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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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## Big Guns of All Belligerents Active From Belgium to the Vosges Mountains

British Artillery Shell German Trenches and British Sappers Have Destroyed a Mine Crater Held by Germans—French Increase Their Artillery Fire Around Forest of Argonne—Austrians Make an Air Raid on Skumsk and Destroy Many Buildings—The Latter Are Continuing Their Advance in Albania—Artillery Duels Predominate on the Russian and East Galician Fronts

London, Feb. 5.—The Germans latest reply to the demands of the United States concerning the sinking of the Lusitania are now in the hands of President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing. The American demands have not as yet been satisfactorily complied with, Germany halting at declaring the sinking of the vessel was illegal, believing such an admission would apply to her entire submarine campaign.

Secretary of State Lansing declares the situation surrounding the controversy is unchanged.

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing will consider a reply fully before the American Government's next step in the matter is taken.

From Belgium to the Vosges mountains big guns of both belligerent sides are hurling shells at opposing positions and in addition there has been considerable grenade fighting and sapping operations.

British artillery has shelled the German trenches between Somme and Ancre Rivers, and the British sappers have countermined and destroyed by explosion a mine crater held by the Germans.

North of Hulluch the Germans have heavily bombarded the British trenches around Elverdinghe, to northwest of Ypres near Loos and Neuville they have been engaged with the Entente Allies in a lively hand grenade fighting.

The French are increasing their artillery fire at various points, especially in the forest of Argonne.

Except for an air raid by the Austrians at Shumsk in Volhynia

where the numerous buildings were set afire, nothing new has come through concerning the situation.

On the Russian and East Galician fronts, artillery duels still predominate.

Along the Austro-Italian line the Austrians are continuing their advance into Albania with Durezzo as their immediate objective and have captured the town of Kurya, according to an Austrian official communication. It is probable that the town of Kroia, some 20 miles northwest of Durezzo, is the place taken, as available maps show no such town as Kurya.

## Must Discharge All Such Cargoes In British Ports

London, Feb. 5.—For some time past British authorities have been allowing vessels carrying goods suspected of being for German destination to proceed to Danish ports under a guarantee to return the suspected parts of such cargo.

Lately this arrangement has been stopped, according to Copenhagen despatches, owing to the fact that the steamer Kiev, which was permitted to continue her voyage under these conditions, was seized by German warships and taken into Swinemunde where she was compelled to discharge shipments of coffee, cocoa and figs destined for Germany.

British authorities will now demand all such goods to be immediately unloaded in British ports. The Danish steamers Dagmar and California are now being detained in accordance with this decision.

## CURZON AND HAIG GO ON SPECIAL MISSION

LONDON, Feb. 5.—An official statement to-night, says Earl Curzon, Lord Privy Seal, and General Sir Douglas Haig, commanded of the British forces on the Continent, are to proceed on a special mission to the King of the Belgians, and that the Earl of Curzon has already left England for that purpose.

## Bulgars Checked In Their Drive On Albania

ATHENS, Feb. 5.—The Patris says it learns that Bulgarian troops operating in Southern Albania have suffered a number of checks, owing to the difficulty of obtaining supplies and have been compelled to fall back toward the Drin River.

A fresh Bulgarian expedition in Albania says the newspaper, seems difficult, as Essad Pasha, Provisional President of Albania, is reported as having occupied all the strategic positions with the part of the Serbian troops reformed at Durazzo.

The total number of Serbians landed at Corfu up to the present is forty thousand.

## Zeppelin L 19 Was Well Known

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A despatch to Reuters Telegram Co. from Copenhagen, says, the wrecked zeppelin L-19 was well known along the West Coast. It was formerly stationed at Hamburg and Ponderin, and was frequently mentioned in newspapers' reports received from captains of North Sea vessels. For some time the airship patrolled the area around the Horn Reef and relieved the wrecked zeppelin L-18 at Ponderin. The L-19 was first mentioned about two months ago when accompanied by L-7 and L-8, it stopped Swedish steamer in the middle of the North Sea and sent a party aboard to inspect the steamer's papers. On this occasion the airship descended within a few yards of the surface of the water and launched a boat containing inspecting officers, who brought some provisions on board the steamer.

## Were Given Five Minutes to Leave Ship

LONDON, Feb. 4.—A despatch to the Star from Rotterdam, carries a story of a member of the crew of the Dutch steamer Artemis, which was torpedoed in the North Sea, and arrived yesterday at the Hook of Holland in a leaking condition.

