DECLARES NAVY'S MEANS FOR LAYING MINES INADEQUATE

Rear Admiral Fiske, of Gen-

statement made today before the House Naval Committee by Rear Admiral Flake. a mamber of the General Board of the

Admiral Fisks said this nation should have more mine-laying ships than Germany, on account of the longer coast line of the United States. Germany has five mine layers.

Representative Butler, of Pennsylvania, strenuously objected to this portion of Admiral Fishe's testimony. He said the Admiral should not be naked to discuss

such weaknesses in publis."
"If I were an unfriendly nation," said
Entier, "that is exactly the kind of infurnishing I would want. We tell the
scorld we have but one ship to lay

"The other nations know it any-way," interjected Representative Hobson. "What we want to do is to let the people What we want to do is to let the people of the United States know the truth or eleg we will never get any more ships."

Adjusted Fiske was permitted to answer Hobsen's question as to the equipment for laying mines. The Admiral said:

"The only mine-laying ship we have now is the San Francisco. She has about 125 mines, and that is all we have at the present time. We expect to fit out the Bailtmore in a month or so and to make her a mine-laying ship."

"How many mine-laying ships should

her a mine-laying ship."
"How many mine-laying ships should we have!" asked Representative Roberts.
"Germany has five," said the Admiral. "Ought we to have that many?"
"Tes, I think we should have five more than what we have now. Germany's coast is much shorter than ours."
Representative Hobson called attention to report that the German cruisers which to reports that the German cruisers which bombarded the English coast yesterday left mines in their wake as they put to

He asked: "Have we done anything toward equip-ng our fleet to leave mines behind them

"Practically speaking, we have not," said Admiral Fiske. "We have done nothing that amounts to anything."
Admiral Fiske said further with regard

to mines and air craft:
"I think it is well known that we are
behind other great nations in the use
of mines and sir craft, and in case of an attack upon our coasts the need world be keenly feit. If it should be involved in a war we might be attacked very quickly." He estimated that Germany

has 20,000 mines available.

Asked about the attack yesterday on Hartiopool and Scarborough the Admiral expressed the opinion that if some aubmarines had been there the German attempt would not have been made.

"Are we not in better condition today to control the sea than ever before?" Representative Witherspoon asked. "No, because three other nations have

"No, because three other nations have made greater advances than we have in the development of their navies."

"In the event of war our policy would have to be to endeavor to get control of the sea. If we were to attack the enemy, we would try to get control near him. If we were attacked by the enemy he would try to get control near us. Control is essential wherever the fight may be. In attempting to get this control we would have to use all the arms we could, battleships, cruisers, scout cruisers, dehattleships, cruisers, scout cruisers, de-stroyers and on our own coasts, ub-marine. I do not know whether we could take submarines as far as Japan, that is a question."
"I think you had better not mention

any particular nation," remonstrated Chairman Padgett at Admiral Fiske's

reference to Japan.

Admiral Fiske then changed his reply

SUES FOR AUTHOR'S BOOKS

Stephenson's Kin Asks Court to De-Hver Letters and Curios.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.-Katherine D. Osbourne, wife of Lloyd Osbourne, author and stepson of Robert Louis Stevenson, began her threatened suit in the Supreme Court yesterday for possession of a collection of manuscripts, autograph letters, drawings, curios and objects of art formerly the property of Mr.

The defendant is Mrs. Isobel Strong feld, Mr. Stavenson's step-daughter, no acted as his amanuensis at Vallima. ermos, when he suffered from writer's ramp. Mrs. Field lives at Santa Barbara. Cal., and she came here with the property with the intention of selling it.

at auction.

Mrs. Osbourne cays that when Mr. Stevenson died the "letters and papers" were purchased by her slater, Jane White Balfour, who gave them to her in London prior to 1901. White Mrs. Osbourne says the articles only have a sentimental value, she asks that the descendant either deliver the property to her or pay her \$2500 for them and \$1000 anditional as damages.

BAVINGS BANK CELEBRATES

Institution at 520-9 S. Ninth Street In Thirty-five Years Old.

Is Thirty-five Years Old.

Entablished in 1879, the Star Savings Sant, 29-23 South 5th street, a mutual savings bank, is celebrating its 25th anniversary teday. Each depositor today was presented with a souvenir and a samalism. The bank is decorated with Caristinas grains.

