

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "The MAIL and ADVOCATE"

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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UNITED STATES AND AUSTRIA NEAR THE BREAKING POINT

No Further Note Will be Sent Until the Various Points in Austrian's Reply are Cleared up—Washington Cabinet Discuss Situation For Over an Hour

AUSTRIA'S REPLY EVASIVE AND UNSATISFACTORY

Diplomatic Relations Will be Further Strained by Reports of Murdering of Two American Bankers at Gorizia—Charged With Being Spies They Were Tried by Court-Martial and Shot?

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Daily Telegraph correspondent at Milan, telegraphs that grave revelations are being made concerning the reign of terror in Gorizia. Two American members of a banking firm which stopped payment of bills were summoned before the Austrian authorities, and were ordered to resume payment. They declined and were accused of receiving letters from America, hostile to Austrians. They denied this, then they were taken before a court-martial, and condemned to death. They were executed as spies, and all their valuables and bank deposits were confiscated. It is understood that the Washington Government has the facts of this latest outrage.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—A Washington despatch to the Herald says:—"Officials here this morning would not comment on the reported shooting by Austria of two American bankers as spies. It is evident from every word, and action of the State Department officials however, that the situation with relation to Austria, is one of extreme seriousness.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—That Austria's reply to the American Note is a quibble and that Washington will not permit delay in settlement of the Ancona case which Vienna obviously seeks, is the verdict of American newspapers generally. Austria's reply to the Ancona Note was received at the State Department during the night, and early to-day it is being decided to be laid before President Wilson and Secretary Lansing.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona, was received during the night and was laid to-day before President Wilson and Cabinet, and was discussed for more than an hour. The gravity of the situation caused by Austria's rejoinders to American demands which is considered evasive, unsatisfactory, unacceptable and remained unchanged.

The next step will not be decided upon until some minor points, not clear in the official text, are checked up. Apparent discrepancies are not important and may be due to transmission or translation from the State Department code, but they will also be cleared up before another move is made. Secretary Lansing said after the Cabinet meeting, he did not know when the official text-note would be given out for publication. Diplomatic relations, although in danger of being broken off, are not likely to be

Big Railway Wreck Caused by Fog

NEWCASTLE, Dec. 18.—Sixteen persons are known to have been killed, more than fifty injured and several missing, as the result of a triple collision to-day between a freight train, pilot engine, and passenger train, in a heavy fog near Jarrow. Four coaches overturned, and were completely incinerated. Sixteen corpses, so badly charred as to make identification almost impossible, have been recovered from the wreckage. A train load of nurses and physicians was despatched from Newcastle. The train was compelled to grope its way down the coast in one of the densest fogs that has blanketed the Tyne region for months.

Paris Press Sorry to Lose French

PARIS, Dec. 17.—The employment of General Sir Douglas Haig, as Commander-in-Chief in place of Gen. French was entirely unexpected in France, where it has made a great impression. The press is unanimous in expressions of regret, at the departure of French, and lays particular emphasis on his services during the trying times at the opening of the war period.

How Did the Travellers Escape?

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—An Amsterdam despatch to a news agency here to-day says that the destruction of a German Zeppelin and the death of its entire crew is reported by travellers arriving here to-day from Brussels. The Zeppelin was passing over the outskirts of Namur, heading for Ypres with a heavy cargo of bombs, the travellers said. What caused the accident is unknown. Three peasants working in a nearby field, were arrested and sent to Germany in an effort to keep the news from becoming public.

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP STRIKES MINE; NOW BEACHED

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Belgian relief committee steamer Levenpool, from New York to Rotterdam, has been beached on the English coast in a sinking condition, the result of striking a mine. The Levenpool is a British ship, 4,844 gross tons and 376 feet long, built in 1911, and owned in West Hartlepool. She sailed from New York on Nov. 24, arrived at Falmouth Dec. 11th, and was to proceed to Rotterdam. It is discontinued at least before there has been another exchange of notes with not to be in its final stage.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

To the Governor, Newfoundland: LONDON, Dec. 17.—British headquarters in France report two small successful night attacks near Arras. Enemy trenches were entered and about seventy were killed. Elsewhere the French captured an enemy post in the Aisne Valley, taking 15 prisoners. From Mesopotamia, General Towns- end reports that the Arabs estimate the Turkish losses on December 12th as 2,000. His estimate is 1,000.

LONDON, Dec. 18. (official)—Last night the enemy made a small bombing attack against our lines about the quarries, north of Loos. This attack was easily repulsed. Artillery activity continued throughout the day north of Ypres.

