

Federal Council concerning breadstuffs, which are welcomed by all writers.

Steam Trawler's Captain

Runs Into Midst of Fight

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, Jan. 27.—The Amsterdam correspondent of "The Daily Chronicle" says: "From Captain K. Vull, of the steam trawler Holland IV, owned by the Praxx Company, of Ypres, I have received a vivid account of the battle in the North Sea, of which he saw the greater part. He had been two days at sea and was returning to Holland when about 5 o'clock he heard heavy firing, but could not see ships anywhere. He continued on his homeward journey, and in a few minutes was able to make out a series of bright flashes on the horizon in a southeasterly direction. The flashes became more numerous until they were so incessant that scarcely a second passed between them, and there was an increasing thunder of guns.

"Shortly afterward he was able to make out two separate squadrons coming straight for him at full speed, firing as they came. He realized quickly he was right in the path of British and German squadrons. He counted twenty-four British vessels. The British were trying their best to cut off the retreat of the Germans, who were flying homeward, and to bring them to a decisive combat. The skipper supposed the Germans had had a long start, and so the British were unable to come up and head them off from their home waters. Putting on all speed, the skipper took his trawler out of the warships' way and then lay to in case he could later on help to pick up any survivors.

Speaking of the use of the firing, he said it was indescribably terrific, making the bridge of his trawler tremble, while the report of each big gun had jarred her that it was a right angle. Around about the British ships were innumerable columns of water spurting into the air, where badly aimed German shells had fallen harmlessly in the water. The skipper saw less of this commotion in the water near the German ships and regarded the British guns as better and more regularly served. Throughout the hour or two that he was able to watch the progress of the fight both squadrons were largely engaged in smoke, and he saw the British vessels manœvering so that they got into a line with the smoke of the German vessels, in such a position they were still able to see the Germans, whereas the enemy had difficulty in getting a clear sight of their British opponents.

"The trawler lost sight of both squadrons while they were still going at a high speed in the direction of the German coast, Captain Vull calculated that during the hottest part of the fighting the British and German squadrons were not more than three miles apart. He did not see a German ship sink, but after an hour's fighting he witnessed great outbursts of smoke illuminated by occasional bands of flame coming from one of the German ships, and he concluded she had caught fire. The sea thereabouts, he says, is thickly strewn with mines.

Salvor Describes Battle

The Sheffield correspondent of "The Daily Chronicle" says that a Sheffield sailor, a first class stoker on a light cruiser that took part in the naval action, who came home on Sunday night on a short leave, told the following vivid story of the engagement: "The battle cruisers did the work. Once the enemy was sighted the light cruisers fell back according to orders, though you must bear in mind that before the fighting began there had been a lot of rounding up to do. It was my spell off, so I was able to be on deck and watch the fun. The enemy ships were more than ten miles away when I first saw them. As soon as they spotted us they turned tail and ran for all they were worth.

"I took it that it was the Lion that first came within effective range and opened fire, and soon the din was tremendous. Heavy firing lasted probably two hours. The Germans made a gallant fight of it, but their shells were weak and somewhat wild. They fired faster than our men did. Our chaps were wonderfully cool and steady, and their shots hit the target. It was a good light and steady, and I feel sure that they made excellent practice.

"When it comes to straightforward fighting the Germans have not an earthly. It did not take many hits to finish the Blücher. The last one of the German line at the waterline, and the slowly heeled over and went down like a glass sinking in water. Some of our destroyers immediately went to the rescue of the drowning crew, and as a result far fewer were saved than otherwise would have been the case.

Aeroplane Dropped Bombs

The Harwich correspondent of "The Daily Chronicle" says that every blue-jacket there who took part in the pursuit of the Germans is of opinion that it would have been a big fight if the Germans had wished it. The destroyers that steamed into a certain harbor this afternoon bore no traces of the fighting. Only one had been hit, the Meteor. Her captain, who was severely injured, is unable to narrate the part which the destroyer Liberty played in the fight. Most of the time she was in pursuit, consequently the chief impression that she has is that the Germans were attempting a raid rather than wanting a battle.

"We could not get them to stop," one of the men said to me, "although they counted thirty-two German destroyers, and they were in numerical superiority, as far as destroyers were concerned. Before pursuit was abandoned the Liberty accounted for one Meteor, and after seeing her safely away returned just in time to see the last of the Blücher. This vessel was crippled early in the fight, but did not begin to sink until an hour later. Salvo after salvo was fired into her by our little cruisers. She replied with her guns, but without any effect. Indeed, her gun fire became more of a menace to the German cruisers and destroyers than the English ships. As she settled to her guns went off for the last time.

