

Province Correspondent Makes Dash into Belgium from Sluis.

(Special Copyright Cable to the Vancouver Daily Province and Montreal Star.)

Sluis, Dutch Frontier, Oct. 30.—From word brought me by Dutch journalistic friends, it is evident that the Kaiser means to stake all that has been gained since the fall of Antwerp on a final, desperate and costly attempt to pierce the Allied left wall inland on the Ypres Canal. Over 40,000 fresh troops have been sent south through Bruges during the last two days. They are fine, seasoned men, withdrawn from the Aisne line, and they brought with them tremendously cumbersome artillery, some on specially constructed railway trucks, but mostly along roads where the bridges have been specially strengthened. At first this new army headed direct for Nieuport, but now its direction has been changed, and Belgian refugees declare they have seen huge artillery trains in the neighborhood of Thiel. They were halted, and as some informants declare British and French troops have been fighting near Thourout, there was possibly good reason for the halt.

Morale Is Bad.

"Calais or bust" appears to be the Kaiser's motto, and Dutch correspondents say it will be "bust." They declare that even the best regiments are tired of being decimated, and that the morale of the whole German right wing is bad, as a result of the driving policy of the new commanders, who have taken over this section from Von Kluck. On our excursion into Northern Belgium we "burrowed" American passports—we have met hundreds of weary stragglers from the firing line, making for the Dutch frontier, and so many have got across that they are now tagged with badges by the field gendarmier, who arrest them, and take them to Bruges and Ghent.

With the change in the German plans to the south has come a change also along the northern coast in Belgium. From a safe distance inside the Dutch frontier I watched the German marines at Heyst and Zebrugge entrenching huge 42-centimetre guns on Monday. They even constructed a light railway to bring up ammunition, on Wednesday. Only one gun and a few marines were left, and they obviously remained only to protect the canal and the tugs which were busy laying mine fields off the shore. Today a winter gale is blowing, and most of the mines are back to land. We heard them explode all morning. From reliable information we learn that submarine parts have been taken down the Zebrugge Canal and back again.

Last night there was a report that a Zeppelin had passed close to the border, but the Belgian captain of the Wandelaar lightship, who came over the frontier, tells us it was undoubtedly a British hydroplane. So the Allies are not ignorant of movements in this corner of Belgium.

Charge by the Ghurkas.

Tremendous losses were inflicted when Indian cavalry followed up a charge of the Ghurkas on Wednesday. Dutch journalists witnessed this portion of the battle, and had an opportunity of talking with the wounded brought back to Bruges.

"They are black devils, assassins," they declared. "You can not stop them and their knives and knives are terrible. They are not civilized fighters." The wounded were for the most part reserves of the Prussian Guard from Cologne, and had come fresh into the fighting line.

During our trip into Belgium—I was with Percival Phillips, the veteran war correspondent of the London Express—we came upon a forlorn figure in civilian clothes, which proved to be Private Smart of the Scots Guards. He had been wandering about the German lines for over a week always hidden by friendly Belgians. When pressed he declared that many Germans seem old men with beards, poorly equipped and bad shots. He knew, for he had been their target on more than one occasion. We got him safely over the Dutch border and shipped him back to Folkestone. He asked me to tell his brother in Montreal or Toronto of his safety, as he would be reported missing.

To sum up opinions, if the next great attack on the Allies falls, the

Said He Sacrificed His Life Because the Temple Was Defiled by Shooting.

Mewa Singh, the self-confessed slayer of Immigration Inspector W. C. Hopkinson, was this morning tried and found guilty of murder and sentenced to be hanged on January 11. He made no denial of the offence.

"Am I on oath? I am guilty," he said on the indictment being read over to him, but following the usual custom in murder trials, the Crown entered a plea of not guilty and proceeded to prove the charge by witnesses. The whole trial lasted but two hours and the jury was out only five minutes.