Are Entitled to Remain in Privy Council

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The attempt to deprive Sir Edgar Speyer and Sir Ernest Cassel of membership of the Privy Council, on account of their German birth, has been defeated. The Lord Chief Justice, who has had the matter under advisement since the arguments were concluded a month ago, delivered judgment to-day. He declared that Sir Edgar and Sir Ernest as naturalized British subjects, had all the rights and privileges of British born subjects, and therefore were entitled to be members of the Privy Council.

SECOND NOTE TO AUSTRIA NOW PREPARED BY UNCLE SAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The United States prepared late today the draft of a second Note to Austria-Hungary re the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona. The communication will vigorously renew the demands made in the first Note by them, according to an official announcement by Secretary Lansing. President Wilson will probably approve of the form the second Note shall have to-morrow in a conference with Secretary Lansing. The Secretary will then act without further suggestion from the President, who will leave Washington to-morrow for his wedding trip.

German Plots in Spain

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Eli Radical, a prominent Spanish newspaper, claims that extensive German plots to destroy railway lines, bridges and tunnels in the Province of Huelva (in South-western Spain, north of Cadiz, and close to the Portuguese frontier) have just come to light, the scheme being to wreck enterprises connected with or owned by the allies. It is stated that German money to the extent of \$500,000 is being sent to the district for the purpose of sabotage. Barcelona is named as the headquarters of the plot, which in its ramifications bears a resemblance to the conspiracies recently uncovered in the United States. The German purpose is said to be to frustrate the export of copper from the famous Rio Tinto mine to the allied countries. Since the command of the sea passed to the allies the Rio Tinto mine has been the scene of unusual activity.

NOT TRUE

LONDON, Dec. 18.—It was officially announced last night by Private Secretary to Earl Kitchener, the British Secretary of War, that the reported engagement of Earl Kitchener to Dowager Countess Minto, was untrue. Such an announcement, says the report, is absolutely untrue.

NEUTRAL? CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Action on the resolution proposing an investigation into British interference with neutral shipping and attacks on ships carrying American citizens was indefinitely deferred to-day by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

German Press on Haig's Command

LONDON, Dec. 17.—German newspapers for the most part seem to be uncertain how to view the appointment of General Sir Douglas Haig as British Commander-in-Chief, in place of Field Marshal Sir John French. Comments from Berlin newspapers, however, is quoted by Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam. The Vossische Zeitung characterized Field Marshal French as a pushful, boastful, dilletante, while the Lokal Anzeiger says General Haig has had no experience in command of large masses of troops.

EX-POST MASTER OF CANADA HELD AS A HOSTAGE

MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—All efforts to secure the release of Dr. Renris S. Beland, M.P., former Postmaster-General of Canada, from imprisonment by the Germans in Belgium have been fruitless and now it is feared he may be shot. He is being held a hostage for the exchange of Lieut. Rintellen, the German spy convicted in England, and who is under sentence of death in the Tower of London. Information to this effect has been received by Arthur E. M. P. for Berthier.

SANK IN THE BALTIC

LONDON, Dec. 18.—German patrol boat "Buns" has been wrecked at Island of Langeland in the Baltic Sea, according to a despatch from Copenhagen. Bodies of several German officers have been found on the shore.

MORE OF IT

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Paul Koonig, head of secret services, of the Hamburg American line, and Richard Emile Lindecker arrested to-day by agents of the Department of Justice were charged of conspiring to attempt to blow up Welland Canal.

BIG LOSS THROUGH FIRE

SHELTON, Ill., Dec. 17.—Fire to-day destroyed the Cleveland Elevator Co.'s elevator and wood storage house with a loss estimated at \$250,000. The cause of the fire is unknown.

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IS THIS THE MAN?

The Providence Journal recalls that 12 or 14 years ago Tolstoi prophesied the present war, and predicted that after the conflict had been in progress a year or so, a strange figure would appear "out of the North," a man entirely unfamiliar with the arts of war, who would become the master of Europe and would retain that mastery for about ten years, or until 1925. The Journal wishes to know if Henry Ford is the man who will appear "out of the North" via Norway and Denmark.

ALREADY REPORTED

2nd Lieut. Ernest Churchill, Quidi Vidi Road. Previously reported jaundice, severe, Malta, Nov. 30; now reported sick (slight), Dec. 2.

1860—Private Laurence Horan, 267 South Side. Previously reported dangerously ill of enteric, progressing favourably, Malta, now reported seriously ill, Dec. 13.

702—Lance-Corporal Albert E. Jones, Hunt's Hr., T.B. Previously reported pharyngitis, Malta, now reported admitted hospital, Netley.

929—Private Richard J. Lawlor, 41 Bannerman St. Previously reported typhoid, Malta, Nov. 4; now reported admitted hospital, Netley.

433—Private James Snow, 162 Pleasant St. Previously reported shrapnel wound, knee, Malta, Nov. 17; now reported admitted hospital, Netley.

