

THE DAILY NEWS

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EDITORIALS

Nothing strikes the visitor to Great Britain so much as the calm reserve of all classes. There is no boasting, no Ma-feking nights, but simply a quiet resolve to see things through, and a magnificent confidence in those into whose hands have been committed the honor and security of the Empire. The cheery optimism of the men at the front is no irresponsible, ephemeral manifestation, but simply reflects the normal life of the British nation, which follows its even course uninterrupted by German scares. This wonderful spirit is particularly observable among the women, who bravely smile as they wave adieux to their husbands and sons going to the front, proudly maintaining in face of death the splendid traditions of the race.

War has brought great changes, moreover, in the relations between man and man, and in the national outlook. For years there has been a bitter war of classes in the United Kingdom, arousing fierce animosities and kindling suspicions and jealousies as the vanguard of democracy assailed the citadel of feudalism. This war has served to adjust relations, to correct viewpoints, and to create a better feeling between those who so long have been in opposite camps.

The remarkable patriotism of the Laborites has come as a surprising revelation to the aristocracy. On the other hand, the matchless courage and sacrifice of the sons of the aristocracy and landed gentry have inspired the democracy with a feeling of respect for the upper ruling classes such as it has never before known. Thousands of the British aristocracy and wealthy classes are serving as privates in the

ranks, and the intimate contact that comes to men hourly facing death must instill a greater respect for each other and promote a closer bond of union between those so long widely separated by social barriers.

A new Britain is evolving out of the chaos of war. Things can never be quite as they were. The old political feuds are for the moment forgotten in face of the national crisis. In this calm atmosphere of a long political truce the finer instincts of humanity are having fuller play. The lessons of the war, which Germany's immoral doctrines have raised in such an acute form, will not go unheeded. This supreme test of the British people may prove to be the solvent of many domestic problems. At any rate, the future is more full of hope, for, in the hour of their country's destiny all classes have rallied to her side and find in the common bond of national service the golden bridge to a better understanding between all classes, and the sure way to unity and progress.—Toronto Globe.

The following from Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, with regard to the value of a local navy unit is interesting in view of the fact that the Borden government had all along before the war repudiated the idea:

"It has been a most fortunate thing that we own these submarines. Ask any man on the Pacific Coast what he thinks has been the result of these submarines being there. Ask the naval officers of the department in Ottawa what the moral effect of the presence of these submarines has been. These officers tell me that the fact that there were submarines on our Pacific Coast ready to go out and do battle in front of Victoria, Vancouver or Esquimalt would be known to German cruisers on the Pacific Coast, like the Dresden, the Leipzig and others, and they would not venture in to making an attack, knowing that they might be met by a torpedo from a submarine.

"These German vessels on the Pacific Coast were of 3,400 tons, about the same size as the Rainbow. The Rainbow single handed might have been able to engage any of them, except for the fact that she is slower than these German ves-

sels, and if she had been the sole defence of the Coast cities and left without the very valuable aid of these submarines, there would have been far greater danger of an attack. We have known that these cruisers were not very far from the coast of British Columbia. We have information, accurate information, I believe, that one of them went as far north as Prince Rupert, no doubt watching the trade route of Canada across the sea. In the opinion of every naval man, the presence of these submarines in British Columbian waters not only had a splendid moral effect, but they would have rendered splendid defensive service had the occasion arisen."

GERMANY'S OPERA STARS ARE NOW FED IN THE PUBLIC SOUP KITCHEN

Sang in Doorways During Warm Weather Berlin Artists Hard Put to It by the War.

Berlin, Germany, Feb. 4.—(Correspondence) — Among the unusual social problems which presented themselves in this city since the outbreak of the war the problem of the unemployed artist takes an important place. When the weather was warmer opera and concert singers were not infrequently heard singing in the courtyards of apartment houses in residence districts where music is strictly prohibited.

"The condition of the artists at the present time is pretty desperate," said Prof. Jung-Janotta, when seen on duty at the Artists' Kitchen. "The position of the music teacher and the painter is the worst. The opera singers at the Deutsche Opernhaus are receiving only half of their former payment, and some of the theatres are paying as little as one-third of the former salaries. Xaver Scharwenka, our president, who has been a teacher, chiefly of Americans, and whose income was exceptionally large, hasn't one pupil left. My own pupils have decreased in number from forty to five.

"All the artists whom you see here at the kitchen are entirely without work and without the slightest prospect of employment. We hold subscription teas in the kitchen from time to time, to which women come and bring their knitting. The artists then sing, play, and recite, and the proceeds are divided among them. We shall arrange picture auctions also, so that the painters may have a chance to sell their works.

"In no other kitchen will you find as good a table set for our price, 6 cents a meal. These tickets (Prof. Jung-Janotta pointed to two large rolls on the table) are sold to each person, the green for 30 pfennigs, which entitles one to soup, meat and two vegetables; the yellow for 5 pfennigs, which pays for coffee or dessert. The many musical associations of the city buy rolls of 150 to 200 tickets and distribute them among their members.

"We serve dinner daily from 12 to 3 for more than 200 artists—painters, writers, actors, opera singers, and others. Some of

WAS PURCHASE OF SUBMARINES MADE THE AVENUE FOR CRAFT?

