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How Britain Examines Mail Matter Seized

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—An explanatory statement of how Great Britain's examination of mails is being conducted, was presented yesterday to Secretary of State Lansing by the British Embassy.

It is preparatory to the more comprehensive reply to American representations now being prepared jointly by the London and Paris foreign offices. Figures given in the statement, show the average time for examination of intercepted mail, is from one to three days. The minimum delay to mail between the United States and Holland is given at two days, and the maximum at seven. Danish mails have been delayed from seven to ten days, when it has been necessary to remove them from a ship otherwise only four days.

"It is admitted," says the statement, "that at the outset, neutral correspondence in which enemy interests were in no way concerned, was subjected to a delay which is greatly regretted, and which has since been reduced to a minimum. It must not be imagined that the mails were removed from neutral ships for examination without careful consideration of the arrangements which would be required to deal with them as quickly as possible."

"All preparations which seemed necessary were with this object, but, unfortunately, those responsible for them were not aware of some of the difficulties, which would be encountered."

"For instance, there was no reason to suppose that (as proved to be the case) mail bags marked as despatched from one neutral country to another neutral country, would contain nothing but mails for or from an enemy country, that bags represented as containing printed matter would contain rubber, coffee, jewelry, etc., sometimes disguised as newspapers, as well as correspondence of all kinds, registered and unregistered, or that persons writing to or from enemy countries would already have adopted the practice of sending their letters under cover to intermediaries in neutral countries, or that great numbers of complete sacks appearing to contain merely business circulars from neutral countries, would contain in reality, nothing but propaganda from Germany under covers bearing neutral postage stamps.

"These and similar unforeseen peculiarities made it impossible, until the staff engaged had been largely increased, and had become accustomed to them, to select on any fixed principle those mail bags, which, when all could not be examined within a reasonable period, should be forwarded without examination."

"The delay of shipping documents carried by the same ship as the cargo to which they refer, can be, and had been in some cases, avoided by the simple expedient of enclosing such documents in specially marked bags."

The statement concludes by showing why the despatch of the intercepted mails is best facilitated by examination in London, and not at points nearer the seizure, as has been suggested.

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Special Standard Motor Oil in bbls and half bbls. @ 55c. per gallon.
Motor Greases at lowest prices.
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Can Winston Churchill Win? Churchill's Future Political Career Now Looms Up Larger Than Ever.

There is evidence that Mr. Winston Churchill is attempting to win back to popular favour. Once again this "push and go" politician is "featuring" as the cinema advertisements would say. But in spite of the unprecedented boom of his "Sunday Pic-torial" articles, the replies by Mr. Bottomley in "John Bull," and the subsequent announcement that the First Lord received £1,000 for his temporary return to journalism, the country is keeping its head. There is no indication of popular clamour for his recall to the Cabinet. The country even maintained its settled calm after Mr. Lloyd George permitted the limelight designed for himself to pour upon his Right Honourable friend at a recent matinee in Leicester Square. The fact is, we are all more than a little weary of politicians and the more "brilliant" and "pushful" they are the more we yawn. Not brilliance, but hard work, courage and administrative foresight are going to win the war. I do not say that Mr. Churchill lacks these gifts. There is abundance of evidence that he endowed with them more abundantly than many of his late colleagues. The question is how has he used them? And when you have answered that question another arises. How will he use them in the future? His war record is, to put it mildly, eccentric. By one transcendent achievement stands to his credit. The Navy was ready under his regime at the Admiralty when war broke out. Against that we have to place his responsibility in the Dardanelles tragedy. But we must not be too hard on him for that error in judgment. Doubtless he had reasons for agreeing to the step taken, and certainly also he did not act without expert advice. There was a chance of getting through, and the adventure showed audacity which has been lacking in our bigger movements. Audacity is a precious possession involving tremendous possibilities. When it succeeds we crown a man; when it fails—well, let us be fair.

Compromising the Nation. Winston Churchill comes of audacious stock, and it would be madness for the nation not to use him—if he can be used. His faults are that he is a politician with a politician's addiction to Front Bench compromises. He has also the fatal gift of phrase-making without that necessary reserve of silence, such as Lord Kit-chener had. The result of this is that the whole nation is liable to stand compromised by some picturesque epithet which has dropped lightly from his uncontrolled lips. We cannot forget that announcement of the nervousness of victory in Gallipoli; and those German naval rats which we were going to dig out, and those hornet-flight. . . . A statesman should not take such verbal risks. Parliament has ceased, for the time being, to be a debating society—though it looks as if politicians would be the last to realise it.

