GREAT BRITAIN AND HER ALLIES AGREED AS TO THE NECESSITY FOR RETALIATION

ALLIES ARE UNITED ON QUESTION OF REPRISAL

Nature of methods of Retaliation not absolutely agreed upon, but England and Her Partners in accord concerning main points — Statement from Premier Asquith expected on Monday.

London, Feb. 26—France, Russia, England, Serbia and Belgium are said by English officials to be in absolute accord as to reprisals to be made on Germany, Austria and Turkey in retaliation for the German submarine campaign. England was in conference with her Allies concerning reprisals before the receipt of the last American note, making informal representations looking to the discontinuance of submarine activity, and the admission of food to Germany for her civil population.

While it can be authoritatively stated that the nature of the reprisals has not been agreed upon absolutely, as yet, England and her Allies have decided upon the main points, which probably will be announced Monday by Premier Asquith, in a statement for the press, simultaneously with the submission of the position of all the opponents of Germany to neutral countries, whose trade is so vitally affected by the present naval methods.

BRITISH OFFICIALS BELIEVE LOSS OF SEVERAL SHIPS DUE TO SUBMARINES

Walter Hines Page, Ambassador from the United States to Great Britain, and the British Foreign Office, have refrained from discussing the terms of the American note, but the Foreign Office has intimated that the probable statement of Premier Asquith on Monday will not be a direct answer to the American note, but a long-promised elucidation of the intimation made by Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and other cabinet members, that reprisals against Germany would doubtles be necessary.

There is every reason to beliece that England fully intends to make all foodstuffs for Germany absolute contraband, thus cutting off the movement of ships to German ports, and making export trade by sea impossible. Great interest is being shown by the British press and the public in the probable treatment of cotton under the new system of reprisals. The belief seems to be general that cotton and food all will become absolute contraband.

British officials are now persuaded, they state, that several ships, which at first was reported as having been destroyed by mines, were the victims of submarines.

UNEMPLOYMENT QUESTION BEFORE PARLIAMENT

Hon. Mr. White Asks House to Renew Approval Proclamation Made in August Authorizing Advances to Chartered Banks.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—Mr. Gideon Rochon, new member for Terebonne, was introduced at the opening of the House today.

The special committee named by the Minister of Justice to consider amendments to the Criminal Code was appointed, and Mr. Sinclair's bill to punish defrauding contractors, and Mr. C. E. McGraney's bill dealing with the fraud invalidating real estate titles were referred to it.

A resolution by Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux for improvements in Canadian copywright laws will also likely be considered by the committee.

Hon. W. T. White asked Parliament to approve of a resolution renewing a proclamation authorized last August to meet the financial situation. The proclamation authorizes the issue of advances to the chartered banks on securities pledged by the banks; authorizes excess circulation on the part of the banks; payment by the banks in their own notes, instead of in gold. Under the act passed last August, the necessary proclamation must be ratified by Parliament within thirty days of the opening of the session.

Mr. White stated that though the situation had greatly improved since last August, it was proposed to continue the measure as a matter of precaution.

He said the outstanding indebtedness for the banks to the Dominion was now $7,900,000, which could be secured tomorrow, if it were necessary. The amounts issued had been instantaneously efficacious in meeting the ends for which the legislation had been passed.

Mr. White asked the House to facilitate the bill, promising that the principle of such legislation could be discussed later in the session.

Mr. George Kyte, of Richmond, asked if the government had anything to say about a recent cable despatch stating that the Eighteenth Nova Scotia Battalion at Salisbury Plain had been broken up to provide reinforcements for other units, etc. In the absence of General Hughes, the Finance Minister, who was leading the House, said that he would make inquiries.

The Unemployment Problem

Ottawa, Feb. 26—The House then went into supply on estimates of the Labor Department. After answering a number of questions, as to the resignations in his department, Hon. T. W. Crothers made a statement in regard to unemployment. Representatives from the board of trade organizations and departmental sources, he said, indicated that the situation was not so bad as it had been a few months ago. There were two cities where conditions were still bad, Montreal and Toronto. The larger number of unemployed had been in Montreal, and there was a large number there yet. Outside these two place there was not much to complain of. The different provinces had offered to look after their own unemployment, with the single exception of Quebec.

Mr. J. H. Sinclair asked what remedy the Minister had for the situation. He said he had heard there had been a procession of unemployed in Toronto recently, carrying a banner with the device, "British subjects we were born, and British subjects we will soon be dead."

Mr. Crothers said that one method of relieving unemployment was to have the Dominion government go on with public works and supply the unemployed with work; so with the provincial governments and municipalities, and with individuals, such as his honorable friend himself. That was the only remedy Mr. Crothers proposed for the situation.

Mr. W. F. Carroll said that after Mr. Crothers' last trip to England he had given out an interview to the effect that he would revolutionize labor conditions by introducing legislation this session for the establishment of Federal labor bureaus. Why had nothing been done?