878—Private Wm. Short, Channel. Previously reported enteric, Malta, Oct. 14; now reported admitted hospital, Netley.

359—Private James N. Loveys, 44 Gilbert St. Previously reported nephritis, Malta, Nov. 5; now reported admitted hospital, Netley.

JOHN R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

1270 Private Martin P. Kent, Placentia; dysentery. Admitted to Bombay Presidency General Hospital, Alexandria, Nov. 5.

177 Sergt Augustus J. Manning, 31 Gower Street; prexia (slight). Admitted to Bombay Presidency General Hospital, Alexandria, Nov. 5.

40 Private Edward F. Edgecombe, 157 Casey Street; prexia. Admitted to Bombay Presidency General Hospital, Alexandria, Nov. 5.

1340 Private Augustus Dawson, Spandauer Bay; diarrhoea (slight). Admitted to Kas-el-alina Hospital, Cairo, Nov. 5.

429 Private Eugene Cornet Cape St. George; dysentery. Admitted to Greek Hospital, Alexandria, Nov. 5th.

645 L. C. Hamor Gardner, British Hr., T.B.; dysentery. Admitted to Greek Hospital, Alexandria, Nov. 5.

729 Private Corbett Pittman, New Perlican. Rheumatism. Admitted to Greek Hospital, Alexandria, Nov. 5th.

Second Lieut John E. J. Fox. St. John's; dysentery and myocarditis. Admitted to Hospital at Malta, ex Hospital ship Morea, Nov. 10.

Second Lieut Laurie Baine, England; seriously ill, dysentery, improving at Pas-el-Tin Hospital, Alexandria, 23rd Nov.

1118 Private Harry Rowe, 72 Cabot St.; prexia (slight). Transferred to Hospital ship Lanfranc, ex 54th Casualty Clearing Station, Sulva, Nov. 1.

183 Private Michael Jos. Maddigan, 314 Water St. W.; dysentery. Admitted to Hospital Malta, ex Hospital Ship Dorgola, Nov. 17.

1285 Private Arthur Slaney, St. Lawrence; discharged from 16th Stationary Hospital Mudros to duty, via Rest Camp, Nov. 3rd.

813 Private Sydney G. Willar, 8 Spencer St.; was sick; discharged from 16th Stationary Hospital, Mudros to duty, via Rest Camp, Nov. 3.

973 Private John E. Vaters, Victoria Carbonara; Septic, right hand; case not yet diagnosed. Admitted to Hospital, Malta, ex Hospital Ship Kildonan Castle, Nov. 5.

1130 Private Herbert R. Parsons, 7 Hayward Avenue; enteric. Admitted to Hospital, Malta, ex Hospital Ship Kildonan Castle, Nov. 5.

358 Private James N. Loveys, 44 Gilbert Street; nephritis. Admitted to Hospital ship Kildonan Castle, Nov. 5.

888 Corporal William Thos. Lever, Heart's Content; Sprained back and prexia. Admitted to Hospital, Malta, Kildonan Castle, Nov. 5.

58 L. C. Chas. S. Frost, Yarmouth N.S.; pyrexia. Admitted to hospital, Malta, ex hospital ship Kildonan Castle, Nov. 5.

DECEMBER 18, 1915 153—Private Larry Field, 4 Deady's Lane, St. Andrew's Hospital, Malta, Nov. 26; debility, and jaundice severe.

435—Private John Nicholle, 164 Pleasant Street, 15th Stationary Hospital, Alexandria, Dec. 13; dangerously ill, tetanus.

126—Private Thomas Colton Carmichael, 103 King's Road. Admitted hospital, Netley; pyrexia.

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GERMANS PREPARE FOR NEW OFFENSIVE IN EAST AND WEST

Ford on His Way to Christiania

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The announcement was made by the Foreign Office to-night that the Ford steamer Oscar II, has been permitted to proceed on its voyage to Christiania. The Foreign Office understands that the steamer has sailed from Kirkwall, into which port it was taken by the British authorities. Guarantees were required that certain parts of the steamship's cargo must be returned to England.

WAS PERSONAL FRIEND OF GERMAN EMPEROR

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 15.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, announced yesterday that he had been authorized by his Government to "disavow," Captain Frank von Rintellen, and declared that he had no instructions to commit any acts, which were in violation of the laws of the United States. The Ambassador will convey this instruction to the State Department for its information. When in America, it was said at the Embassy, Rintellen, acted solely in the capacity of a purchasing agent for private interests. Rintellen, a German agent, now a prisoner in the Tower of London, has been charged with coming to this country, armed with a large corruption fund, to incite strikers in munition factories, he also has been accused of being concerned in an attempt to set up counter revolution in Mexico, and in the financing of the organization known as Labor National Peace Council.

