

## THE DAILY NEWS

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H. F. McRAE, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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DAILY EDITION

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## EDITORIALS

There is a feeling in some quarters that the native born Canadian has not responded to the call of the Empire with the same enthusiasm as his British brother born in the home land. Certain it is that in Prince Rupert the proportion of the native element is very small. There are primarily two reasons for this. In the first place the greater proportion of English, Scottish and Irish born who live in the West are young men in the prime of life, and in most cases without ties that bind them down. In the next place, men with parents and friends at the scene of conflict are much more liable to fly to their aid than those who are not so connected. In this way the war is much closer to the British born than it is to the native Canadian.

There is one part of Canada, however, that is making an excellent showing. The province of Nova Scotia has a battalion all ready for the front of which 80 per cent are native born Canadians. The University of Dalhousie at Halifax is sending a corps of its own, both officers and privates—all university men. While it is true, therefore, that some parts of Canada have not made a very good showing in this respect, it must not be put down to any lack of patriotism. The will is there but the necessity may not yet have been brought home.

Toronto has a little tragedy that is going to test the skill of the legal fraternity and sympathetic jurymen. A little English girl of about 18 summers is held for murder, the victim being her late employer and one of Toronto's well-to-do society men. The girl was a maid in his home and the reports tell of attempted indiscretions on his part winding up with getting shot through the heart. Under any circumstance, it is the hardest thing

in the world to convict a woman but if it can be shown that she was protecting her honor it will be a still more difficult matter even if she be technically guilty. Perhaps a few more examples like this would afford innocence a little more protection than it seems to have at present.

It appears that all the money spent by the Borden government in trying to open up the Hudson Bay route is all thrown to the winds or frozen in the Arctic Seas. A report has recently been issued by the Naval Service Department showing that the route is practically impossible. Even in the middle of summer the Bay and Straits are packed with ice, making it even dangerous for vessels to pass, to say nothing of the delay caused by this barrier. Notwithstanding this, the work is still proceeding on the Hudson Bay Railway. Canada seems to be an easy mark for railway contractors and builders. Somebody will have to pay the bill.

## WHY RUMANIA DELAYS HER ACTION

Paris, Feb. 22.—The Temps Serbian correspondent sends a dispatch which throws considerable light on the question of Rumanian intervention. The correspondent states that the Austrians have concentrated a large army of 100,000 to 150,000 men in the southeast corner of Hungary at the entrance of the Timok Valley, which is a narrow strip of Rumanian territory contiguous to the Serbian frontier.

Though Austrian aeroplanes continue to scout along the western Serbian boundary formed by the Danube River, it seems improbable that they purpose a new attack direct through the Portes de Fer, but rather intend to invade Serbia via Timok without waiting for Rumania to declare war or even to complete mobilization.

Rumanian hopes are centered on Transylvania, on the opposite frontier, where insufficient railway communication on one single line renders further undesirable, from the Rumanian viewpoint, hostilities in the Timok district. Hence the temporizing policy of the Bucharest government, which evidently hopes to be able to delay until the Russian pressure compels the Austrians to utilize the force mentioned, although the majority of the population are loudly complaining of the authorities "inaction."

## NO ALUM



## DEPRESSION IS NOT DUE TO BRITISH

Great Britain's Second and Complete Reply to U. S. Note of Protest Made Public.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Great Britain's second and complete reply to the American note of protest, which on December 28 last asked for an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, has been made public by mutual agreement between the State Department and the British Foreign Office.

The note, addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey, under date of February 10, denies that the depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests, among other causes the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of cotton trade and the destruction of submarine mines, "laid by the enemy indiscriminately," of many neutral vessels.

## Retaliatory Measures.

After giving a lengthy and detailed answer to the charge that American ships and cargoes were being unduly detained, the communication contains in its concluding paragraph the announcement that Great Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign against enemy ships, but does not reveal their nature.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British government points out that "in any country in which there exists such tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not."

## To Avoid Loss to Neutrals.

"It will still be our endeavor," says the final paragraph, "to avoid injury and loss to neutrals, but the announcement by the German government of their intention to sink merchant vessels and their cargoes without verification of their nationality or character and without making any provision for the safety of non-combatant crews or giving them a chance of saving their lives, has made it necessary for His Majesty's government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one belligerent to depart from rules and precedents and for the other to remain bound by them."

## H. C. BREWSTER ADDRESSES LARGE MEETING AT VANCOUVER

DISCUSSES LAND POLICY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND TELLS HOW HE WILL SOLVE IT—WILL ASSIST THE SETTLER.

The following is the address of Mr. H. C. Brewster, leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, given at a recent meeting in Vancouver. It is well worth the attention of every voter in the province.

