

# THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

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## EDITORIALS

What became of the flour sent by Canada to Great Britain at the opening of the war?

Quite recently much of it was distributed among the poor of London. But a startling statement is made by the editor of London Opinion. He declares that he has it on the best of authority that the half of Canada's gift of flour was sent to Belgium to relieve the needs of the people there and that this flour was seized by the Germans and applied to their own use.

If this be true, it is a rather astonishing outcome of an action on Canada's part that was meant to be both patriotic and benevolent. Instead of our gift of flour being used to feed the poor of England, or the widows and orphans of Belgium, the statement is that half of it—that would be 500,000 bags—went to feed the German army in the field! If this has happened, it would be impossible to imagine a more preposterous miscarriage of a good intention.

It is to be hoped that the editor of the London Opinion has been misinformed. He denounces the theft of this flour from the widows and orphans of Belgium as the meanest of all thefts. No doubt the Germans would argue that this

was British flour, which they were free to seize. In fact, they have robbed the Belgians right and left of grain, flour, and food in every form. There could have been no reason to expect that plunderers so ruthless would spare our flour if they could get their hands on it.

The food supplies sent by the United States into Belgium need to be well looked after if they are to be used by the people for whom they are meant. Germany's formal notice that American consuls in Belgium must withdraw until they receive license from Berlin to continue in their posts creates a difficult situation. It means that the Washington government must recognize German authority in Belgium, or be unrepresented there—which would mean that there would be no official representative of the United States to supervise the distribution of food sent for Belgian relief. Does anybody believe that in such circumstances the Germans could be trusted to administer relief? Uncle Sam must either insist upon carrying that relief and delivering it by hand, or he may as well cease sending it.

Whenever the enemy has succeeded in sinking a vessel of the British fleet by means of

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a submarine or a mine, the Admiralty has always announced that the vessel was an old one, of a class that is obsolete or nearly so.

Perhaps the public has grown a little impatient of this explanation, sounding as it does like an attempt to minimize the success of the enemy, or as an effort to reassure the public.

But it is neither the one or the other. It is, instead, a very important announcement and full of significance. It means this: Britain is not holding command of the sea without risking ships. There are risks that must be faced. The Germans for five months have tried by the use of mines and submarines to reduce Britain's naval ascendancy while holding their own navy in reserve for a supreme effort when conditions had been made more equal. That was the enemy's plan. How has it prospered?

After five months of war the Germans are aware that, although they have, by means of mines and submarines, sunk a number of British vessels—and sent many a good man to his death—yet the ships they have "got," the ones they have sunk, are old ones of semi-obsolete type. In other words, after five months of effort, the Germans are aware that they have failed to reach and have been unable to reduce the strength of that British battle fleet of fast, powerful, modern vessels, which waits to engage the German navy whenever the opportunity presents itself.

The great battle squadron that forms the striking force of Britain stands intact—after five months, as ready to throw its preponderant forces upon the German navy as it was on the day the war began. The strategy of the enemy has not succeeded, and his losses have actually been greater than ours, while his ability to sustain them has been much less. British vessels have been in the open everywhere, exposed to submarine attack and mine dangers, while German cruisers have kept pretty much in seclusion. But it is Britain's secondary fleet that has been taking all these risks. Past this outer defence, the enemy has been unable to reach.

This is what it means when we read in a dispatch that "the vessel lost was an old one of an obsolete type." It means that while the loss injures us it does not benefit the enemy—does not affect the fighting fleet set apart from the first day of the war to smash German sea-power, and waiting ever since always ready for the grand clash.—Toronto Star.

It is generally considered a good thing not to be a good thing.

### MRS. EVERARD COTES REVISING HER PLAY

The Toronto Star, of recent issue, has a halftone cut of Mrs. Everard Cotes, together with a lengthy article on her career.

Mrs. Cotes is well known locally, having visited here a few years ago with her husband and secured some of Prince Rupert's choice property, which they still hold. The following is reproduced from The Star:

#### Canada's Foremost Novelist.

To know Sara Jeanette Duncan (Mrs. Everard Cotes), styled Canada's leading novelist and other attributive titles, who is at present in Toronto watching the first production of her first play, "His Royal Happiness," it is necessary first to read a number of her works, and then to observe the things she does not say when she is being interviewed. It is rather beside the mark to label Mrs. Cotes "charming" and "feminine," and other bromides of the lady journalist's pen, for a woman with the keen insight shown in such books as "The Social Departure," and "An American Girl in London," will not unburden her personality for the benefit of a group of tea admirers.

