

Otto Thorsgard, of Mabel township was among the North Dakota people who were caught in Europe by the declaration of hostilities, but managed to escape at the last moment on the Mauretania which left Liverpool at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, Aug. 1. During all of that day there were great fears that the trip would be abandoned, but the ship set sail a few hours after time, and never slackened speed until the port of Halifax was reached. The run was made in four days and ten hours, the fastest time ever made across the Atlantic. On the evening of the third day out, the English cruiser Essex wirelessly the Mauretania to change her course and head for Halifax; that two German cruisers were looking for the Mauretania and danger of capture was imminent. The course was changed immediately, canvasses were spread over the cabins to shut in the lights. The speed was materially increased until more than thirty miles an hour were registered. The tremendous activity of the engines caused the ship to vibrate from center to circumference. It fairly leaped through the water, and for more than half an hour the sudden turn northward caused the great hulk to list to starboard in a way very unpleasant to deck walkers. They arrived safely at Halifax without even sighting the enemy, but for three days they were virtually prisoners of war on board the Mauretania at Halifax, the captain refusing to permit the passengers to land until he was sure that no complications would arise.