GERMANS LOSE IN FIERCE DASH AT LA BASSEE

Driven from Position Captured After Five Attacks from British

INVADERS REPULSED IN YPRES REGION

Start New and Violent Offensive in Belgium and Northern France

(By Cable to The Tribune.) Picardy, France, Jan. 26.—Probably to be recorded in military annals as the second battle of La Bassee, an important action yesterday morning resulted in the defeat of a strong German army that had been massing for several days behind this part of their line. Hundreds of Germans were killed and several remained in our hands as prisoners, two of them officers of high rank.

The strategic advantage gained by the Allies is considerable. Without being too exact, one may be allowed to say that the conflict raged roughly along the triangle of Auechies la Bassee, Guiney and Chanoy. Once again, at various points where the British proved more than a match for the Germans in the use of the bayonet.

The railway line runs from Bethune to La Bassee, and the canal and a few yards north of it. The Allies hold both towns, and to preserve intact these lines of communication is of the utmost importance. It has been the ambition of the Germans to get across the railway and cut the Allies' communications. Just before Christmas they made a big move and drove the Indians out of Guiney, but were repulsed in their turn with heavy loss. For more than a week past intelligence has been brought to the Allied commanders of large movements of German troops to this important part of the line, so they were fully prepared in a general sense for any big operation of the ground forborne the expectation of anything like an attack en masse, even though it was almost the eve of the Kaiser's birthday.

Deserter Gives Warning. About two minutes past 7 yesterday morning a private, who now has his right arm in bandages, was just beginning to think about breakfast in his own lodging when, to his astonishment, a German soldier, a Linovotian, came tumbling over the top of the trench. He was looking down at the business end of the British soldier's rifle. He soon disclosed his errand by giving himself up as a prisoner and declaring he was a deserter from the German front-line trenches. He added, when another Tommy began to wield a bayonet threateningly, that a grand attack by the German army had been planned for 7:30 o'clock.

Then followed a mortal combat a close quarters. The rattle of musketry gave place to the hoarse cries of men cutting, stabbing and thrusting, and next these sinister sounds of battle were drowned by the thunderous diaphanous of heavy guns. At one or two points the Germans actually broke through for 400 yards before it broke, like a spray on rocks, against some of the most celebrated corps in the British army.

The Jack Johnsons were falling thick and fast, but the heavy guns of the British reaped a far richer harvest, owing to the superior bursting power of their shells. Still the Germans came on in their mad dash, and it was not until the last of the line at this point and maintaining the wedge at all costs.

The clubbed rifles and the bayonets of the British finally towered the side, and the German line, reinforced, fell upon what remained of the Germans, who broke and were crumpled up. Many of them surrendered in groups. When battle finished, the British had retaken the trenches.

Germans Defeated in Fierce Dash, Says London War Office

London, Jan. 26.—The Germans, who are reported from Holland to be making preparations for a big military offensive to celebrate the Emperor's birthday to-morrow, have already made a more determined effort than usual against the French and British lines in Flanders and Northern France. They have delivered an attack on the French line near Ypres, and no less than five attacks on the first division of the British force on either side of La Bassee Canal.

Both British and French official reports state that all these attacks failed of their object and that the Germans suffered heavy losses. The Official Press Bureau here says that yesterday an attack on the neighborhood of La Bassee the enemy delivered several violent attacks against the 1st Division. They were repulsed with severe losses.

"In one place alone on the La Bassee road 500 Germans were killed. Fifty-five prisoners, including two officers, were captured.

"An attack made on the French lines opposite Ypres was also repulsed with great loss."

The Germans, while admitting that their attack on the British north of the canal was unsuccessful, say that on the south side of the waterway their efforts resulted in complete success and that the British attempt to reconquer these trenches was repulsed with heavy losses.

British Win Back Their Old Positions, Paris Reports

Paris, Jan. 26.—The Germans were defeated last night with considerable loss by the British troops at Guiney,

in the neighborhood of La Bassee, southwest of Lille, and driven from the position they had captured. The invaders apparently had concentrated their strength at this point, and a violent attack on the British positions, which was repulsed, was followed by a vigorous counter-attack. The fighting with such violence has been proceeding with such violence in the Argonne Forest has resulted in French successes near St. Hubert and Fontaine Madame, where any recent action of the trenches recently lost. The British troops repulsed last night a new attack on Guiney, which succeeded in occupying their positions of the day before.