The fast report submitted to the Compilations of Sanking showed that the impails of the institution were 182,657.75 and there were upward pt 25,000 deposited, where accounts ranged from 1 cent to 1820.

Indicate, with the exception of the treas-

to meet.

Seets, with the exception of the Board
and other members of the Board
fracters, sorve without salary. The
its consist of first mortgages, and
the expense of maintaining the
it have been paid, the interest carried
the investments is divided anothy the

DRITISH LOSSES IN AFRICA

Casualties of 489 Reported, 337 Being in Fighting Against Bosrs. DEFAULT THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

PECIAL TODAY

GERMAN WARSHIPS **OUTSPEED BRITISH**

Continued from Page One has given but vague intimations of a naval battle in the fog which shrouded

the North Ses when the attack was made yesterday morning, it is believed that a spirited engagement was fought. The Daily Chronicle says that accommodations were prepared at Cromarty, Scotland, during the night for 50 wounded

cral Board, Tells House
Committee Only One Ship
Is Equipped.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The United States, nary has bet one ship equipped to lay submarine mines, according to a

All of these great precautions of the land and sea branches of the British military establishment show that England has been aroused as never before in centuries. The war has been brought home to England's threshold. The fact cannot be disguised that portions of the British Isles are in a panic. The German attack has overshadowed even the gisantic operations on the Continent. The immediate

has overshadowel even the gigantic operations on the Continent. The immediate effect has been a strong impetus to enlistments. Many residents of coast towns are fleeing to the interior.

Aided by the fog, the seven German cruisers which brought death, destruction and panic to the British escaped, but it had a narrow escape from the English fleet which went out to engage them. The speed of the German ships enabled them to speed to safety, but not before broadsides had been exchanged. It is believed that the guns of the British ships did considerable damage to the Germans. When the German ships drew off they dropped mines in their wake.

ships did considerable damage to the Germans. When the German ships drew off they dropped mines in their wake, and the English had to proceed cautiously to avoid these.

One of the three German ships that shelled Hartlepool was a battle cruiser. Fragments of shell picked up there showed that the invading man-of-war used 10.11-inch guns against the port.

There was a conference this morning between Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, and Prime Minister Asquith, and afterward it was reported that the British Government would lodge a protest, probably with the United States, against the bombardment of unfortified English cities by German warships. The fortifications at Hartlepool and Scarborough consist of defensive works, which have been hastily erected since the war broke out. There are fortresses, however, immediately south of Hartlepool at the mouth of the River Tees.

Tees.

Further attacks from the Germans are expected, their object seeming to be an attempt to prevent the English from sending further reinforcements into France and Belsium.

Colonel Repinston, military expert of the London Times, in writing today of the raid, said:

"While the probable explanation of the attack is pure ill-temper and a spirit of unreasoning destructiveness, other explanations are open to discussion. The first is that the attack was a feint, and first is that the attack was a feint, and arst is that the attack was a feint, and is destined to be followed by more serious measures against the British Isles or, perhaps, was designed to cover the departure of a few German warships from the North Sea to take the place of the Emden and other German ships which were raiding English commerce until they were destroyed.

were destroyed. "Some think that the attack was, in a reasure, a reconnaissance, to be followed by an attempted invasion, but we are satisfied about the home defenses. We have a greatly superior and unbeaten fleet, backed up by 1,300,000 men in the British Isles. None of these puerile operations of the Germans will cause us to alter our arrangements a hair's breadth.

"The best answer of England to this act of ordinary savagery is the dispatch of fresh divisions to France and the enlistment of another 100,000 men." The statement concerning the raid, is sued by the Admiralty last night, was:

This morning a German cruiser force made a demonstration upon the York-shire coast, in the course of which they shelled Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarbough A number of their fastest ships were smployed for this purpose, and they remained about an hour on the coast.

They were engaged by patrol vessels on the spot. As soon as the presence of the enemy was reported a British patrolling squadron endeavored to cut them off. On being sighted by the British vessels the Germans retired at full speed, and, favored by the mist, succeeded in making good their escape.

cape.

The Admiralty takes the opportunity of pointing out that demonstrations of this character against unfortified towns or commercial ports, though not difficult to accomplish provided that a certain amount of risk is accepted, are devoid of military significance.

They may cause some loss of life among the civil population and some damage to private property, which is much to be regretted, but they must not in any circumstances be allowed to modify the general naval policy which is being pursued.

Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, is expected to confer during the day with Sir John Jellices, com-mander of the home fleet, on matters per-taining to stronger defenses, but the in-terview may be a forerunner of reprisals.

