

War News.

Messages Received Previous to 9 A. M.

PROTECTING COMMERCE.
NEW YORK, Dec. 26.
For some days skippers of Atlantic and coastwise steamers have been bringing to port reports that strange appearing crafts were making their way westward. They made no reply to signals and could not be approached. They steered vagrant courses and were described variously as of the fashion of merchantmen, transports, light cruisers and even submarines. Though these reports were filtering in with suspicion, they are now apparently confirmed by shipping men. The commerce protectors are described as large and powerful, but capable of fair speed. They were designed, it is stated, to meet German subs. in anticipation of any attempted raid on the Canadian coast similar to that made by the U-53 off Nantucket, October 8th. The British Admiralty, it is stated, having determined to make possible another such raid, a fleet of commerce protectors was the result.

INTERVIEW OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.

LONDON, Dec. 26.
The Russian Foreign Minister, M. Pakroski invited representatives of the press at Petrograd yesterday to an interview at which he outlined his programme and his ideas regarding the present political situation. Reuter's Petrograd correspondent says that the general ministerial declarations which seem to have been meant to take place in the usual speech before Parliament consist of a few clear propositions. First, there has been no change in relations between Russia and her allies, the Minister declared with firm assurance. Second that after the war a military alliance between France, England and Russia would be consolidated in close union. Third, the war will be continued according to this declaration until the decisive victory has been won.

THE MESOPOTAMIA SITUATION.

LONDON, Dec. 26.
The official statement of the Mesopotamia situation issued to-night reads: On the 22nd British detachments advanced to the right bank of the Tigris. Their position subsequently had been consolidated and extended. South and east of Kut-el-Amara the enemy's trenches on the right bank of the Tigris southwest of Kut have been systematically bombarded. Our cavalry by a night march reached and destroyed Gassab's fort 20 miles southeast of Kut, which has long been a base of operations for the hostile Arabs. Sixty tons of grain were destroyed, cattle captured and

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dec 26, 1916

a number of hostile Arab encampments burned.

WAR CONFERENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 26.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies has sent a telegram to the dominions explaining the purposes of the forthcoming Imperial Conference, announced by Premier Lloyd George. The telegram explains what the Government contemplates is not an ordinary Imperial Conference, but a special war conference of the Empire. The Prime Minister of each dominion is invited to attend. A series of special meetings of the War Cabinet in order to consider the urgent questions affecting the prosecution of the war and the possible conditions on which in agreement with our Allies we could assent to its termination in problems which would then immediately arise. The Premiers are urged to attend early, the date not to be later than the end of February.

GERMANY'S REPLY TO HOLLAND'S NOTE.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 26.
The Telegraph says it has reason to believe that Germany's reply to Holland's note regarding the deportation of Belgian workmen was framed in such terms that it was inadvisable to communicate it to the Dutch Parliament and that the Government requested Berlin to alter its reply in such a manner that it may be presented to parliament. The Dutch government last month instructed its Berlin representative to notify Germany that Belgian deportations had caused a painful impression to Holland. A Rotterdam despatch to the London Times in December, said that Germany responded in words which were tantamount to saying "mind your own business."

THE ARABIA CASE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.
The preliminary statement sent this government by Britain saying that the British steamer Arabia was sunk by a German submarine without warning, and that she was not at that time and had not been in the Admiralty service, was sent to-day to Germany. An announcement to that effect has been made by the State Department. In the case of the Marina, in which six Americans were lost, no comment is added. Further facts are expected from Britain shortly and possibly a reply from Germany.

MORE STEAMERS SUNK.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.
Lloyd's reports that despatches were received to-day by the State Department from London telling of the sinking of the Norwegian barque Ansgar and the British steamer Istar, Lincoln, Llangos and Myrex not previously reported from other sources.

STEAMER REPORTED SINKING.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.
The steamship Maryland was reported sinking late to-night about 360 miles southeast of New York. Wireless messages picked up here said that the engine room was being rapidly flooded and that it was sent to the vessel immediately. Later advices were to the effect that the sinking steamer was 150 miles from Sandy Hook. The Maryland left this port Dec. 23rd for London, with a cargo of pig iron, pipe, fibre, paper, oil cake and miscellaneous merchandise.

NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS.

ROME, Dec. 26.
Naval engagements between French Italian and Austrian warships in the Strait of Otranto, is announced in an official statement. The statement

says: Several enemy ships attacked our patrol vessels in Otranto Channel on the night of Dec. 23rd. French and Italian warships came to the rescue and the enemy fled under cover of darkness after a short engagement. What damage he sufferer is unknown. Two French destroyers and one patrol boat were hit and slightly damaged.

ITALIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY.

ROME, Dec. 26.
The peace rumors have not affected in the slightest measure Italian military activity. The new class born in 1898 has been called to report to the colors in January, which would be a considerable increase in the contingents applied for the front, while 2,500 factories running day and night, are turning out arms and munitions.

WILL FIGHT IT OUT.