The feature of the trial was a lengthy written statement made by the accused of the motives which led him to commit the crime. In it he protested that he had always been a man of prayer, and that the shooting of Bhag Singh and others in the temple, which had made Bhag Singh's little daughter an orphan, and the defilement of the temple by the shooting, had burned into his soul. He alleged that the late Inspector Hopkinson had tried to get him to swear falsely to secure the freedom of Bela Singh, charged with the temple shooting, and protested that he gave up his life for what he believed to be a righteous cause in the hope and belief that the sacrifice would benefit his fellow Hindus in Vancouver.

Mewa Singh's Swan Song.

Mewa, whose dark, lustrous eyes and drawn features give him the appearance of a religious devotee, had lost the confident bearing he had on the day of his arrest. He appeared cowed before the crowded courtroom, in which only four of his compatriots appeared in the thronged gathering. He kept his turbaned head bowed and his eyes downcast, and though proficient in English seemed to find relief in falling back on his native Punjab dialect in talking to Mrs. Dalton, the court interpreter.

At the close of his statement he made a last request that the little daughter of Bhag Singh, the priest's new motherless and fatherless, should be brought in to hear what he had to say. When the little girl could not be found, he started the courtroom, where the nerves of the spectators were on edge, by bursting into a religious chant.

"He wishes you all to know," said Mrs. Dalton after the prisoner had spoken to her, "that the words he has sung are from the Sikh scriptures and say that it is the duty of a good man to give his life for a good cause, and that the condition of the Hindus in Vancouver is as bad as when the Mohammedans ruled India." The intoned scripture proved to be Mewa's swan song, for shortly after the jury brought in its verdict.

"I killed him. I did it for a good cause. He merciful to me," he said to the judge with calmness and resignation.

In the lengthy statement which his counsel, Mr. E. M. N. Woods read to the court at the prisoner's request, it stated in part:

"My name is Mewa Singh. Up till today I have been a man that has always had my prayers, a God-fearing man. There are no words in my language to express the sorrow and troubles and worries I have had to put up with here in Vancouver.

"All of us living Sikhs when we go to the Sikh Temple it is with the object of saying our prayers, but these others have gone to ruin us altogether, and others going in to the Temple and firing there destroyed the goodness of the Temple, spelt it by having them

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STRUCK BY A SHELL

Commanding Officer and Several Others Killed on the Falcon.

London, Oct. 30.—The British torpedo boat destroyer Falcon was hit by the last shell fired Wednesday afternoon by the Germans off the coast of Belgium. The shell struck the bridge killing Lieut. Hubert Warton, commander of the vessel, and the members of the gun crew forward. Sub-Lieut. Theo Dobson was severely wounded and Lieut. Robert Crossman slightly wounded.

The dead and four wounded were landed here yesterday. The Falcon arrived at Dover Thursday afternoon and proceeded to Portsmouth.

TAKING OVER

Kitchener of the Navy Becomes First Sea Lord

Aggression Is the Watchword of Lord Fisher, Who Has Succeeded Prince Louis of Battenberg—Swears by Nelson's Policy of Compelling Enemy to Fight.

(Special Copyright Cable to the Vancouver Daily Province)

London, Oct. 30.—The retirement of Prince Louis of Battenberg marks the successful culmination of a campaign of malignant and ferocious slander. Rumors, circulated three weeks past from mouth to mouth that the prince had been arrested on a charge of treason and was confined to the tower. This myth was adorned with many artful details, the slanderers declaring that the prince had betrayed British naval secrets. The anti-Battenberg campaign, it is needless to add, was supported by no responsible person and believed by none save idle gossipers; yet today everyone recognizes that the prince's resignation is mainly due to this campaign of suggestion against him. The Times says:

"It is difficult to write with patience concerning such rumors in the case of a man who has had a long and most distinguished career in the service of his adopted country, whose brother and brother's son have both died in her wars, and whose own two sons and two other nephews are in her fighting forces at this moment. Gossip of this kind represents the most contemptible side of democratic government, and honest men will not care to remember its results in this case."