Mr. Crothers replied that he did not think he had ever declared his intention of establishing a national labor bureau. He had said he would consider the question, and had done so. A commission appointed in England had expressed the view that labor bureaus should not be established during the time of depression, but in prosperous times. He pointed out that the labor bureaus were not intended to create work. When there was a surplus of labor in every line the bureaus might not be of much use. He stated that the Trades and Labor Congress, at its meeting in St. John in September, and again at a meeting in Winnipeg a few days ago, had passed resolutios opposing the creation of such bureaus. The Minister said he was of the opinion that it would be a costly proceeding, and he believed that the feeling in the country was not in favor of a national labor bureau. It was not the government's intention to introduce the bill this session.

Fair Wage Clause in War Contracts

On a complaint that a contract for the manufacture of shells by a New Glasgow firm for the British government did not contain a fair wage clause, being made by Mr. MacDonald, of Pictou, Mr. Crothers said he had learned of a similar complaint from three other places, and had taken up the question with Col. Bertram of the Militia Department. Col. Bertram had subsequently asserted that he would see that fair wage provisions were included in every contract. Moreover the Militia Department had cabled the London War Office that it did not want the men in Canada to work under unfair conditions.

Replying to a question by Mr. Carroll, as to the number of labor disputes, Mr. Crothers pointed out that there had been no serious troubles since the outbreak of war. In three cases, where conciliation boards had been applied for, agreements had been reached. At present there was applications for the formation of two or three boards.

During the year 18 boards had been appointed, and the minister understood that their recommendations had been accepted.

In response to a question by Mr. MacDonald as to the steps being taken to carry out the recommendations of the Technical Education Commission, Mr. Crothers said he had communicated with the Premiers of all the provinces, and had asked for suggestions, in view of the fact that education was a provincial matter. None of the provinces, except Nova Scotia, had appeared to take the report very seriously. The minister was in favor of taking action that was practicable to aid technical education. However, nothing could be done without the consent of the provinces, and, at all events, nothing could be done under existing financial conditions.

Estimates for Labor and Post Office Departments Put Through.

The evening sitting of the House was devoted to putting through the estimates of the Labor and Post Office Departments for the inside services. The only discussion of particular interest was with regard to the unemployment situation in Canadian cities. Medaric Martin, Mayor and M. P., from Montreal, declared that there were 45,000 unemployed in Montreal alone, some of them "dying from hunger and want."

He wanted Federal action taken in the situation.

STR. MONGOLIAN ALEAK, SENDS DISTRESS CALL

Allan Liner Springs Leak and Is Rushing to Halifax—Two Hundred Passengers Aboard —U. S. Coast Guard Boat Acting as Convoy.

New York, Feb. 25.—The Allan liner Mongolian, four hundred miles off Cape Race, and leaking badly, is rushing for port. There are 200 passengers on board. The liner has sent an urgent wireless message asking that assistance be sent. The Red Cross liner Stephano, 416 miles off Halifax, is rushing to the Mongolian's aid.

The Mongolian is the liner which struck a rock off St. Johns, Nfld., and was temporarily repaired, after which she started for the old country. The Mongolian left Philadelphia early this week on her usual trip to Glasgow, via St. John,s Nfld. She is one of the smaller type of the Allan Line of steamers.

Officials of the company here today stated that they had received a Marconigram from the captain of the Mongolian to the effect that the ship has sustained some injuries owing to the heavy ice packs, and that he deemed it advisable to return to Halifax. It is expected the ship will arrive at the latter port on Sunday.

Red Cross Liner to Rescue.

St. Johns, Nfld., Feb. 26.—The Red Cross steamer Stephano, bound here from Halifax, was ordered in a wireless message from Colonial Government officials today to proceed to the assistance of the Allan liner Mongolian, which sprang a leak 1,000 miles off here and is returning to Halifax for repairs. The Mongolian was 450 miles southeast of Cape Race at noon yesterday. It is expected that she will reach Halifax on Sunday morning.

A number of Newfoundland people are on board the steamer, and in order to afford them every protection, the government ordered the Stephano to escort the liner to Halifax. The Stephano probably will be alongside the Mongolian by midnight.

New York, Feb. 26—A despatch was received here today from J. R. Bennett, acting premier of Newfoundland, telling of the acident. Upon the premier's request, agents here of the Red Cross Line communicated by wireless with their steamship Stephano and instructed the captain to hasten to the assistance of the Mongolian. The Stephano is believed to be about 416 miles off Halifax.

Mr. Bennett's message read as follows:

"Urgently request that the Stephano be sent to assist the Mongolian. Leaking badly and heading ni for Halifax. Consider action most urgent."

When the Mongolian, which is in command of Captain Hatherly, arrived at St. John's on Feb. 3, it was reported that she was in a leaking condition. She left St. John's but put back on Feb. 7. Repairs were made and she again left St. John's on Feb. 13. It was believed here that the steamer encountered ice and that the leak had been opened again. Bowering & Company said they believed that unless the Mongolian was taking in water fast the Stephano would be able to tow her into St. John's.