PARIS, Dec. 26.
In an address at the National Congress of French Socialist parties, Arthur Henderson, British Cabinet Minister, and S. H. Roberts, member in the British Parliament, both affirmed, amidst enthusiastic cheers that the war must be fought out until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace. "In my opinion," said Mr. Henderson, "if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than this is the price our enemies would exact for peace." Today, Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist leader, said: "Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium, endure German domination with admirable firmness. Nothing but encouragement is reaching us from them, so that it would seem that persons most hostile to war are those furthest from it." Vandervelde also declared that the struggle must be carried on until Belgium and Serbia are delivered and Prussianism is laid low.

DISCUSSION OF PEACE NOTE.

LONDON, Dec. 26.
The discussion of President Wilson's note continues unabated, an impetus being administered to-day by the issue of the Swiss note with its disclosures of a Swiss-American consultation weeks ago, and by long cable despatches received of the discussion, speculation and criticism in America. On the main question as to how the Wilson note and similar communications should be treated by the Allies opinion remains as already recorded. There is on one hand a reiteration of the rooted objection to the opportune and ill-advised interposition by neutrals, and on the other hand an appeal for courteous treatment of neutral representations, it being urged that the Allies are bound to take them into account, for to do otherwise would be to reduce themselves to the level of the aggressors who began the war.

THE ACADEMIC VIEW.

LONDON, Dec. 26.
Professor Pollard, who holds the chair of English history in London University, writes to the Times urging that while it is clear that somebody blundered regarding the phraseology and presentation of Wilson's note, it is also clear that the people here are also blundering in the interpretation of it. We have to remember, writes Professor Pollard, that it is addressed to our enemies as well as to ourselves, and has, therefore, to be observed with diplomatic conventions and to assure the sincerity of enemy professions. Secondly, we should remember our own procedure before the war, when we addressed an inquiry respecting German neutrality to France and Germany. France gave a prompt and satisfactory assurance. Germany evaded the question, and invaded Belgium immediately. Was between the United States and ourselves is out of the question, because we are bound by recent treaty to a cooling off period of not less than a year. Germany refused that restraint, and the immediate issue, therefore, turns on the German reply to the President's note.

RESUMPTION OF FRIGHTFULNESS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.
The Herald this morning publishes the following: The Herald is enabled to announce authoritatively that the German people are demanding of their Government the resumption of a reign of frightfulness even at the cost of war with the United States. James W. Gerard, American Ambassador to Berlin, and other diplomats in Germany who were recently in America, came for the purpose of discussing the situation in Germany and of affecting some sort of arrangement so that peace between the two countries could still be maintained. According to a high official only the personal insistence of the German Emperor himself, aided by the influence of Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor, has kept an order from the submarine commanders to sink every ship approaching a British port, whether armed or unarmed, whether enemy or neutral.

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RANN-DOM REELS

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THE MATCH
The match is a mild explosive which is used to set a cigar on fire. The only time it fails to accomplish this object is when it runs up against a campaign cigar which has been carried around in the vest pocket of some candidate who does not smoke for fear of alienating the church vote. During recent years the making of matches has been reduced to an exact science. The first attempt in this line was highly disappointing to people whose olfactory nerves were in a sound and rugged state. All matches used twenty years ago were provided with a large head and a slim body which had been carefully soaked in kerosene, so that when they were ignited they would throw off an asphyxiating gas capable of strangling an innocent bystander at a distance of one hundred yards. When a handful of these matches, carried in the hip pocket, rubbed against each other and caught on fire, the owner of the pocket would either be cremated on the spot or choked to death before help could arrive.
In later years, however, the safety match has become all the rage. This article is put up in a neat box and is shelved out of a slot machine. It is a protective device, and cannot be ignited by drawing it across the right hip with a careless, sweeping gesture. One of the most maddening things that can happen to a lone hunter or fisherman is to discover a cluster of safety matches in a pair of khaki pants and find that the box which they are supposed to bite upon has disappeared.
The art of striking a match is possessed solely by man. When a woman wants to light a match she cannot make use of her anatomy, but is obliged to draw it briskly over the top of a cook stove. This teaches us that in some respects it is an excellent thing to be born in the masculine gender.

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Mary Garden's Lingerie

A newspaper cable tells about Mary Garden, on the eve of her departure from Paris for America, being ordered by a French magistrate to submit her wardrobe of lingerie to the court for appraisement, as a part of the proceeding in the lawsuit of a modiste against the singer. When it was found that Miss Garden's intimate under-garments were worth \$5,000 much indignation manifested itself in Paris. The newspaper, La Bataille, says: "One must be lacking in all decency to cover one's flesh with priceless laces at a moment when women and children are suffering from hunger and cold." The New York Musical Courier comments as follows: "The point is not well taken. Miss Garden is not French, and there is no necessity for her, on patriotic or other grounds, to deny herself anything at this time. Unfortunately the poor, hungry, and cold are with us always, and so are the rich. Miss Garden, we are informed, has been particularly generous in helping the French by nursing the wounded, singing in the trenches, and turning over her house for hospital purposes. It is

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