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TURKISH FORCES DEFEATED IN PALESTINE

ARAB ARMY ROUTS THE TURK AND CAPTURES COMMANDER—SERBIANS ACTIVE

KING OF THE HEJEZ INFLECTS SEVERE DEFEAT UPON TURKS

SOUTH OF THE DEAD SEA, ARABS ROUT TURKISH FORCES, AND CAPTURE ENEMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—MAKE GREAT CAPTURES OF BOOTY—SERBIANS REPULSE A BULGARIAN RECONNOITERING PARTY

(Special to The Daily News.)
Washington, Feb. 9.—Following up their recent success, where they were able to destroy the strategic railway penetrating through the desert almost to the borders of Egypt, the Arab forces under the command of the Sheik of Mecca, have again inflicted a severe defeat upon the forces of Turks who have been operating inland, south of the Dead Sea. Fighting of a severe character took place, which ended in the flight of the Turkish forces in a disorderly rout. The Turkish commander-in-chief was captured, and immense stores which had been accumulated for the use of the desert forces fell into the hands of the Arabs.

The sheik of Mecca assumed the title of King of the Hejaz shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, when he threw off the suzerainty of Turkey. The country included in the Eastern littoral of the Red Sea thereupon became independent of the Sultan, and being in possession of the Holy Places of Islam, the new state has become all-powerful through Arabia. The sheik of Mecca has always been friendly to British rule, and has on many occasions been of great assistance in ending Turkish resistance in that country since the outbreak of the war.

Co-operating with the forces of General Allenby in Palestine, the Arab horsemen have proved their worth in protecting the British flanks from any raiding parties of Turkish cavalry operating from the desert lying to the east of Palestine. Accustomed to travel on the burning sands, they have been able to accomplish journeys which were beyond the power of the white men and their raiding proclivities have caused on several occasions very much trouble to the Turkish forces. Only a few days ago, the Arabs made a daring raid in which they destroyed the railway far to the north of the position of the Turks, thus cutting their communications. This they have now followed up with the crushing defeat of the southern Turkish army.

The Western Front.
Paris, Feb. 9.—French troops in the Woivre region have repulsed several enemy raids successfully, and on each occasion have been successful in inflicting very severe losses upon the enemy. The precautions which have been taken in the French lines against such raids are proving their worth, and very few of the enemy raiding parties ever are permitted to escape back to their own lines. There is no news from the British front.

In the Balkans.
Paris, Feb. 9.—In the region of Diprobokje, west of Monastir, the Serbian forces were successful in repulsing an enemy reconnaissance force, who were dispersed with

loss. Mutual artillery fire is continuous.

MINING NEWS

The Granby Company at Anyox have added another furnace to their smelter there, and they are now in a position to treat from 4,000 to 5,000 tons of ore per day. The Hidden Creek mine on several days recently shipped over 4,000 tons per shift which is a record for B. C. if not for the British Empire.

The Granby Company are opening up another mine on the Alice Arm, about two miles from the head of the inlet.

The Portland Canal district is again coming into prominence. The Bush mine there is developing steadily and showing up well. The Granby Company are also doing some diamond drilling there on a copper property which is stated to be a big thing.

The Maple Bay Mine, operated by the Granby Company on the Portland Canal is now closed down and from all accounts may not be reopened. The product of this mine was used as a flux at the company's smelter, and had little value outside of this. The reason for closing down is stated to be due to the company finding suitable flux nearer the smelter.

With such development going on in this northern country the time has now arrived when the Federal Government should do something towards the establishing of a refinery. We have not yet reached the point of production to warrant the building of a smelter, we are producing sufficient unrefined copper however to keep a refinery running to capacity, and as a national asset it is essential that the copper produced in Canada should be refined in Canada. We have no desire to obstruct development or interfere with those who make it a business to develop our natural resources, we have a right to demand, nevertheless, that the minerals mined be refined here and controlled at all times by the government.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY WILL GIVE A CONCERT OF SCOTTISH MUSIC

The St. Andrew's Society, assisted by friends, will give a concert in the Presbyterian Church on the night of February 14th, the proceeds going towards the church funds.

During the last few months, the St. Andrew's Society have given several musical evenings in their rooms. On this occasion, however, the ladies will also assist, and it is safe to say that those who make a point to be present on the night of the fourteenth will have a great treat of Scottish music, both vocal and instrumental.