QUESTION UNDER DISCUSSION IN COMMONS — INDICATIONS THAT LARGE SUM OF MONEY WAS MIS-APPROPRIATED.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley took up in the House of Commons a few days ago the question of the purchase of submarines by Sir Richard McBride. The following are selections from his speech:

"After their completion, Captain Plaza, representing the Chilean government, refused to recommend the acceptance of the submarines. That was on July 26. I am informed from British Columbian sources that Mr. Patterson was the chairman or president of the company in Seattle which was putting together the parts of the submarines. I am informed that upon the rejection of the submarines by the naval expert of the Chilean government this gentleman immediately went to Victoria and interviewed Sir Richard McBride. Presumably Sir Richard McBride communicated with this government on the subject—of course we shall have the correspondence if this motion is carried—and it appears that in the course of a few days Sir Richard McBride purchased the submarines on behalf of the British Columbia government, the cheque of the British Columbia government being given in payment of the purchase price. That is a matter which I think my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries ought at some time to explain to the House. If this government found it desirable to purchase these submarines, I think it will be a matter of interest to know why the government did not purchase them direct from the builders, and why it was left to Sir Richard McBride to take the extraordinary step of making a purchase in the name and on behalf of the government of British Columbia. As one who has had some correspondence on the subject, it looks to me as if this government was hesitating about the purchasing the submarines and Sir Richard McBride took it upon himself to force the hand of the government by purchasing them himself on behalf of the British Columbian government, knowing right well that when he had gone that far his influence with this government would prevent the ignoring of his recommendation and would obviate the danger of the government of British Columbia being placed in the very un-

awkward position in which they would have been placed if they had become the owners of these submarines.

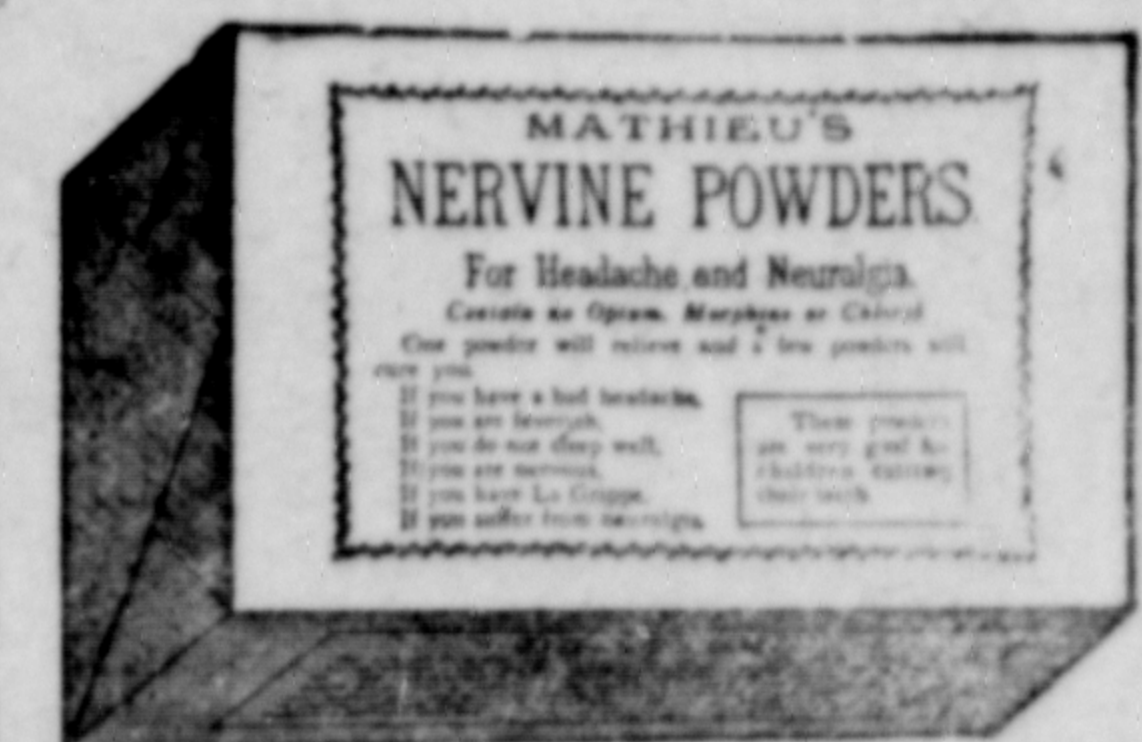
"It appears that a few days after these two submarines were brought over to Victoria, and subsequently, on August 7, an order-in-council was passed for their purchase. As I have said, in its terms the sum of \$1,050,000 was mentioned as the purchase price. It was not stated that the submarines had been rejected by the naval expert of the Chilean government; my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries merely stated to his Royal Highness that the Chilean government had been unable to receive them. That order-in-council says that technical officers of the Department of Naval Service reported that these boats were very suitable and recommended their purchase. So far as is known in Victoria, no naval expert from the department at Ottawa had any opportunity of examining these boats before they were purchased, and my information is that no such examination was made. However, I have no doubt that the correspondence will show what these reports were. I take it that my hon. friend cannot treat that correspondence and those reports as private, and that he will bring

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