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### Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gives His Impressions of the War

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Petrograd says: "Sergius Sazonoff, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, to-day received a deputation of journalists, to whom he gave a general view of the Balkan situation. His most interesting remarks concerning Rumania, whose relations with Russia, he said, remain perfectly satisfactory and amicable. He admitted that some time ago the attitude of Rumania was uncertain, owing to her fear of hostile acts on the part of the central powers, but that he was now convinced Rumania would not fall into a German trap.

"I repeat that the Austro-Germans persist in their Rumania campaign, but it is not producing the effect desired on practical Rumanians," said M. Sazonoff. He added that the whole Balkan situation would find its solution only after the war had ended.

Speaking of the improved relations between Russia and Sweden, M. Sazonoff said:

"It is evident that in Sweden, as elsewhere, there has been a chauvinistic movement. It is possible that Sweden may feel the need of taking measures for the defense of her frontiers, but we can declare categorically that she will not have to defend them against Russia, and that this side of her frontiers is perfectly secure."

While not denying that some excitement has been caused in Sweden by the British contraband measures, M. Sazonoff said:

"Great Britain is forced to defend legitimate interests which demand the eradication of German maritime contraband. Moreover, Great Britain is going to do her best not to compromise the interests of neutrals, including Sweden."

He declared that Germany, which enjoys the goodwill of Sweden, takes less care about naval measures than Great Britain, and "sinks neutral ships mercilessly," including Swedish.

Regarding the entente allies, the foreign minister declared that their interests were growing closer and closer from both military and a political viewpoint. He considered the projected visit of the members of the Duma to Britain would lead to new understandings, and he paid a tribute to Great Britain's efforts in the war.

Asked as to the duration of the war, the minister said he did not think it would last much longer, and that Germany would be the first to give in for economic reasons.

"Nevertheless," he added, "we must continue to make intense preparations for the summer campaign."

M. Sazonoff concluded with the declaration that the entente allies were absolutely confident that they would triumph.

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### LISBON MOBS CROW VIOLENT

Portugal's Minister of Justice Uses Revolver to Defend Himself—Fire in Palace of the President—Bombs Thrown in Outbreak Due to Higher Cost of Food

PARIS, Feb. 6.—A despatch from Madrid to the Havas Agency says that travellers from Lisbon report that the Portuguese Minister of Justice was fired upon by rioters and that he defended himself with his revolver. They also state that fire occurred in Belem Palace, the official residence of the President, but that it was soon extinguished; that many bombs have been exploded in different parts of the city and that the police have discovered quantities of dynamite bombs and arms.

#### Bombs are Thrown.

LISBON, Feb. 6.—The rioting which began last Saturday on account of the increased price of food articles has not yet been quelled and one person was reported killed and several wounded to-day by bombs thrown by the rioters in their conflicts with the police and the soldiers.

The Minister of the Interior stated in the Senate to-day that the Government is determined to repress all attempts on the part of rioters to prevent men from returning to work. The Senate passed a vote of confidence in the Government. The Opposition party announced that it had no intention of raising any obstacles to the efforts of the Government to restore and preserve order.

#### RECORD PRICE FOR CHARTER

BOSTON, Feb. 6.—The British steamship Norman Monarch, which arrived yesterday from Australian ports, brought, besides other cargo, 7,000,000 pounds of wool, valued at \$1,500,000. The owners of the vessel received, according to report, \$200,000 for the charter, said to be a record.

#### WHERE TO GET THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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### Bitterest Winter West Has Known

Saskatchewan and Alberta in Grip of Almost Arctic Weather—Fuel Shortage Result—Railway Lines Tied up—Discussion of Situation in House of Commons

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—That the present Winter is the most extreme as regards cold and snow ever experienced in the West since railways were built there was the statement made in the House to-day during a discussion of fuel scarcity and car storage in certain districts in Saskatchewan and Alberta. It was asserted that considerable suffering, and even danger of loss of life, has resulted from these conditions. Lord Shaughnessy, president of the C.P.R., was an interested spectator of the debate.