Mrs. Cotes has seen much of life, and gives the impression of living very little on the surface. A mouth which seems placid in the center, has a nervous, humorous twitch at the corners which tells of a torrent of unrevealed thought, criticism, comparison, and at times even impatience, while the stern line of her eyebrows over heavily-lidded eyes means that all these thoughts are about to appear in print, or have appeared in part. It is this constant readiness to receive and re-impart impressions that produced "The Burnt Offering" and "The Path of a Star," with other works on India, shortly after her arrival in that country following her marriage with Mr. Everard Cotes, managing director of the Indian News Agency and living at Simla.

This pioneer in the literature of Canada was born in Brantford, Ontario, and has since worked and lived in Washington, Montreal, Toronto, New Orleans, and in 1889 undertook a trip around the world, of which "The Social Departure" was the result.

Her last work, "His Royal Happiness," was published in The Ladies' Home Journal, and has just appeared in book form. Its dramatic possibilities attracted Miss Annie Russell, and together they have produced a dramatization which is causing much comment and more anxiety and effort on the part of its producers. To those who have met Mrs. Cotes and have read her works, the faults of this play are a matter of keen concern, and its virtues are exulted in, so deeply do we take our Canadian writers to heart. Following the many plaudits and criticisms of friends and professionals, Mrs. Cotes is at present revising and rewriting several minor parts, to prepare it for its tour of the States. The authoress will remain in the city until Saturday night, and will leave with the company, though as yet they do not know where "His Royal Happiness" will be next produced.

### BERESFORD CRITICIZES ACTION OF ADMIRALTY OVER FORMIDABLE LOSS

Says Destruction of So Many Officers and Men Was Wanton Sacrifice—Must Stop.

London, Jan. 18.—Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, in a letter to the press, strongly criticizes the action of the Admiralty in connection with the sinking of the Formidable, and describes the loss of so many officers and men as wanton sacrifice.

"This ship was lost," Lord Beresford contends, "under conditions where repetition, after the disaster to the Aboukir, Gressy and Hogue, one would have thought inconceivable. In both cases these heavy ships were sent into waters where submarines were known to be, unprotected by destroyers, their natural defence.

"A destroyer can instantly detect a submarine, and signal its position to the rest of the fleet. What kind of strategy is it then, that sends squadrons into the Channel at slow steam without a destroyer escort which would secure its safety.

"That men should be exposed to such conditions is unpardonable. When incompetency arrives at a certain point it must be stopped."

### DEPARTMENT TO INSTALL UNIFORM SYSTEM OF BUOYS

Red Gas-Lighted Buoys to Carry Red Lights and Black Buoys White Lights.

Vancouver, Jan. 15.—It is officially announced that it is the intention of the Department of Marine to establish a uniform system of gas-lighted buoys and gas beacons, making buoy or beacon lights that are to be left on the starboard side in going up stream occulting red lights and port hand light occulting white lights. That is, red buoys will carry red lights, and black buoys white lights. For special positions, such as middle grounds, fairways, etc., special arrangements will be made. White lights will, however, be favored when possible.

In British Columbia waters it has been decided to mark the coastwise channels as if the tide ebbed to the southward, disregarding the point of turn of the tide, so that vessels proceeding northward up the coast or into an inlet towards the head would have red buoys and beacons on the starboard hand.

This is to be regarded as a preliminary notice. It is proposed to make the changes by May 1, 1915. Fuller details of the carrying out of the scheme will be advertised.

### LADY CHARLES ROSS ON HOSPITAL TRAIN

She Was in Dunkirk When Germans Bombed the Town.

Salisbury Plains, Jan. 18.—Lady Charles Ross, wife of Sir Charles Ross of Quebec, the manufacturer of the Ross rifle, is working in France on a hospital train which she equipped herself. Lady Ross was in Dunkirk when the German aviators dropped bombs on the town. Sir Charles Ross has returned to Canada.

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