Mr. H. C. Brewster, who received a rousing reception on rising to address the meeting, in the first place drew attention to the statement of Mr. W. H. Hayward, chairman of the Agricultural Commission, before the Victoria Board of Trade last week, when he said "he thought all would agree that agricultural prosperity meant prosperity in other business. He must, however, deny that there was agricultural prosperity in British Columbia. He had heard it said that agriculture was doing well, but he did not think so, as the returns of the last census showed that the province had not progressed. City congestion and consumption of produce increased more than production. We hear our friend The Colonist preaching optimism, and while this is better than pessimism, that optimism that blinds us to facts does more harm than good."

This statement, declared the speaker, made by the chairman of the agricultural commission of the province, is one which vitally interests every man in the province of British Columbia today. The lack of opportunity for profitable enterprise in the settlement and cultivation of our lands—I might pause to say even the lack of encouragement to men to go upon our lands—tends to produce economic conditions with which we are cursed today by the influx of people from the country to the city. The effect of this influx is to congest the labor markets of the urban and industrial centers, and cause men to beat down their fellow men in the unavoidable competition which is necessitated by the struggle for existence.

Therefore, one of the first problems to which responsible government should apply itself is to inaugurate such a policy as will not only relieve this congestion, reduce and minimize this competition, readjust the relations of the various bodies of citizens so that their privileges, opportunities, profits of labor, productivity, consumption, and the business transactions that have to do with all these should be spread more evenly over society as a whole.

What Ails British Columbia? It is not difficult for wideawake men, men who have had experience in financial affairs and who have made observations in other countries, to tell at a glance what ails British Columbia. It is not altogether a money stringency that hinders and hampers our development. Sir George Paish, one of the foremost political economists and financial authorities in Great Britain, has said that both the governments and people in Canada must devote themselves to encouraging production, and

that genuine efforts along this line would receive ready assistance from the money markets of the world because it is always wise policy to invest money in productive enterprises.

Let me point out that none of the overseas dominions have a higher credit in Europe than has New Zealand, and the reasons for this are that money loaned to New Zealand goes into land settlement and production, the lender having, therefore, the very best and most satisfactory security. A similar policy adopted by us would go a long way to re-establish.

## WAR PLAYS HAVOC IN RANKS OF LABOR

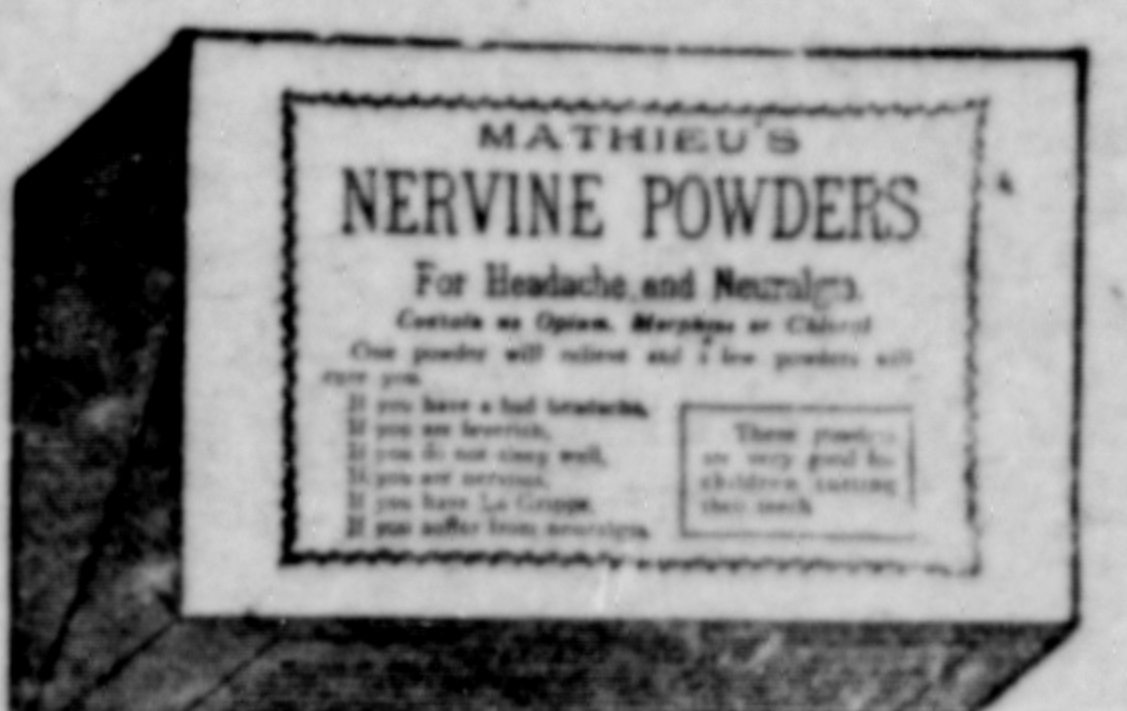
London, Feb. 22.—The shortage of skilled workers in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, owing to the large number of these men who have gone to the front, is so serious that an inquiry was opened last week by representatives of the government and trades union for the purpose of devising methods of assuring the full productivity of these adjuncts to military operations. The trades unions will be asked to waive some of their regulations during the period of the war crisis.

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