Mr. J. G. Turfiff, of Assiniboia, brought the matter up when he read a telegram from Lampman, Sask., on the Canadian Northern line, to the effect that this district had seen only one train and one mail in the last 25 days.

Hon. Dr. Reid, Acting Minister of Railways, stated that the car and fuel shortage which existed in certain districts of the West had been brought to his attention already, and that he had taken the matter up with the railways. He read communications from a C.P.R. official to the effect that the Winter was the most severe, as far as cold and snow conditions went, ever experienced in the West since railways had been built there, there being 22 feet of snow in some of the railway cuttings. The C. P. R., however, promised to see that there was no suffering on any of its lines, and with regard to conditions on the C. N. R. lines, offered to haul C. X. R. coal, or run its own trains over the C. N. R. lines to relieve the situation. Sir Henry Drayton, Chief Railway Commissioner, had also ordered that coal trains take precedence over all others so that a supply of fuel be afforded districts in need of it.

The Canadian Northern Railway Company had pointed out that conditions lately had made it almost impossible for the railways to move trains. What it lacked was not motive power, but water, since its water tanks were for the most part frozen up.

Dr. Reid closed with the statement that he was confident that the railways would carry out their promise to do all they could to relieve the suffering caused by the severe weather conditions.

#### SWISS OFFICERS TO BER COURT-MARTIALED

BERNE, via Paris, Feb. 6.—The investigation into the charges that Col. Karl Egli and Col. Maurice de Wattenwyl, officers of the general staff, communicated to Germany information regarding the French frontier positions, has been concluded. Col. Dubois, who made the investigation, recommended that the officers be sent to trial before the military court of the Fifth Division.

#### THE LAST SENTINEL OF CASTLE HILL

I HAVE been appointed Agent here for Rev. Dr. O'Reilly's book, "THE LAST SENTINEL OF CASTLE HILL," an absorbingly interesting story of Newfoundland life in the Nineteenth Century. Cloth bound. Dedicated to our Newfoundland Soldiers and Sailors. Intending subscribers please address T. D. CAREW, 125 Cabot St., or c/o Mail & Advocate, St. John's.

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### United Fruit Co. Wins Big Suit in Federal Court

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.—A verdict in favor of the defendant was rendered late this afternoon by the jury in the suit of the Bluefields Steamship Company against the United Fruit Company under the Sherman anti-trust laws. The jury was out 50 hours. The suit was known as the "Banana Trust" suit. Nine weeks were required to try the case. The suit was brought by a receiver by the Bluefields Company, now in bankruptcy, on the ground that the Banana Trust by its method of doing business had been responsible for the bankruptcy. The suit was instituted by Elmer E. Woods, New Orleans receiver for the steamship company, who asked \$15,000,000 damages for alleged monopolistic methods employed by the United Fruit Company.

The suit was begun in 1911 and was scheduled for trial in 1913, but was postponed owing to the illness of Alexander Simpson, Jr., of this city, counsel for the steamship company. The United Fruit Company, it was charged, absorbed a number of smaller shipping concerns and later bought up one-half the capital stock of the Bluefields Company at \$500 a share.

#### SPEECH CREATES SENSATION IN HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Budapest quotes long extracts from a speech in the Hungarian parliament on January 20 by Herr Urmanczy, leader of the independence party, on the subject of the ill treatment of the Hungarians by the Austrians. The speaker gave the details of a dozen instances illustrating his charge that Hungarian soldiers are being persecuted, insulted, underfed and beaten by their Austrian officers. He said that virtually all Hungarian regiments were now officered by Austrians, and that their Hungarian officers had been transferred to other units. The correspondent quotes with the charge "It seems to me that the Austrians intend to exterminate us by such means."

The speech, according to the correspondent, created tremendous feeling in the House, but the spaces in the newspapers the following way which were to have been devoted to it were mostly blank, owing to the activity of the censor. Even Count Tisza, the premier, says the correspondent, "was stirred by the facts produced by the speaker, and promised to investigate them immediately."

Sometimes a man is considered eccentric because he attends strictly to his own business.