

BRITISH PRISONERS SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD BY GERMAN CAPTORS, LORD KITCHENER SAYS

WAR SECRETARY SAYS BRITISH PRISONERS ARE CRUELLY TREATED

London, April 27.—The British Parliament occupied itself today with discussions on the treatment of British prisoners of war in Germany. In both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, gratitude was expressed for the efforts that have been made by the United States to ameliorate the conditions of the prisoners.

Lord Kitchener's speech in the House of Lords, in which, as a soldier, he said he lamented what he was convinced was German inhumanity toward British soldiers, was the most notable expression of the day. There were, however, equally striking notes in both houses, notably by Lord Lansdowne, leader of the opposition, and Lord Cromer, who expressed regret in the House of Lords that the British Admiralty had seen fit to segregate captured German submarine crews, and by Premier Asquith in the House of Commons, who declared that at the end of the war the British people would exact reparation. No definite course of action concerning the treatment of prisoners was agreed on by either house.

London, April 27.—War Secretary Kitchener told the House of Lords today that British prisoners had been insulted, maltreated, and even shot down by their German captors. He made a statement to the House on this subject, in which he spoke in part as follows:

"I have been forced with reluctance to accept as indisputably true the maltreatment by the Germans of British prisoners. The Hague convention has been flagrantly disregarded by German officers. Our prisoners have been stripped of their belongings in various ways, and in some cases the evidence goes to prove that they have been shot in cold blood. Our officers, even when wounded, have been wantonly insulted and frequently struck."

Earl Kitchener said that as a soldier he hitherto had always held officers of the German army in respect, but "constant testimony that has come in, not only from our own escaped prisoners but from French, Russian, Belgian and American sources, has brought it home to all who have seen the evidence that the inhumanity displayed by the German authorities towards British prisoners, especially, is beyond doubt."

Hague Laws Violated.

The Secretary quoted articles from the conventions adopted at The Hague relating to the treatment of prisoners of war, and asserted that they had been flagrantly violated by German officers. He added:

"I think it only fair and right to say that the German hospitals should be excepted in any charges of deliberate inhumanity. There have been indications of a lamentable lack of medical skill and, in individual cases, of neglect and of indifference to suffering on the part of hospital orderlies. On the other hand, there are statements from prisoners who have been released as incapacitated, that their experience in the hospitals did not form any ground for special complaint."

"Treatment of prisoners in the detention camps in Germany varies considerably according to locality. Our men in most cases suffered from the want of food and have received differential treatment as compared with their French and Russian comrades, and many acts of violence have been committed. Latterly, however, there does appear to be a slight improvement in some respects, due perhaps to visits of inspection made from time to time through the American Ambassador."

"Recently some of our officers have been subjected to solitary confinement in retaliation for the supposed ill-treatment of Germans in this country. The Hague Convention does not admit of such confinement of prisoners of war, except as an indispensable measure of safety, and I hope before long to obtain some evidence of the manner in which these officers are now being treated by Germany."

"Germany has for many years posed before the civilized world as a great military nation. She has abundantly proved her military skill and courage. But surely it was also for her to set

up a standard of military honor and conduct which would gain the respect, if not the friendship, of nations. Instead, she has stooped to acts which will surely stain indelibly her military history, and which would vie with the barbarous savagery of the Derivishes of Sudan."

"I do not think there can be a soldier of any nationality, even amongst the Germans themselves, who is not heartily ashamed of the slur which has been thus brought upon the profession of arms. The usages of war have not only been outraged by the infliction of cruelties on British prisoners, but by a contrivance which must have arrested Tour Lordship's attention the Germans have, in the last week, introduced a method of placing their opponents hors de combat, by the use of asphyxiating and deleterious gases, and they employ these poisonous methods to prevail when they attack, according to the rules of war, might otherwise have failed."

Charges Proved.

Lord Lansdowne, leader of the opposition in the House of Lords, also spoke. He said the charges against Germany "of callous, inhuman treatment of prisoners had been proved to the hilt," but that England had reason to be grateful to the American government for the manner in which it had seconded the efforts of its Secretary of State to secure redress.

Lord Lansdowne said he deplored the fact that the Admiralty had been forced to have recourse in a policy of reprisals against captive German submarine crews. The real culprits, he declared, were the German government, "which had given them their ruthless commissions." Lord Lansdowne added that the sufferers at the hands of the Germans might be compensated by levying on German property in Great Britain.