VETERANS' BALL WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL

Last evening there took place in the St. Andrew's Hall one of the happiest and most successful functions of the season. The occasion was the ball given by the Great War Veterans. The large hall was brilliantly decorated with the flags of the allies, conspicuous among which were the Stars and Stripes and the flag of Belgium. Chinese lanterns of many and varied hues lent their soft brilliance to the scene, which was a very animated one.

There were about three hundred present, and one and all enjoyed the proceedings to the utmost. The music was most tempting, and the dancing was kept up until late. Everything passed off delightfully, as "soft the lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men."

The Great War Veterans have good reason to be proud of the organizing ability of their committees, who were responsible for the success of the evening.

STORMS IN INTERIOR BRING DOWN THE WIRES

The severe storms which have been experienced during the past few days on the coast have also extended far inland. These have been severe enough in the interior to bring down the telegraph wires. Repairs have been made, but it is a matter of some difficulty keeping the line up, on account of the high wind prevailing. The wires on several occasions have no sooner been up for a few minutes than a break is caused at some other point, which has made the receipt press dispatches at this end a very intermittent matter.

The trouble today is somewhere in the direction of Quesnel, which is a somewhat inaccessible region at this time of the year. As a result of the frequency of the breaks, and the consequent silence of the telegraph instruments, news from outside places, and from the seat of war is necessarily brief. This state of things, unfortunately, is common at the end of the winter, when the rains begin and the snow begins to melt, when windstorms are frequent and the life of the telegraph lineman becomes no sinecure.

Our readers, however, may live in hopes for the future, when wireless plants will be released by the government, and when we install our own private wireless. Although by that time, there will be no war news, which is the most sought for at present.

AT THE WESTHOLME

Kitty Gordon, one of England's great star artistes, is the leading feature of the photoplay to be screened at the Westholme this evening. She is an actress of distinct personality, and of great charm. She has been received on this Western continent with great acclamation wherever she has appeared. Then the play itself is of great attractiveness. The vivid characterizations which are given will impress themselves upon the memory as something distinctly out of the usual. Both the play itself and the star actress, both singly and jointly, are well worth seeing. There will also be two comedies shown, of a most laughable kind, and the overture, "The Beautiful Galatea," will be repeated tonight again by the orchestra.

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PACIFIC HERRING IS EQUAL TO ANY OTHER

Complaint of Softness and Poor Quality is Result of Wrong Handling—Seining A Poor Method.

(By Capt. Bill Sims.)
It is often said around here that the herring of British Columbia is of no quality, that they are soft, and not fit to eat, and that they are not suitable for commercial purposes. While there is really no truth in this remark, which is so commonly heard with regard to the herring in the sea, the remark does apply to a great extent to the herring after they are caught. But the fault lies not with the herring.

The reason is that the herring is the tenderest fish swimming in the ocean. The only method heretofore in these waters for catching it is by seine net. Now just consider the treatment the herring get. They are held in the net swimming around for hours in an area of say a hundred square feet—often twenty tons of fish at a time in one seine net. After that, they are hoisted out of the water in dip nets that are lifted up from eight to ten feet, from which height the herring are dumped down on to a scow, and exposed to the sun, the rain and the weather for often two days at a time, before they reach port.

In plain words, they get very rough handling, and being treated with so much disrespect, it is no wonder that the herring caught are often too soft and unfit for the market. The method of handling is the whole cause of the trouble. If herring are wanted in first-class condition, they must be handled properly. When the people who want herring will leave their seines at home, and go after the herring with a gill net, it will be found that the British Columbia herring can be sent to market, or used for bait, in a firm state, and of prime quality.

The method which has been proved to be the best one for catching herring is the gill net, which is used in the North Sea. When the time comes for the nets to be drawn aboard the vessel, they are taken in as a newspaper comes over the cylinder of a printing press. The nets are shaken as pulled in, and the fish fall singly on to the deck with a drop of about six inches. They then slide down into the hold of the boat, and the rocking of the vessel keeps herself in trim. By this means the herring is not exposed to the weather, is not dumped down. It comes to port with practically scales intact and not like the seined herring, bruised, scaleless, and soft.

It is not the herring that is at fault, it's the method of catching them that has given this fish a bad name. Remove the cause that hurts the herring and the world will be shown that the herring of British Columbia are the equal of any to be found in any waters.

(This is the second of a series of articles by Captain Bill Sims, who is a herring fisherman of the fourth generation.)