"The fighting has been very violent on the only road between Bethune and Guiney and Guiney, the enemy delivered five attacks against the British line. After the Germans were repulsed they left on the field numerous dead and sixty prisoners, including two officers. This attack was accompanied by end-of-days at divers points on the road between La Bassee and Ais. A detachment of the enemy which endeavored to come out from their trenches was at once repulsed by the fire of our infantry and of our front and rear batteries. On the rest of the front and the Oise yesterday saw artillery duels.

BETHMANN-HOLLWEG LIED SAYS SIR EDWARD GREY

British Foreign Secretary Replies to German Chancellor's Explanation of What He Meant by "Scrap of Paper"—Gives History of Case.

London, Jan. 26.—Sir Edward Grey, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, authorized the following statement to-day in reply to an interview with Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, published in London on January 25: "The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs authorizes the following observations on an interview recently granted by the German Chancellor to an American correspondent. It is not surprising that the German Chancellor should have sought to explain away the historic phrase about a treaty being a mere 'scrap of paper'. The phrase has made a deep impression because of the progress of the world towards peace between individuals and between nations, and the policy disclosed in Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg's phrase tends to debase the legal and moral currency of civilization.

"What the German Chancellor said was that Great Britain, in requiring Germany to respect the neutrality of Belgium, 'was going to make war just for a word, just for a scrap of paper'. That is, that Great Britain is making a mountain out of a molehill. He now asks the American public to believe that he meant the exact opposite of what he said—that it was Great Britain who really regarded the neutrality of Belgium as a mere 'scrap of paper'. The deserter who told me that he had seen the German Chancellor say that, and that he took her responsibilities toward the neutral states so seriously."

Passes Lie to Chancellor

"The arguments by which Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg seeks to establish the two sides of this case are in flat contradiction of the plain facts. First, the German Chancellor alleges that 'England in 1914 was determined to throw troops into Belgium without the consent of the Belgian government'. This allegation is absolutely false. It is based upon certain documents found in Brussels, which record conversations between British and Belgian officials in 1906 and again in 1911.

"The fact that there is no note of these conversations at the British War Office or the Foreign Office shows that they were of purely informal character, and that no military agreement of any sort was at either time made between the two governments. Before any conversations took place between the British and Belgian officials, the latter had laid down on the British side that discussion of the military possibilities was to be addressed to the manner in which, in case of need, British assistance could be most effectively applied to Belgium, for the defence of her neutrality, and on the Belgian side a marginal note upon the record explains that 'the entry of the English into Belgium would only be a matter of time, and that the neutrality of Belgium would be violated by the entry of our troops'."

"As regards the conversation of 1911 the British officer said to the British officer: 'You could only get the Belgian Government to take place in our agreement a categorical assurance that no British government would violate the neutrality of Belgium, and that so long as it was not violated by any send troops ourselves into their territory.'"

What Sir Edward Did Say

"The Chancellor's method of misquoting documents may be illustrated in this connection. He represents Sir Edward Grey as saying: 'He did not think England would take sides such as this, he did not think English public opinion would justify such action. What Sir Edward Grey actually wrote was: "I said that I was sure that this government would not be the first to violate the neutrality of Belgium, and I did not believe that any British government would be the first to do so, nor would public opinion here ever approve of it.'"

"If the German Chancellor wishes to know why there were conversations on military subjects between British and Belgian officials he may find one reason in a fact well known to him, namely, that Germany was establishing an elaborate network of strategic railways leading from the Rhine to the Belgian frontier through a hazy, thinly populated area. The railways were deliberately constructed to permit of a sudden attack upon Belgium, such as was carried out in August last."

"This fact alone was enough to justify any communications between Belgium and the other powers on the footing that there would be no violation of Belgian neutrality unless it was previously violated by another power. On a fact footing did Belgium ever have any such communications."

"In spite of these facts the German Chancellor speaks of Belgium as having been abandoned and forgotten by the British, and he implies that the invasion was a 'wrong' had he then known of the conversations of 1906 and 1911."

GERMANY SEIZES ENTIRE GRAIN CROP

Stocks Must Be Reported and Will Be Confiscated on February 1.

MOST DRASTIC ACT SINCE WAR OPENED

Expected to Upset Plan of Enemies to Starve Country Into Submission.

Berlin (by wireless to London), Jan. 26.—The Federal Council has put into effect sweeping regulations for the conservation of the food supply, as follows: "All stocks of corn, wheat and flour are ordered seized by February 1. All business transactions in these commodities are forbidden from January 26. All municipalities are charged with the duty of setting aside suitable supplies of preserved meat. The owners of corn are ordered to report their stocks immediately, whereupon confiscation at a fixed price will follow.