Lord Cromer, former British agent and consul general in Egypt, declared there was a strong feeling in the army against the policy of the Admiralty regarding the treatment of German submarine prisoners.

Lord Lucas, President of the Board of Agriculture, stated, on behalf of the government, that the special treatment for captured submarine crews had been adopted, not as a policy of reprisal but as an expression of the highest moral disapproval of German methods. The treatment of the submarine prisoners, however, conformed to the provisions of The Hague convention.

He was glad to announce, Lord Lucas added, that the German government had given James W. Gerard, the United States Ambassador to Germany, permission to visit the prisoners, and he and the government hoped that Mr. Gerard also would be permitted to investigate the treatment of the thirty-nine British officers who are being held in prison as a reprisal against Great Britain's treatment of German submarine prisoners.

Speaking in the debate on the treatment of British prisoners in Germany Premier Asquith said:

"It is a horrible story from every point of view—one of the blackest spots on even German methods of war. My object in rising is to say, with all emphasis and all deliberation, that we shall not forget, and we ought not to forget, this horrible record of calculated cruelty and crime."

"We shall at the end of this war hold it to be our duty to exact such reparation against those who are proved to be guilty against us in this matter, as it may be possible for us to inflict. I do not think we would be doing our duty, either to those brave unfortunate men or to the honor of our country, or to the plain dictates of humanity if we should be content with anything less than that."

Travelling Field Kitchen.

An interesting demonstration of a travelling field kitchen was given at noon today on the Y. M. C. A. grounds on Hazen avenue. A number of interested parties, including Mayor Frink and a large delegation from the Daughters of the Empire witnessed the demonstration and were highly impressed with the efficiency of the kitchen.

SAYS ALLIES' LAND FORCES DRIVEN BACK

Constantinople reports failure of forces to land on Gallipoli Peninsula from Allies' warships.

Constantinople, April 27, via Amsterdam and London, 8:05 p. m.—The Turkish war department today gave out the following official statement: "Under the protection of warships the enemy attempted to land troops Sunday at four points on the west of Gallipoli, namely at the mouth of Sighindere, on the coast in the district of Aviturn to the west of Kabatepeh, on the coast of Tekesburun and in the neighborhood of Kumkaleh."

"The troops of the enemy which landed at Tekesburun were forced to retreat at the point of the bayonet and were pushed back to the coast. Part of these forces on Monday night were obliged hastily to return to their ships. The Turkish attacks at all points are progressing successfully."

"Simultaneously a fleet approached the Dardanelles in order to force the straits from the sea, but it was obliged to retreat before our fire."

"The forces of the enemy which landed at Kumkaleh advance under the protection of warships, but despite a heavy bombardment from all sides our troops drove them back to the coast."

"The enemy lost four hundred men killed and two hundred taken prisoners. Our losses were insignificant."

"A party of Moslem soldiers who landed with the French troops on this point of the coast deserted the French and joined our forces."

"Before Kabatepeh we captured a number of English and Australian soldiers, among them a captain and a lieutenant."

**LADY DRUMMOND TWICE
BEREAVED BY THE WAR**

Besides son, Lt. Guy Drummond, killed in action, her brother died of Pneumonia.

London, April 27.—Lady Drummond, who has been in London since the early winter, engaged in Red Cross work, received late on Sunday the news that her son, Lieut. Guy Drummond of the Montreal Highlanders, had been killed in action. Lady Drummond, with her son's wife, has been staying at Brown's Hotel in Piccadilly. Her son's death was the second bereavement Lady Drummond has sustained during the war, her brother, Lieut. E. W. Parker, having succumbed to pneumonia in London while engaged in Red Cross work.

Col. Ryerson, Toronto, head of the Canadian Red Cross, one of whose sons, Captain George Ryerson of the Third Battalion, was killed by shrapnel, and another son, Lieut. Arthur Ryerson of the Divisional Artillery, was wounded, left today for France to bring his wounded son to England.

VAUDEVILLE BOOKING AGENCIES BEGIN A LEGAL BATTLE

Suit for \$600,000 for alleged conspiracy to "Freeze Out" vaudeville act.

New York, April 27.—The leading vaudeville booking agencies of the United States are made defendants in Sherman law suits for \$600,000 damages filed in the Federal District Court here today in which conspiracy is charged in their refusal to book certain acts and attractions offered them by the plaintiffs.