HONESTY RECOMMENDED TO GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Amsterdam.—Addressing the first meeting of the members of the Polish Society in Berlin Professor Hans Delbrueck adopted the standpoint that Germany might completely renounce territorial acquisitions in the East and West. He contended that honesty was desirable, not on pacifist grounds, but on those of a higher political sagacity, and said that a practical proof of the correctness of this conception was to be found in the brilliant success of British policy in South Africa.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOGGING INDUSTRY

The s.s. Prince Albert arrived in port last evening from Queen Charlotte Islands, whither she made a special trip direct from Vancouver. She took there from the south a whole cargo of logging material, some twenty donkey engines for getting the logs out of the woods, cable, and other equipment.

Logging equipment and sawmill equipment has been pouring over to the Queen Charlotte Islands for months past, and some idea of the extent of the operations to be undertaken there may be gathered when even after that, another whole shipload of material goes there this time. The plant is largely for the several companies who are already conducting operations in different parts of the island group, for the extending of their areas.

Never before in the history of the Islands has there been so much real productive work going on, and this summer promises to be the busiest one yet. The extent and the value of the standing timber of Graham Island has never been properly known until recently, and now, when every limit which contains spruce is being opened up, the true value of the wealth available will be known. All the efforts of the loggers and of the sawmills are being concentrated upon the production of spruce for aeroplane construction. Spruce is the best material so far found in quantities for the "wing beams" of an aeroplane. While it is somewhat weaker than fir, it is a very great deal lighter, and possesses an immense range of elasticity. It has considerably more "whip" to it, and it is a proven fact that a spruce plane will climb a given height in seven minutes shorter time than a machine with its beams constructed of fir. The particular advantage of spruce in aeroplane manufacture lies in its capabilities of contraction and expansion in high altitudes, and frequently changing temperatures.

Speed, of course, is assured with the use of spruce, which is one of the essentials for the battle planes, and it is for the production of the actual fighting machines in great quantities that the great programme of the Munitions Board in B. C. has been launched. The abilities of this programme are boundless, both for the assurance of ultimate victory, and the permanent establishment of the lumber business in this particular part of the province.

It is calculated that one quarter of the stand of timber is spruce, and of this, one-fifth will give No. 1 logs, on an average. Reduced by splitting by wedges as an auxiliary process of sawing, one-third of the No. 1 logs may eventually be selected as O. K. for shipment to the aeroplane factory. There a further selection of the logs is made, and only one-third of these are usually found to be ideal for the "wing beams," which are eighteen feet long. The understood exactitude of aeroplane requirements in the matter of its woodwork must of necessity be knowledge acquired only by the most exhaustive study, and men in possession of that valuable sense of perception, and able to see at a glance the ideal "wing beam" are naturally few in number.

It will readily be seen that from the strenuous selection which the sawn spruce undergoes, only a small portion of the thirty million feet per month which the Munitions Board asks for, actually finds its way into the construction of the fighting planes. The balance is of course utilized in other manners.

FRANCE IS FAR FROM BEING BLED WHITE AS SAID

Editor of Le Matin, of Paris, Speaking in Boston Assures of France's Strength, Which Was Never More.

(Special to The Daily News.)

Boston, Feb. 9.—At a large gathering of the City Club here given in his honor, Stephen Lazzane, the editor of the foremost newspaper in Paris, Le Matin, assured his hearers that La Belle France was very far from being "bled white" as some writers have alleged. While her casualties during the last three and a half years of warfare have been great, from a military point of view, her army of trained soldiers was never greater, nor more effective. She has now two million, seven hundred thousand highly trained men in the field, of full fighting capacity. Her factories are turning out munitions of war of all kinds. For her big guns, three hundred thousand shells per day is the average, and for the other arms proportionately. This work is being largely done by the women of France, who, he declared, have set an example to the whole world in their devotion to their country.

EAST AFRICANS WISH TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Nairobi, British East Africa, Feb. 8.—A mass meeting of the residents enthusiastically passed a resolution requesting the Imperial government to appoint former governor, Sir Percy Girouard, military governor of British East Africa, and to proceed with the war with powers to organize the colony's efforts in the direction of utilizing such a portion of its population as is unavailable for military service to develop its immense potential energies and resources in the immediate production of commodities which are urgently required.

E. S. Grogan, Lord Delamere and others emphasized the urgent necessity of organizing the entire resources of the protectorate in order to provide for the immediate requirements in Mesopotamia and Palestine, thereby saving shipping and substantially contributing food and other necessities. Otherwise there were millions of acres of the finest land in the world available in East Africa for the Empire's war-worn soldiers.

FISHING ARRIVALS

The Stirrat has arrived in port with 6,000 lbs. halibut and the Mayflower with 2,000 lbs. The weather prevailing on the fishing banks continues to be very rough, and the catches consequently are poor.

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