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EDITORIALS

In Saturday's issue of this paper Bishop Du Vernet had an interesting solution of the land problem. He urged the speculator to hand over a portion of his holdings to the man who wanted to work it and thus help develop the country as well as make the adjoining land more valuable. This request to "potlatch back" what should never have been alienated would be practicable if everybody consented, which is hardly likely. Perhaps the better way would be for the government to take a hand in it. Why not tell all the holders of wild land that they must put a portion at least of it under cultivation or surrender one-half to the government.

This, too, would not work a hardship on anybody for forty acres of land adjoining a real farm is much better than a hundred in the wild wood. If even half the land that is now tied up in this country was thrown open for pre-emption it would make possible the development of a big area. There would be hundreds of little farms start up along the railway where today there is nothing but dense forest. The government might go a little farther, too, and "stake" the actual settler. It would be good economy to advance the means of livelihood to a man who undertook the clearing of the land of this province. Conditions are too severe in this district to expect a man to pay a big price for land and then spend half his lifetime in clearing the forest. If the country is to be developed the government must take a hand in it.

Under present conditions, of course, it will be impossible for the government to do any financing. It is possible, however, for them to assist in turning the land loose. This is a matter that should be taken up by every patriotic citizen and all influence should be brought to bear on the government to bring it about. It would be a good work for the City Council to take up and perhaps the local member could see his way clear to lend a hand to the movement.

Has it never occurred to anyone why so many prizefighters and sluggers come a thousand miles out of the way to "honor" Prince Rupert with their presence. Is it that this city lends such financial support that it pays to pass all the big cities by and come to Prince Rupert. This is hardly the reason. The real reason is that most decent communities do not allow them standing room. California, once the home of the prizefighter, is making strenuous efforts to rid itself of the plague. Boxing in itself is an innocent and wholesome amusement but it is almost impossible to control it. The first tinge of the professional poison it and it develops into the most degrading practice possible. It is on a par with the gladiators of ancient Rome or the bullfights of Spain. It develops the beast in both participants and onlookers. It should not be tolerated in any self-respecting community and the sooner Prince Rupert puts it under the ban the better for all concerned.

SEEKING PEACE.

Story from Petrograd That Kaiser Sought to Enlist Influence of Dowager Empress of Russia.

London, Nov. 1.—The Petrograd correspondent of the Observer sends the following: "According to a report being circulated in army circles that Russia recently has been approached regarding the concluding of peace with Germany, it is said that the German Emperor wrote a personal letter to the Dowager Empress urging her to persuade the Russian Emperor to make peace."

"The Dowager Empress forwarded the letter without comment to Emperor Nicholas, who sent it to Grand Duke Nicholas, commander in chief of the Russian army. The Grand Duke returned the letter with this comment: 'If you comply, our armies will mutiny and there will be a revolution in Russia.'"

"Confirmation of the report is obtainable."

CARRANZA THREATENS ANOTHER CIVIL WAR

United States May Not Withdraw From Vera Cruz.

Washington, Nov. 2.—Latest official despatches today from Mexico City said Carranza was threatening civil war unless the convention complied with his demand to retire Villa and Zapata with his resignation. The Mexico City papers, by order of Carranza, are publishing the correspondence with Washington over the conditions of evacuation of Vera Cruz.

The United States has addressed a note through the Brazilian minister in Mexico City to General Carranza reiterating its willingness to withdraw American forces in Vera Cruz, but insisting upon a compliance with the original demands of the state department for certain guarantees.

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IN HEAVY STORM GOODHOPE'S BIG GUNS COULD NOT BE USED

SMALL SHIPS PROVED MORE SUCCESSFUL IN FACE OF TERRIFIC STORM—GERMANS REPORT MONMOUTH LOST WITH ALL ON BOARD.

Valparaiso, Nov. 6.—According to statements made by officers of the German warships which anchored here on Tuesday, the battle with the British squadron off Coronel, Chile, was fought in the teeth of a northy gale that assumed almost hurricane proportions. Small boats could not live in the sea. The heavy weather militated against the larger ships and the Goodhope found her guns almost useless because of the ship's roll.

The German China fleet, the cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Nuremberg, had joined the cruisers Leipzig and Bremen, which latter had been detached to patrol the coast north of Valparaiso. The unit proceeded southward, apparently well aware of the rendezvous of the British off Concepcion Bay. At the same time the British cruisers Monmouth and Glasgow, accompanied by the transport Otranto, moved north to meet the flagship Goodhope. The British ships evidently were not aware of the proximity of the Germans and they met off Coronel.

The Battle.

It was 6 o'clock Sunday when the Germans sighted the three British ships. At the moment the German guns were trained, the Goodhope was seen coming at full speed, and through good seamanship managed to join the other British ships.

The British had come about and the two squadrons sailed southward in parallel lines, the Germans being nearer the coast. Gradually the two lines came nearer to each other and the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau simultaneously let go their twelve 8-inch guns, which they concentrated on the Goodhope. The firing continued for several minutes without damage. The German shells fell short and the Goodhope had such a roll that she could not reply. The smaller cruisers were far out of range.

Slowly the sea fighters drew in nearer, and when the two units were but 6,000 yards apart, the Goodhope fired her two 9-inch guns. She was still unable to use her eight 6-inch guns, which on the gundeck were so near the water line that as the vessel rolled they were almost awash. A broadside from the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau crippled the British flagship and her engines stopped.

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Sinking of Monmouth.

The Monmouth, recognizing the distress of her companion, made a dash to cover the Goodhope, but by that time the distance separating the two squadrons had been reduced to 5,000 yards and the Germans were able to bring in all their ships to action and to use all the guns of the five vessels.

These were directed against the Monmouth, Glasgow and Otranto. The Otranto, badly damaged, escaped in the gathering darkness and soon afterward was followed by the Glasgow, which also had been put out of action but continued apparently seaworthy.

The five German ships continued their attack on the Monmouth and Goodhope until in a few minutes the former sunk. By this time only 4,500 yards separated the fighters.

The Goodhope, badly damaged, hung on until an explosion occurred on board her. She withdrew to the westward at 7:30 o'clock.

As she disappeared, flames were seen on board her. Whether her crew was able to stop the fire or if the explosion finally sunk her is not known. The flames died down and she was not seen again.

The Nurnberg searched until daylight for the wounded ship, when the German officers concluded that she had been lost with all of her crew. The only trace found of the Britishers was in the wireless message in which the Glasgow called unsuccessfully for the flagship. It was impossible to save any of the crew of the Monmouth as the Germans could not put over their small boats in the face of the gale and the Monmouth could not have lowered her boats.

Contrary to the first reports, the Glasgow did not reach Coronel or Talcahuane nor did the Otranto find a Chilean harbor. The German fleet, with the exception of the Leipzig and Bremen, after putting in here, sailed again Wednesday. If they had any word of the Leipzig and Bremen they did not make it known. The transport Prinz Eitel anchored in the bay Wednesday night.

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