The two suits are brought by Charles F. Bornhaupt, who maintains theatrical agencies in this city, London and Brussels, and Clifford C. Fischer, who has similar offices in London and Paris. They are directed against the United Booking Offices of America, the Central Vaudeville Promotion Company, H. B. Marinelli Limited, A. Paul Keith, Frederick F. Proctor, Edward F. Albe, John J. Murdoch, Morris Meyerfeld Jr., and Martin Beck.

GERMANY'S BARBAROUS MODE OF WARFARE MUST BE PUBLICLY BRANDED

Winston Churchill Says German Reprisal Against British Officers Will Not Deflect Great Britain From Policy Which is Humane and Just in Dealing With Enemy's Submarine Crews.

London, April 27.—Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, explained Great Britain's policy in the matter of the treatment of German sailors captured on board submarines in the House of Commons this afternoon. Answering a question on this subject Mr. Churchill said:

"We cannot admit that the reprisals which Germany has taken against numbers of our own officers can be allowed to deflect us from a policy which we regard as humane and just in itself."

Mr. Churchill also made reference to Germany's answer in this matter. Continuing, the First Lord said:

"It is necessary publicly to brand this form of warfare, and prevent it taking its place among the methods open to belligerent nations."

"The speaker then went on to explain that no special conditions have been applied to the crews of German

submarines because they fought as such, but only to those engaged in "wantonly killing non-combatants, neutrals, and women on the high seas."

Incidents like the sinking of the Oriole at night without warning (the Oriole presumably was lost early in February, with a crew of 20 men); the sinking of the Falaba (with a loss of over 100 lives), and the blowing up of fishing vessels decided the government, Mr. Churchill declared, "to place all submarine prisoners taken after February 18, and so long as this system of warfare continued, in a distinct category." The speaker pointed out that the conditions under which these prisoners were confined were in every way humane.

"We have offered to allow a representative of the United States to visit these prisoners," he said, "and make a report provided reciprocal facilities were accorded us."

ASKS THAT CRUELTY AGAINST ARMENIANS BE STOPPED

Washington, April 27.—The State Department late today made representations to the Turkish government regarding the reported massacre of Armenians in Turkey, urging that steps be taken for the prevention of further outrages. Secretary Bryan acted upon the request of the Russian government, submitted through Mr. Bakmelev.

MELVIN SHEPPARD'S SUIT

New York, April 27.—Melvin W. Sheppard, holder of world's championship amateur running records and representative of the United States in several Olympic contests, filed suit today for \$25,000 for damages because of injuries sustained by a fall in Madison Square Garden February 10 last, which he alleges removed him from the field of athletics.

BASEBALL HOLIDAY

Newark, N. J., April 27.—Mayor Thomas L. Raymond today issued a proclamation declaring Thursday afternoon of this week a half holiday for the opening of the International League baseball season here. The mayor will pitch the first ball.

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TEN MILLIONS FACE FAMINE IN POLAND

Seventy-five hundred villages destroyed—Paderewski may not come to Dominion.

Winnipeg, April 27.—The Polish Relief Committee of Canada, with headquarters here, has received a wire from Paderewski at New York in which the distinguished pianist says he doubts whether he can visit the Dominion before returning to Europe. "I am glad to hear," he adds, "Canada is starting the noble work of relief for devastated Poland and our starving countrymen, and that it finds much support from the government and kind, generous Canadian people. Needs are enormous; help urgent; misery indescribable; two hundred towns; fourteen hundred churches; seven thousand, five hundred villages destroyed; over ten million people menaced by famine; thousands dying daily of hunger."

Contributions coming into the local

WOMAN PLEADS OWN CASE IN CIRCUIT COURT

No bill in only Criminal Case on docket — Court opened session yesterday.

Special to The Standard.
Woodstock, N. B., April 27.—The Circuit Court, Judge Barry presiding, opened this morning. In the only criminal case, the King vs. Shannon, for setting fire to the building of J. A. Tapley of Florenceville, the grand jury brought in no bill.

A non-jury case, Amherst Piano Co. vs. Mrs. Minnie Adney, and a contra suit of the latter against the former, is now before the court, adjournment having been made until tomorrow morning. Mrs. Adney is pleading her own case before a large number of spectators.

headquarters include a check for \$2,500 from the Saskatchewan government.

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