GERMAN RAID STARTS NEW SPY SEARCH IN ENGLAND

SCARBOROUGH, Eng., Dec. 17 .- A vigorous search is being made in Scarbor-ough today for spies. Reports of mys-terious flashlight signaling seen Tuesday-night before the bembardment by the German warships have reached the authorities. It is believed the German cruisers may have been aided in directing their fire on the town by spies who sig-maled the position of the railroad station and other buildings on which the shell fire centered.

The damage done here is estimated at

The damage done here is estimated at \$200,000. Most of the dead and wounded are believed to have been accounted for. Authorities are now directing their atten-tion toward clearing away the wreckage of buildings.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF GERMAN FIRE

LONDON, Dec. 17.
The total of deaths in Hartlepool and West fartiepool from the shelling by the Germans yesterday was 55 killed and lib wounded. Most of the victims were women and children who crowded into the streets or rushed to the railway

Among the killed were if schoolboys.

BLANKS

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Latest reports from Scarborough state that 18 persons were killed, including eight women, three children, a little boy and John Hall, a 50-year-old Alderman. About 150 persons were wounded. These include eight women and girls, two boys and one 70-year-old man.

Hartlepool suffered worst in the number of persons killed by the bursting shells. One entire family was wiped out in Hartlepool, the father, mother and six children being killed in their home. A shell struck the house and, exploding, demolished the structure. The dead at Hartlepool include five other women.

At Whitby two persons were killed and two wounded. In addition to the casuattles among the civilians the War Office reported as to the dead and wounded soldlers at West Hartlepool. A lieutenant and six soldlers are now being

lisutenant and six soldiers are now being cared for in the military hospital.

150 BUILDINGS WRECKED IN RAID ON SCARBOROUGH

SCARBOROUGH, England, Dec. 17.— One hundred and fifty buildings in Scar-borough are destroyed or damaged as a result of the bembardment by German warships and the casualties amount to 51 killed and 200 wounded, according to a careful overnight canvass made by the authorities.

Scarborough now knows what the horrors of war really are. Streets that, \$\footnote{8}\$ hours ago, were disturbed only by the peaceful traffic and routine of everyday affairs, are now silent and deserted, or are torn with shell fire. Hotel, buildings, churches, dweilings and manufacturing plants are ripped with jagged holes and are blackened with fire. Along the thoroughfares one sees house afferhouse with the windows shattered, the glass having been broken by fragments of shells or by the concussion from the Scarborough now knows what the

glass having been broken by fragments of shells or by the concussion from the cannonading.

Many of the 40,000 residents fied to Hull or Durham or York, or to other inland towns out of the reach of the guns of the German ships, which seem to be able to penetrate like phantoms the guarding British fleet that lies in the North Sea.

The Germans spread their shells indiscriminately, and all parts of the city were reached. The Royal Hotel and the Dalmoral Hotel, two of the finest hostelies in the city, were raked by projectiles. Three shells struck the Scarborough Hospital, where 20 wounded British soldiers were lying.

The residence of the Rt. Hon. Russell Rea, a member of Parliament, was wrecked, and Mr. and Mrs. Rea had a narrow escape from death.

narrow escape from death.

The Beaforth villa, one of the finest

ENTIRE BRITISH CABINET MEETS TO DISCUSS RAID

LONDON, Dec. 17.
The British Cabinet today met in full session to discuss the raid of German war-ships upon the English coast yesterday. Premier Asquith, Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary for War Lord Kitchener were among the first members of the Cabinet to appear for the meeting. All other Ministers were present during the session.

BRITISH RECRUITS RUSH

TO ARMY AFTER RAIDS

LONDON, Dac. 17.—Lord Kitchener's army will be increased by thousands of men as a result of the hombardment of

the three coast towns yesterday. This was evident today, when every recruiting station reported the enlistment of more volunteers than any time during the last three months.