A government distributing office for the regulation of consumption will be established, distribution being made according to the number of inhabitants. The Imperial Gazette publishes the following notice to-day regarding the confiscation of grain: "There is no doubt that the measure ordered takes cuts much deeper into the economic life of our people than all the other economic regulations hitherto adopted by the Federal Council during the war. It is, however, necessary in order to make certain the sufficient and regular supply of our people with breadstuffs until the next thrashing of the new harvest, and is comparatively small."

"But losses yesterday were small. Our troops attacked the positions of the English on both sides of La Bassee Canal. While the attack to the north of the canal, between Guiney and the canal, did not lead to the capture of any English positions, on account of a strong flanking movement, an attack of the troops from Haden to the south of the canal met with complete success. In this region English positions extending for over a width of 1,200 yards were taken by storm and two strong points of support were captured. Three officers and 110 men were taken prisoners and one cannon and three machine guns were captured."

"The English met their fate. More than fifty prisoners fell into our hands."

"The reason of Bethmann-Hollweg's refusal to make any public statement, the German Foreign Secretary, Herr von Jagow, may be paraphrased in the well known gloss upon Shakespeare: 'Thrice is he honore'd that bath his quarrel justly, but four times he that gets his blow in lust.' He had to advance into France," said Herr von Jagow, "by the quickest and easiest way, so as to be able to get well ahead with their operations and endeavor to strike some decisive blow as early as possible."

"Germany's real attitude toward Belgium was thus frankly given by the German Foreign Secretary to the British Ambassador, and the German Chancellor, in his speech to Reichstag, claimed the right to commit a wrong in virtue of the military necessity of backing his way through. The treaty which forbade the wrong was, by comparison, a mere scrap of paper."

"The truth was spoken in these first statements by the two German Ministers. All the apologies and arguments which have since been forthcoming are afterthoughts to excuse and explain away a flagrant wrong. Moreover, all the attacks upon Great Britain in regard to this matter and all talk about 'responsibilities' toward the neutral states' come hardly from the man who on July 29 asked Great Britain to enter into a bargain to condone the violation of the neutrality of Belgium."

"The German Chancellor spoke to the American correspondent of his efforts for years to bring about an understanding between England and Germany. An understanding, he added, which would have absolutely guaranteed the peace of Europe."

"He omitted to mention what Mr. Asquith made public in his speech at Cardiff that Germany required an unconditional pledge of England's neutrality. The British government were ready to bind themselves not to be parties to any aggression against Germany. They were not prepared to give their neutrality in case of aggression by Germany."

"Germany Sought Free Hand. An Anglo-German understanding on the latter terms would not have meant an absolute guarantee for the peace of Europe, but it would have meant an absolutely free hand for Germany in the event of a war between Germany and France."

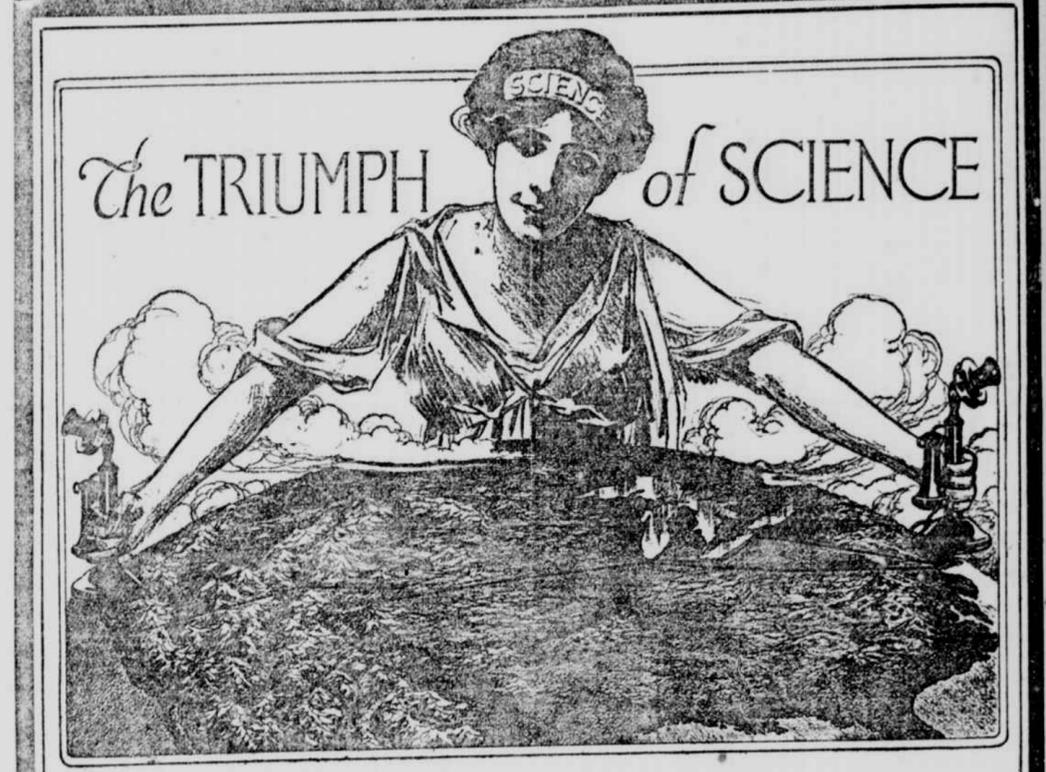
W. & J. SLOANE EASTERN RUGS Room Sizes— \$150.00 upwards Smaller Sizes— \$ 12.00 upwards FIFTH AVENUE AND 47TH STREET