"None who knew him," says the Daily Mail, "can doubt for one instant his devoted attachment to the country which he adopted and the navy which he entered, forty-six years ago. His loyal and noble figure, the fine service he rendered the navy in manoeuvres, in high command and as an inventor and tactician will not be forgotten and his self-sacrificing action will win for him the sympathy of all."

Lord Fisher's appointment, officially reported, early this morning, will be received with universal approval. Lord Charles Battenberg's old campaign against Britain's greatest admiral is now universally repudiated. The war has proved Fisher's naval policy right in its most contentious points. He is the Kitchener of the navy. Lord Fisher was among the first to recognize the revolution created in naval warfare by the submarine. He created our submarine fleet and used every means to drive home national confidence in it. One of the most forceful off-ship weapons of the navy. He repudiated the doctrine that submarines would weaken strong navies, declaring that they would add to their power by enabling them to drive their foes into the open and compel them to fight. Years ago he maintained that submarines, properly handled, can attack navies lying in apparently secure harbors, protected by mines and forts. All who know his character confidently expect that comparatively passive tactics of our navy will promptly cease. Fisherism means aggression. He swears by Nelson's policy of keeping straight for the enemy and engaging him in an immediate battle. Undeniably, the conduct of the navy since the opening of hostilities has been a real national disappointment. The people unwillingly acquiesced in the assertions of its admiralty that nothing else was possible than what has been done, but they believe now that Fisher will accomplish what others have declared impossible and bring an early decision by a naval victory. With Kitchener at the war office, Fisher at the admiralty, and Asquith as Premier, the nation is fully confident that its destinies are safe.

F. A. MCKENZIE.

Some of the Canadians at the Front Already

Montreal Private Killed at Lille by a German Shell—Ottawa Believes Part of Army Service Corps, Including Portion of Mechanical Transport, Is at Front.

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—The militia department has had no official knowledge of the presence of Canadian troops at the front, as indicated by the reported death of Private William Cockhill of Montreal, by a German shell at Lille yesterday. It is stated here that the expeditionary force is now in control of the war office and that the department here is not consulted excepting on matters of prime importance. It is not believed here, however, that the entire Army Service Corps of the Canadian forces is at the front as this unit is absolutely necessary to provide for the feeding of the men at Salisbury Plain. It is not even believed that the whole of the mechanical transport has gone through, but it is probable that a section or so may have been handed over for service at once. There was a demand for motor trucks and drivers by the war office, some time ago, and it is considered probable that part of

the Canadian mechanical transport has responded.

Montreal, Oct. 30.—William Cockhill of Montreal, was killed at Lille, in France, while on active service. Messages to that effect were received here yesterday. Cockhill had been a chauffeur in the employ of Sir Frederick Williams Taylor and went with the Canadian overseas expeditionary force, having joined the mechanical transport section of the Army Service Corps as a driver. The majority of the section of the contingent at once proceeded to the continent and joined the Allied army to serve in the transport section at Lille. A shell struck the car Cockhill was handling and the gas tank exploded, the driver being instantly killed. A sister received official notification of the death of Mr. Cockhill. Mr. Cockhill was married two days previous to his departure from Montreal.

MR. RUSSELL MUST PAY

Court Judgment Is Favor of Pinkerton Detective Agency.

Montreal, Oct. 30.—Mr. David Russell, formerly of St. John, N. B., was this morning ordered by the court to pay the Pinkerton Detective Agency \$3000 as a result of his alleged slanderous charges against the firm in his suit for \$500,000, brought two years ago. At that time Russell claimed the Pinkertons had contrived to place him in an insane asylum, and he sought damages, which were refused by the courts. Mr. Russell must also pay \$500 to J. W. McNamara and \$250 to Geo. Dougherty, two Pinkerton detectives, on the same grounds.

MONTREAL "DEAD BROKE"

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