Montreal, Feb. 26—The Allan Line office here has received a wireless message from the captain of the Mongolian in which he says that water has leaked into No. 1 hold, but is now under control. The steamer was proceeding back to Halifax under her own steam.

The Allan Line officials point out that the ship is quite safe as No. 1 hold could be full of water and the vessel would not sink. They think the ship has been in the ice and had perhaps injured a plate.

Convoyed By U. S. Coast Guard Ship

Washington, Feb. 26—The coast guard ship Seneca, reported late today by wireless via Cape Race that she was convoying the steamer Mongolian into Halifax and that the steamer was leaking badly.

ST. F. X. WINS.

Halifax, Feb. 26.—In the Intercollegiate hockey game played here tonight St. Francis Xavier of Antigonish, defeated the Technical College team 5 to 2. St. Francis Xavier will now play off with Dalhousie for inter-collegiate championship at New Glasgow.

Purse Found.

A black purse was found yesterday on King street near the Victoria Hotel and handed to the police by W. W. Swornbourne. The owner can receive the same on application at central station.

LATE SHIPPING

New York, Feb. 26—Ard: Str Caserta, Genoa; Baltic, Liverpool; Sant Anna, Marseilles.

Liverpool, Feb. 26.—Ard: Str Haverford, Philadelphia.

BRYCE, ON U.S. ATTITUDE

(Continued from page 1)

one or the other party to the struggle. However high the motive, its impartiality would hereafter be questioned."

Following Washington's Counsel.

Arguing that the attack on Belgium was a clear breach, not only of the convention of 1907, but of the fundamental principles of international law, Viscount Bryce says the breaches which followed rested at first on statements which needed confirmation, and that "any government might feel that before protesting against the treatment of non-combatants, it needed further evidence which would carry certainty to every fair mind."

"Add to this ground for caution the fact that the United States has always following the advice of Washington, endeavored to keep themselves clear of European entanglements in Old World diplomacy."

Regarding the questions of international law and usage, which have arisen between the United States and the belligerents, Viscount Bryce says:

"When a neutral is urged by its citizens to remonstrate with belligerents upon the exercise of any rights which the belligerents claim, it cannot, unless convinced that there is no substance in the grievance, decline to present the case of its subjects."

Continuing, Viscount Bryce says:

"If it is suggested, as I think it has been somewhere, that in the matter of contraband and the right of search, powerful pecuniary interests have tried to influence the administration, those who have watched the recent developments in America will agree that nothing is so unpopular there as what is called big business, and that any administration supposed to be yielding to its pressure would do so at its peril. So far as I can judge, there is no foundation for any such notion."

Viscount Bryce pays high tribute, in the article, to the American Red Cross, the Commission for the Relief in Belgium, and to the people and the government and its representatives, for the assistance rendered non-combatants in the war area and British subjects in belligerent countries.

BATTLEGROUND NEAR YPRES A VAST CEMETERY

(Continued from page 1)

To the south of the Ypres-Comines Canal, says the witness, the ground, although there are some enclosures, is comparatively open. To the north of it, however, there are many woods and they have become a tangle of fallen trees interspersed with craters. To add to the hardships of such fighting, the troops have been attacking on ground in which the men sink up to their knees in mud.

"Despite all these drawbacks," continues the observer, "counter attacks continues the observer, have been carried out with such resolution that in nearly all cases the original line has been regained. On the night of Feb. 15, as our troops were advancing to drive the enemy out of one of these trenches, his guns suddenly opened a tremendous fire. Our men were in the open, at some distance from the Germans at the time, and being thus taken at a disadvantage, their chance of success looked small. Without a moment's hesitation, however, the attacking line broke into a double-quick and, pounding through the mud, burst into the German trench.

"A counter-attack on the 17th also was a most dashing piece of work. Trenches occupied by the enemy had been subjected to such a heavy fire that they would not await our onset. As our men charged forward cheering, the Germans were observed to be leaving the trenches and hurrying to the rear.

Held Trench Until Last Man Fell

"In one trench, which became, in the course of the fighting, more or less isolated, forty of our men continued to hold firm until every one of them had been either killed or wounded. Eventually there were only three left who were capable of fighting, and these three continued to hold the enemy at bay. In the meantime word was brought to those in the rear that their ammunition was nearly exhausted, and seven men, the strongest available, were selected to bring up as much ammunition as they could carry. These later found the three wounded survivors still standing amid the bodies of their dead and disabled comrades, and still firing steadily. The support, slender as it was, came in the nick of time, for at that moment the Germans launched another assault which, like the previous one, was beaten off and the position was saved.

"Our howitzers did especially good work on the trenches captured by the Germans at one point.

Observers could see one lyddite shell after another bursting in the trenches and hurling the defenders into the air."

Quoting from letters, which he says were found on the bodies of German soldiers, in support of his statement, the "eye-witness" says:

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—The government has received the following cable from the War Office:

"It has been decided to permit small batches of war correspondents to proceed to the front in a series of tours of about six days each, beginning March 1st."

Judge Grimmer came in to the city on the Boston express last evening.

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