The rush of recruits to Scotland Yard

resulted in scenes rivaling those presented in the early days of the war. Men from factories, shops, professional men and, in fact, men from every walk of life were offering their services, all thoroughly aroused by the attack upon the unfortified cities.

bungalows on the beach, was smashed. Shells passed through the spires of several churches. The building of the Friendly Society Lodge, which cares for invalids, was gashed by projectiles and two inmates were buried under the weeksige. They were rescued by soldiers and policomen. A number of stops were wrecked in the bunness district. One of the wounded residents Arthur Wood, head clerk of the Scarborough Electric Supply Company, was struck by a fragment of shell which destroyed a meat shop across the street from his home. He was on his way to work when the cannonade opened. A number of children were killed and wounded here, as was the case in Hartlepool ulso. In fact, most of the victims at Hartlepool were women and children. Some of the victims hers were killed in their sleep. This was true in the case of a woman and two of her children, who were killed in bed by the explosion of a shell which dropped through the roof of their home. A number of curious incidents are reported. At one place in the reaching for a letter from a passing postman whon a shell exploded nearby, a fragment killing the girl as she stood with outstretched hands. BATTLE FRONT

First-hand Accounts of Land and Sea Conflicts Told by the Fighting Soldiers and Sailors Themselves.

[The real war correspondents of the present European struggle are the men in the trenches and the men on the quarter deck. Professional writers are not permitted at the front. All they know is what they can glean from the wounded occupants of dmbulances taken to the rear. The Evening Ledger will print from time to time the only intimate side of the war—the reflections of soldiers and eatlers in their letters home. German letters, when obtainable, as well as those of the Allies, will be printed.]

German Guards Fought Like Demons Letter from Private S. A. Geary, R. A. M. C., to his brother at Coulsdon, Surrey. I was near the trenches against which

I was near the trenches against which the Kaiser sent his crack Guarda Corps, the picked men of his army. There were no flies on them, I can tell you. They fought like demons; they charged out trenches a number of times, but they could not drive our chaps out.

Several times they got right up to the trenches, but were hurled back by the bayonet, and it is no exaggeration to say thousands of them were killed. You must temember these were fresh troops, who were not tired and worn out like ours. But it did not matter to the boys of the old firm.

But it did not matter to the boys of the old firm.

One young officer did a magnificent bit of work. Nothing could stop him; he jumped out of his trench and yelled "Old England Forever! Follow me, lads," With half a company he dashed forward for quite 50 yards and he and his men simply performed miracles.

As I watched them I was spellbound. They seemed to possess superhuman

As I watched them I was spellbound. They seemed to possess superhuman strength. Caked from head to foot in mud they presented the most fearful picture that could be imagined as they attacked like wild beasts.

The big Germans were rushing on four to one, but they could not beat our fellows back. Those who were not killed or wounded got away to shelter and our boys returned to their trenches cheering

POSTBAG FROM | and shouting. Fire minutes later the Germans came again and again, but not a single man got within 10 yards of the transches.

a single man got winin is trenches.

This was only one incident in which a handful of men showed the Germans what our "contemptible little army" can do. All along the lins many such acts were performed, and the next day Eff Douglas Hais issued an order thanking the men for the splendid way in which they had resisted the German Swanky Guards and said their fighting was one of the finest records in the annals of the British army. *

All the infantry regiments out here have many times already crowned themselves with glory. I have seen the Devons, the West Kents, the Queens, and the Wilts facing tremendous odds, and if some of those who are sitting by comfortable firesides at home, or are spending an evening at a picture palace, cheer-

exact, 35 days) at a stretch in water not only up to your ankies, but more often above your knees, takes a lot of stuffing out of you.

stumns out of you.

We dropped on a terrible pitch a menta ago. No matter whether it was has or wet the water kept tricklins into the trenches, which reminded me of the Bourne or Woe waters , which periodically rise under the Surrey Hills and floot the district. As fast as we tried to drain our trenches, so they filled up again with the water and cosed through the hills wide.

Life in these trenches has been damn-

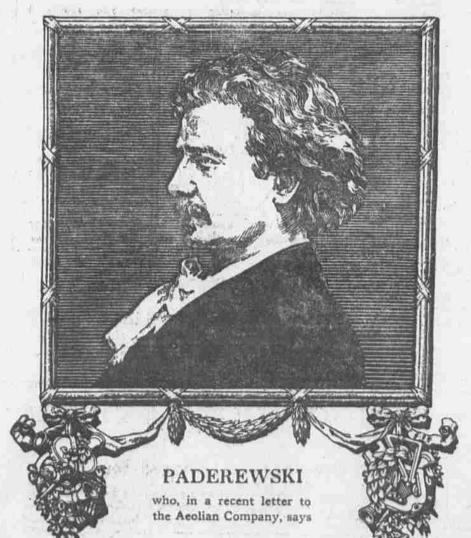
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