The tanker, under water ballast, with no cargo, sailed from the Hook of Holland for England at midnight on Tuesday, carrying a distinguishing light to proclaim her neutrality. After an hour's steaming, according to the seaman's account, she was stopped by two German torpedo boats, which crept up without lights showing, and put two officers and two men on board, to examine her papers. The officers expressed satisfaction, and ordered her to take a certain course, the torpedo boats steaming along with her on either side, to see that their orders were obeyed.

About two hours later a third torpedo boat appeared, from which, according to the narrator, came the order to steer for Zebrugge. The captain of the Artemis replied that he did not know the course. "Drop anchor. You have five minutes to leave the ship," was the reply, the seaman declares. The crew of the Artemis ran for the lifeboats, but before they could be loaded, he asserts, after an interval of three or four minutes, a torpedo crashed into the Artemis, near the engine-room. "I was in bed, when I was suddenly called up," said the sailor. "I had only time to rush on deck. We did not have time to man a boat. We got one boat off, and rowed around for four hours. Then, as the Artemis was floating on her tanks, we boarded her again."

## ANOTHER FIRE BREAKS OUT IN OTTAWA

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—Fire has broken out in the large factory of the giant Holden Graham, Ltd., Albert Street, a firm which has large war orders. It is still confined to the building which is filled with tarpaulins, woollens and military uniforms.

There will be no Sunday School at St. Mary's to-morrow afternoon.

## BRYCE OPPOSES REPRISALS

London, Feb. 5.—Viscount Bryce, former Ambassador to the United States, speaking at Bedford College, London, to-night, condemned the policy of reprisals against Germany, which since the last Zeppelin raid has gained many advocates.

"We stand in this war for justice and right," Bryce said; "we stand for humanity and from that position we must not depart. I do not myself believe for a moment we shall gain anything by departing from it. If it came to cruelty the enemy would always win. I see no reason to think that any recourse in inhuman practices that are shocking to philosophy and morals which the enemy has adopted would have the slightest effect on him, or promote in any way our military success. We would not gain, we would certainly lose."

## Says Plans Were Made 3 Weeks Ago

New York, Feb. 5.—The Herald this morning says editorially: The destruction of the Parliament building at Ottawa caused a thrill of indignation in this country, because of the moral certainty that the deed was due by German conspirators.

The Providence Journal had informed the Department of Justice of this country three weeks ago that the building was to be destroyed, and that the destruction of Rideau Hall and a munitions plant would follow, and that the arrangements were being made through an embassy.

It is not the custom in this country to jump at conclusions and yet the case resembles operations which were fastened to Captain Von Papan, and his superiors, in connection with other outrages in Canada. When Germany is at bay she stops at nothing, no moral or spiritual law serves as a check.

## OFFICIAL

BRITISH To Governor, Newfoundland:

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Zeppelin L 19 was seen by a fishing trawler on Wednesday morning in a sinking condition, in the North Sea.

Headquarters in France reports heavy shelling of Loos by the enemy. North of the Aisne the French curtain fire prevented an enemy attack from debouching.

In the Caucasus the Russians are advancing with continued success.

BONAR LAW.

LONDON, Feb. 5. (official)—Our artillery to-day have been active against hostile trenches on the front between the Rivers Ancre and Somme. Our trenches about Elverdinghe, northwest of Ypres, were heavily shelled to-day.

London, Feb. 4.—British official communication issued to-night says: General Dobell telegraphing from West Africa says that 85 more armed deserters from the remnant of the German forces had surrendered to the French at the end of January and that more are expected to surrender. Strong French columns are moving south of Spanish frontier, New Guinea; one of these columns is already on

## Gov't Control Of All Shipping Hinted At

LONDON, Feb. 5.—In an article concerning the recent remarks made by Walter Runcimen, President of the Board of Trade, concerning the shipping of freight difficulty, the Nation, says it is understood that the Government intends to undertake a general control over all shipping. This control, it adds, will not be on the same lines as the control of railroads, or munitions manufacture, but will provide for a Central Committee to be empowered, not merely to check the monstrous growth of rates, but to do upon a larger scale for the country as a whole what is now done by freight brokers and shipping agents responsible for the regulating the destination and use of vessels employed in the world's trade.

## More Diplomatic Parley is Expected Over Appam Case

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—In the name of the British owners of the steamer Appam, Sir Cecil Spring Rice, British Ambassador, to-day lodged with the State Department a formal request that the ship be turned over to the British Consul under the terms of the Hague Convention. The notice also was served that it would be a violation of International Law if the United States permitted the German prize commander of the Appam either to increase the efficiency of that ship or add to her offensive powers or to recruit a crew.

## Says Plots Are Hatched On U. S. Soil

London, Feb. 5.—The morning newspapers to-day make the Canadian Parliament House fire a discussion of the alleged German plots in America, and means for preventing them.