Rintellen who is said to be a friend of Emperor William was apprehended by British authorities at Falmouth while attempting to return to Germany. Despatches from Petrograd note German activity particularly in Dvinsk district which would be in accord with the German ambition to reach the line of the Dvinsk river, while accounts from neutral countries mention the continued movement of men and guns to the west. In the latter theatre of operations it seems only a question at what points the offensive is to be taken. Many persons believe that the Germans having found the Allies' lines in Flanders and Artois nuts too hard to crack now contemplate moving to Saint Michael region while their line penetrates the River Meuse, and where there has been considerable activity during the last few days. The only thing argued against this move is that the river has been flooded by the French who have systematically destroyed all bridges, as they were rebuilt.

KING GEORGE LOSSES IN WEIGHT

LONDON, Dec. 15.—King George, who suffered severe injuries by being thrown from his horse at the British front in France, October 28, has recovered sufficiently to take up affairs of state under certain restrictions. Respecting the King's condition, Sir Frederick Treves, surgeon to the King and Sir Bertrand Dawson, physician extraordinary to His Majesty, have made the following statement: "We are happy to report that the King has so far recovered from the grave accident of October 28 as to be able to resume work with certain limitations. "The King has lost seriously in weight, and, until a normal state of health is attained, it is essential that His Majesty should avoid any cause of fatigue. It has been necessary on medical grounds, that the King should take a little stimulant daily during convalescence. As soon as the King's health is quite restored he will resume total abstinence which he imposed upon himself for public reasons."

BULGAR PHYSICIAN SAYS PEOPLE ARE OPPOSED TO WAR

PARIS, Dec. 9.—The following despatch filed yesterday at Athens, was received to-day by the Havas News Agency: "A Bulgarian physician, who has arrived here from Sofia, declares that the Bulgarian nation is demanding cessation of hostilities. The Government, however, considers its fate bound up with the of the Central Powers, and must fight to the end. "In order to avoid discouraging the people hospitals have been established in the conquered territory, so that it is not necessary to bring back the wounded into Bulgaria. The physicians said the masses of the people were favorable to Premier Radoslavoff, but that the better educated Bulgarians were opposed to him."

Petrograd Reports Say Germans Again Active in Dvinsk District—All Reports From Neutral Sources Speak of Continued Movement of Men and Guns to Western Front

GREECE AND ROUMANIA ENGAGED DEAL MAKING

German Unable to Break Allies Lines in Flanders and Artois are Said to be Moving Towards Saint Michael Region—Big Battle Raging Between Serbs and Bulgars on Black Drin River

LONDON, Dec. 18.—While the diplomats of Greece and Roumania are engaged in new deals which will decide the next step of the Balkan operations, there is an increasing evidence that the Germans, ever restive, are preparing new strokes on both the eastern and western fronts or at least making a concentration of their forces to strike when conditions are propitious.

Despatches from Petrograd note German activity particularly in Dvinsk district which would be in accord with the German ambition to reach the line of the Dvinsk river, while accounts from neutral countries mention the continued movement of men and guns to the west. In the latter theatre of operations it seems only a question at what points the offensive is to be taken. Many persons believe that the Germans having found the Allies' lines in Flanders and Artois nuts too hard to crack now contemplate moving to Saint Michael region while their line penetrates the River Meuse, and where there has been considerable activity during the last few days.

The only thing argued against this move is that the river has been flooded by the French who have systematically destroyed all bridges, as they were rebuilt.

Thus far, however, there has been little more than usual mining and bombing operations and aerial fighting in the west. In the Balkans all military operations are temporarily at a standstill, except in Montenegro and Albania, where the Austrians and Bulgarians are carrying mountain warfare against King Nichol's troops and the Serbians.

A big battle is in progress in the valley of Albanian or Black Drin river between the Serbs and the Bulgarians. Late reports says, no decision has been reached in the fighting. It is said, however, that the Bulgarians who crossed the river found that the Serbs had been reformed and were driven back with heavy losses. The possible Serbs counter attacks were made possible by supplies having reached them from the Italians who landed on the Albanian coast and who are trying to open communications with the Serbs through that country. The Italians, it is understood, already have landed eighty thousand men.

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LADIES, ATTENTION! A GIFT TO YOUR GENTLEMAN FRIENDS A GREAT BIG XMAS OFFER. FOR the next Ten Days we will give to every Purchaser of a tin V.C. Smoking Mixture, price \$1.25, a handsome covered Tobacco Pouch, price 50c. The regular price of these two articles being \$1.75. Our price for Ten Days only, \$1.50. To be had only at the ROYAL CIGAR STORE, Bank Square Water Street.