besides a necessity of life for the government and the nation. The steps heretofore taken have proved themselves not far-reaching enough to bring about the sparing use of our limited supplies of breadstuffs, which, however, are in reality sufficient for our needs. In particular the measures hitherto introduced have not prevented the feeding of bread grain to cattle.

"The present order gives us the certainty that our enemies' plan to starve Germany will be upset and assures us of plentiful bread until the next harvest."

Washington, Jan. 26.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, notified the State Department to-day that his government had given official assurance that no foodstuffs shipped from the United States to Germany would be seized for military or any other governmental use.

The order of the Federal Council of Germany for the seizure of all stocks of corn, wheat and flour by February 1, is construed by some of the officials here as likely to deprive the owners of the cargo of the American steamship Wilhelmina of the right they claim to land their food supplies in Germany. The basis of their claim was the declaration that the grain was not intended for the German army or the German government, but for non-combatant individuals, and therefore not subject to seizure according to the terms of the Hague convention.



THIS busy, progressive nation is today at the dawn of a new era of commercial and social development. The means by which the human voice, with its slightest inflections and indications of personality, can be carried across the continent instantly, have been provided. Talking by telephone from New York to San Francisco is now an accomplished fact.

The celebration of this latest and greatest triumph in the art of telephony has just taken place. Within a short time the public will have, ready for its use, the product of American brains, American initiative and American scientific and technical skill, a transcontinental telephone service, the equal of which is not even approached in all the other nations of the world.

It is a splendid scientific achievement of the very highest character. The power that sends the human voice out over the telephone is scarcely greater than that of a breath, yet the means have been provided by which this tiny, almost imaginary impulse, made up of as many as 2,000 separate vibrations a second, can be picked up by a delicate instrument, conserved over a distance of 3,400 miles, and reproduced perfectly and instantly across the continent. The human voice has been made to travel as fast as light, faster than sound unaided by technical apparatus; indeed, it rivals THOUGHT even, in the swiftness of its flight.

The imagination can but feebly grasp, much less attempt to measure, the far-reaching significance of such a tremendous accomplishment. One hundred million people will have for their daily use a system of communication that knows no East, no West, no North, no South. Dialects, provincialisms, sectional prejudices, must eventually yield to the closer union, the better understanding, the more intimate comradeship that the human voice establishes. The neighborliness of a whole nation is advanced by the brushing away of the physical restraints of centuries.

This contribution to the future happiness and prosperity of a more closely united people has not been brought about, however, by the overcoming of a few isolated, concrete difficulties. Its success has depended upon the exercise of the highest engineering and technical skill, and the solution was found only in the cumulative effect of improvements great and small, in telephone, transmitter, line, cable, switchboard, and every other piece of apparatus or plant required in the transmission of speech.

In this work the experimental and research department of the Bell System, of which this Company is a part, has been engaged ever since the telephone became a commercial possibility, less than 40 years ago. With no traditions to follow and no experience to guide, this department, which is now directed by a staff of over 550 engineers and scientists, including former professors, post graduate students, scientific investigators—the graduates of 140 universities—has created an entirely new art—the art of telephony, and has given to the people of this country a telephone service that has no equal.

It has required vast expenditures of money and immense concentration of effort, but these have been justified by results of immeasurable benefit to the public. The transcontinental telephone line, 3,400 miles long, joining the Atlantic and Pacific, is part of the Bell System of 21,000,000 miles of wire connecting 9,000,000 telephone stations, located everywhere throughout the United States. Composing this system are the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and Associated Companies and connecting companies, giving universal service to 100,000,000 people.

Truly, This is The Triumph of Science NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO. BELL SYSTEM ASSOCIATED COMPANIES