displace from fifty to one hundred tons of water.

There is no difficulty in placing them inside the ship's hull. They are flexible, and can be folded to fit a small space during transportation, in this respect being very different from the more clumsy steel tanks ordinarily employed.

In order that the compressed air within the bags will not be forced to the bursting point, each bag is provided with an automatic blow-off valve. When placed in the ship, the bags are flat, and lie against the girders, and the vessel begins to rise when sufficient air has been blown into the bags.

Since the bags are placed just where the greatest weight is encountered, the ship can be lifted without any severe strain on the structure — a very great advantage over the old method.

The first vessel to be salved by this system was the steamer Main, which had been sunk by a German submarine in Luce Bay, off the coast of Scotland. The bags displaced one hundred tons of water each.—Tit-Bits.

Many Names.

Most people would be puzzled to hear that the Earl of Carrick is the rightful heir to the British throne. But this is true, nevertheless, for the Earl of Carrick is merely another name for the present Prince of Wales, who is also the Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Baron Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Great Steward of Scotland.

A RED CROSS BRIDGE.

Food Plentiful In Canada, Scarce In Europe—Needs of the Children.

The development of the dairy industry of Canada during the past two decades has been surprisingly rapid. Quick to realize the profits to be derived from milk production and the great value of dairying in conserving the fertility of the soil, the Canadian farmer has not hesitated to increase his investments in dairy cattle. The industry expanded during the five years of world war. Canada, being distant from the theatres of war, although handicapped by the drafting into military service of half a million of her most vigorous manhood, was able to continue the development of many of her important industries, particularly agriculture.

It was not so in Europe. There the fiery blast of war, which left profits in some parts of the world, almost extinguished not only industry but national life itself in other. The drain upon manhood was so great that now in hundreds of thousands of families no adult males remain. Europe moreover is filled with orphan children whose prospect of life is marred by the lack of all that is necessary to bodily and mental growth. In most cases the earning power and consequently the purchasing power of their families is utterly destroyed.

Turning again to Canada we find there a surplus production of the commodities that are so badly needed in Europe. Condensed milk for instance is a commodity that is a prime necessity for the children of the poor communities of Europe but the nations to which they belong have no means of purchasing it for them. The Canadian Red Cross is going to endeavor to supply part of their needs by means of a general appeal for contributions to be made during Armistice week on behalf of the British Empire Fund, which is to be used in the humane task of relieving the sufferings of millions who are stricken by famine and disease. Part of the fund will be used for purchasing in Canada suitable supplies and thus the Red Cross will furnish the bridge across which some of our surplus milk will reach the enfeebled children in war-stricken areas. Those who assist will not only have the satisfaction of having contributed to relieve the sufferings of others less fortunate but by helping others will thereby indirectly help themselves.

FROM GENEVA.

Organizer for League of Red Cross Societies Tells of Need of Europe's Orphans.

"While we at home are intent on industrial expansion and a place in the sun, Europe in its war-weakened condition is fighting for its very existence," said Donald W. Brown, director of the department of organization in the League of Red Cross Societies of the World, which has its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland. He visited Toronto to learn the peace program of the Canadian Red Cross Society and to establish closer contact between it and the league.

Millions of War Orphans.

Having just arrived from Europe, Mr. Brown was able to give the Canadian Red Cross some first hand information concerning the people of Europe. He called attention particularly to the condition of the children, so many of whom are now orphans. While the exact number who have lost one or both parents during the war cannot be determined, the most conservative estimate places the number at over ten millions. This number seems quite consistent with the heavy war casualties among so many nations.

Dependent Upon Charity.

The condition of these children is in most cases very pitiable. Many of them have no homes and they are dependent upon whoever may be charitable and kind enough to help them. But there are few who are able to give such help for the mass of the people of Russia, Poland, parts of Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia and other countries are so poor that they have not necessaries for themselves. Consequently in the great area between the Baltic, the Black and the Adriatic Seas, there are millions of children who face the next few years, and particularly the coming winter, without hope of proper care unless outside assistance is given them.

Disease Prevalent.

In addition to the unhappy condition of the children the adult populations are in the direst of misery on account of disease. Suffering has been accentuated by lack of food and clothing, nursing and medical attention, and tuberculosis, smallpox, typhus and dysentery are continuing unchecked.

Typhus which has so often proved a scourge and menace to the human race is again prevalent, and unless checked will most likely extend its ravages to an alarming degree.

British Empire Appeal.

For these urgent reasons, Mr. Brown said, the League of Red Cross Societies has made an earnest appeal to the people of the British Empire and he was glad to hear that the cause of the suffering children was being taken up in Canada. He had learned that an appeal on behalf of the British Empire Fund would be made in Canada by the Canadian Red Cross during Armistice week and wished for it every success.

Typhus In Canada.

In its earlier days Canada suffered from the ravages of a disease then known as "spotted fever" but now known generally by the name of typhus. It is a disease that spreads rapidly and is very destructive of human life. In the years 1846-47 it was brought to Canada by immigrants and caused great loss of life. It is only by taking urgent measures to stamp it out in the centres where it is now raging that it can be prevented from extending.