The Chronicle says: Canada will doubtless redouble its efforts to prevent German outrages within its borders. She has hitherto stopped them with much more success than the United States, but she is undeniably handicapped by the laxity of its great neighbor. There is no question but that criminal plots have been and are being hatched on United States soil. If Americans fail to protect its own people against them, that is its own affair, but when such failure enable outrages of this magnitude to be carried out the discharge of international neighborly obligations ceases.

The Times says: So wicked and senseless an outrage can only steel and harden the indomitable determination of the Canadian people to see the war through.

## OIL TANKER TEXAS REPORTED ON FIRE

OTTAWA, Feb. 5.—The Marine Department received a message stating a Head Line steamer has reported by wireless at Cape Race that the oil tanker Texas is afire. The position of the distressed vessel is not given.

the bank of Ntoo River. The column from Campo is reported as already having reached Ngoa, 60 miles from the coast.

## FRENCH

PARIS, Feb. 5.—An official communication issued to-night, says to-day has been comparatively quiet. Our heavy artillery shelled a column of infantry and some enemy convoys entering the town of Roye. We have bombarded German organizations in Champagne region region, in Tahure, Mount Tetu, Argonne Sector, La Hazaee and Lorraine on the front of Hamerry Morville. There is nothing important to report from the rest of the fronts.

## Smouldering Ruins Now Mark Spot where Once Stood Statliest Pile of Gothic Architecture In North America

Fire Still Smouldering and is Likely to do so for Days—Building Has Been Guttled Completely—Law, Lib. M.P., Only Member so Far Known to Lose His Life in Fire—Some People Still Cling to the Theory That Fire Was of an Incendiary Origin—One Man Has Been Arrested Charged With the Deed—Other Arrests May Follow—Canadian Government Will Lose No Time in Making Arrangements For Construction of a New Parliament Building

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—To-day smouldering ruins marks the place where yesterday and for many yesterday there stood the stateliest pile of Gothic architecture in North America. All day to-day the fire engines continued pumping water on the smouldering debris. The fire still smoulders, and it is likely to smoulder so for days; elsewhere the wreck is coated with ice. The building has been gutted completely, with the exception of offices in extreme east and west, these are flooded.

Somewhere in the debris are the bodies of five men or more. The five known are Bowman B. Law, Liberal member for Yarmouth, N. S.; Jean Baptiste Laplante, Deputy Clerk of Commons; Randolph Fanning, Post Office employee; Alphonse DesJardins, Dominion policeman; A. DesJardins, plumber in Commons.

Bowman B. Law is the only member of the House who lost his life in the fire. He had spoken in yesterday's debate, had left the Chamber with the intention of visiting friends and he was never seen again. It is supposed he went to the room on the top flat occupied by the Nova Scotia Liberals and that he died there, his escape being cut off by fire and smoke which filled the staircase and elevator shafts.

The remains of the two ladies who perished in the Speaker's apartments—Madames Morin and Bray—will be taken to Quebec tomorrow by Speaker Veignin.

Despite the prevailing belief among the members and attendants that the fire was of incendiary origin, the official view is to the

contrary. The theory that incendiary work was by enemy agents is based upon extraordinary rapidity in which the fire spread and upon the belief by several members that they heard explosions. There are also a number of people who think they saw suspicious looking stranger about the Commons building.

Fire Chief Graham of Ottawa stated positively the fire was set and well set.

"I heard a series of explosions like shells," said Col. Percy Sherwood, head of the Dominion police, who had conducted the investigation on behalf of the Government. However, he believes the fire was of accidental origin.

Those who discredit the theory of incendiary attribute the sounds of explosions to the force of the fire as it burst from corridor to corridor. The wooden flooring in the reading room had, it is said, been treated with some sort of oil dust layer. The aisles were covered with oilcloth. The partitions were all of wood and the room was hung on every side with papers and magazines in addition to those on the wooden stands.

Some believe the blaze started in the reading room, either from a smoker's match or from an electric wiring. Such could be the likely result of just such a fire as yesterday's.

It is understood the Government will lose no time in clearing the site and preparing plans and get in readiness for the construction of a new parliament building.

The arrest was made by police Windsor to-night of a man suspected of having set fire to the Parliament building. The man's name is believed to be Charles Stroney, who was pianist with Madame Edvina, the Canadian songstress, who was in the capital with her company, last night. He is supposed to be a Belgian, but has a Teutonic appearance. The man was heading for the United States when taken off the train; he will have to give an account of himself. He is not the only one suspected.

Other Messages On Page Three

**St. Clair's Home**  
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The Sisters in charge of St. Clair's Home, LeMarchant Road, are now prepared to accept pupils for instruction in Shorthand, Typewriting Drawing, Painting and Pianoforte.

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