Pushing into the Limelight. The tendency to push Mr. Churchill into the limelight again must not be misunderstood. It is not, we may be certain, because of his abilities as a statesman. Such a Government as ours has proved long since that it does not take such things into account. Mr. Asquith, who is one of our few real statesmen, clings desperately to his colleagues—even when they are fools. The reason for this has been obvious to careful observers of recent political tendencies for some time. The Coalition has temporarily united these apparently hostile forces. Note how impotent the House of Commons is in debate and initiative and compare this impotence of "private" members (that is the vast majority of members) with the absolute power of the Cabinet, and you will begin to realize how important it is to the life and power of the Caucus that no outsiders should be admitted. The Cabinet will do anything rather than open its doors to strangers. The Cabinet is a close corporation believing that it is good business to keep things in the family. For that reason it is prepared to reconsider Winston—he knows the ropes.

Winston Was Not There! But what of us, the people of Britain? Have we no word? Most assuredly we have, or should have. If Winston Churchill return it must be for national rather than Caucus reasons. Let him give up excusing the past and apologising for the present. Let him do something. He writes well and talks well, but we are all sick of writing and talking. Winston Churchill began well a few weeks ago when he resigned from the Cabinet, put on his khaki, and went over to France. The country had hope of him again. He was going to cleanse himself of past errors in the ordeal of battle. But his love of the limelight soon drew him back to Westminster,

where, like the foolish moth, he singed his wings again. Lord Fisher came out of that contest unscathed; Winston Churchill didn't. Then he returned to France—then he returned to England and the limelight, and then the Battle of the Somme and the Empire's great trial began in earnest. Winston Churchill was not doing his bit; he was at home talking and writing and earning the "Daily Chronicle's" gibe from Voltaire—the masterpiece of the—War: Go hang yourself, Crillon! We fought and conquered at Arques—and you were not there. Would you live the taint down, Winston Churchill, and make yourself worthy of British Statesmanship in the great days coming? Then go back to France—it is not too late! You are a soldier and a descendant of the great Duke of Marlborough, go prove your worthiness on the Field of Honour. You have the stuff in you, don't waste time cadging for popularity in multi.—From "To-day."

BELGIAN PEOPLE WORE THE GREEN

Brussels Was Fined \$1,250,000 for Using Irish Color on National Day

(By Mary Boyle O'Reilly.) LONDON—The Man from Malines, a graduate of the Irish Colleges at Louvain, told me this story with the accent of Athlone.

"Brussels has been fined \$1,250,000 for the wearing of the green: It is one of the smiles of the war."

"To Belgians July 21 is as the American Fourth of July—a fete of patriotic celebration. Once a holiday it is now a holy day. Last year we closed our shops as usual and sought in simultaneous home gatherings to forget our sorrow. The invaders broken open the empty stores and intruded on hundreds of family gatherings. Fines followed; also insults. 'Patriotic and unafraid they unite to pit their wits against the Germans.' That was last year. This June the military governor, Gen. Hurts, issued orders forbidding any recognition of our Anniversary of Liberty, threatening with heavy penalties all who wore the national colors."

"Reading this proclamation our women smiled, they who have not laughed since August of Fourteen. Without a word they swarmed the shops, buying up everything green—ribbons, scarfs, muslins and foliage. Green instead of Belgian Hues."

"Came the birthday of our dear little country. Shops and markets remained open as commanded, but there were no customers, and in every window or stall were masses of green, just nothing but green. In the drapers only green cloth or silk, at the green grocer's only cabbages or lettuce were displayed. Every home showed a foliage plant in one window, but little girls and boys wore so many pretty pixies. And the black garbed thousands who mourn our three army corps dead on the field of honor wore on breast or lapel a bow of green thrust through a loop of crepe. Why green? Green—as all the world knows—is the color of Hope."

"The symbol to give us new courage. The German governor had forbidden our annual pilgrimage to the monument commemorating the revolution of 1830. The Place des Martyrs in which the column stands was guarded by armed uhlans. Therefore a procession of 200,000 people assembled suddenly from nowhere and marched through the streets overlooking the monument. From a distance all bowed deeply to the memorial they could not reach."

National Anthem Led By Cardinal. "An hour later the thousands who could enter the Cathedral of Sainte Gudule, where Cardinal Mercier praised patriotism and led his fellow citizens in singing the Belgian national anthem."

"Our tri-color is forbidden us," said the cardinal, "therefore we Belgians wear green."

"When the law can stop the blades of grass from growing as they grow, and when the leaves in summertime their verdure dare not show, then we will drop the color that we wear in our corseps, but till that day, please God, we'll stick to the WEARING OF THE GREEN."

The man from Malines paused, overcome by emotion, but the smiles of a fighting people lighted his deep eyes.

It will be an awful moment for the Germans who believe in the Kaiser when the Kaiser ceases to believe in himself.

Red Cross Line



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