

SEARCH FOR RELEASE OF SUSPECTED SHIPS TO BE EXPEDITED BY BRITISH OFFICIALS

Customs Officials Receive Orders to Work Overtime if Necessary to Get Contraband Unloaded so Ships Can Continue on Their Way—Betterment in Situation Due to Improvement in Organization of Contraband Department.

London, Jan. 17.—There is every indication that the British foreign office and the Admiralty are inaugurating a vigorous policy for the immediate search and release of foreign ships suspected of carrying contraband. In many cases the customs officials have been instructed to work overtime in getting the contraband unloaded so that the detained bottoms may proceed.

While the Washington note of protest against the detention of American vessels doubtless had some effect, the betterment in the situation is due in a large measure probably to perfection of the foreign office and the improvement in the machinery of handling the cargoes in question. The delays on the ships recently detained are being measured now in days rather than in weeks.

The Associated Press is able to give from official sources the British explanation concerning the twelve ships recently detained with consignments of American goods, giving rise to the representations to Great Britain from Washington.

Canned Copper for Agent

The Arkansas, Danish, was detained for a complete examination because it was held that her papers were not satisfactory. She carried consignments believed to be destined to enemies of Great Britain.

The Canton, Swedish, has on board copper for the agent of a German firm, as well as rubber, which was released as a courtesy to Sweden, although England was satisfied that it would have been condemned by a prize court. The copper was held for a ruling by the prize court because of what was regarded as conclusive evidence that it was intended for Germany. The Canton reached Kirkwall December 2, was the ultimate port for examination, and cleared that port December 22.

The Virginia, Danish, arrived at Kirkwall December 24 and proceeded to Newcastle where she discharged her consignments of rubber. These were placed before the prize court because it was believed they were intended for Germany. The Virginia's manifest also was inaccurate. She cleared port January 7.

The Augusta, Swedish, was detained December 29, carrying rubber and

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRANCE

Paris, Jan. 17.—The following official statement of the progress of the war was given out in Paris this afternoon:

"We have continued to progress in the region of Nieuport and Lombartzyde, along a depression about 200 yards in length. Our artillery forced the Germans to evacuate their trenches in the great Dune, destroyed Rodan, which lies to the north of the line, and bombarded the enemy's works in this part of the battlefield, and to the south of St. Georges.

"In the region of Ypres, as in that of La Bassée and Lens, there have been artillery engagements. At Blangy the action has been vigorous. The Germans seized the foundry of Blangy, which we soon re-took by an energetic counter-attack. We have maintained our position there.

"Our artillery continues to demolish the enemy's trenches near La Boisselle.

"In the sector of Soissons there is nothing to report.

"Between Valley and Craonne the enemy delivered without success, an attack near the sugar refinery of Tryon. The Germans against our trenches at Beaume, both of which were repulsed. In the region of Perthes and Beausjour our progress continues, in spite of a violent storm. The Argonne, on the heights of the Meuse, there is nothing new. In the woods of Le Pretre, near Pont-a-Mousson, a German attack was repulsed.

"In the Vosges we have gained ground to the west of Orbey. Snow fell in abundance all day."

GERMANY

Berlin, Jan. 16 (via London).—The following statement was given out today at the War Office:

"In the western theatre of war only artillery battles took place in the neighborhood of Nieuport. The enemy's attacks on our positions northeast of Arras were repulsed in a counter attack our troops captured two trenches and made prisoners of the occupants. The hamlet of La Boisselle, which has been mentioned frequently of late was completely destroyed yesterday and cleared of all Frenchmen. Northeast of Soissons quiet reigns. The number of cannon captured there from the French from the 12th to the 14th of January was increased to 35. In the Argonne and in the forest of Sennoyve, north of Verdun, trival and for us successful engagements took place. An attack of the Allies southeast of St. Mihiel broke down at the start under our fire.

"Nothing of importance has occurred in the Vosges.

"In the eastern theatre of war the situation is the same. Rainy, gloomy weather has prevented all fighting."

AUSTRIA

Vienna, Jan. 17.—Via London, Jan. 16, 12.30 a. m.—The war office made the following official announcement tonight:

"The situation in Poland re-

PERSIA IS WILLING BUT UNABLE TO KEEP OUT TURKS

Have Protested Against Violation of Her Territory but Has not the Army to Enforce Protest—Intends to Maintain Declaration of Neutrality—Czar Promises Not to Take a Foot of Persian Territory.

Petrograd, Jan. 17 (via London).—That Persia should not be held accountable for her inability to prevent the Turks from menacing Russia, through violation of Persian neutrality, was the assertion made today by Isaac Khan, Persian Minister to Russia, at one time Minister to Washington. He declared his country had placed her dependence upon foreign troops for protection.

The Minister explained the Persian situation as follows:

"We solemnly declared our neutrality and intended to adhere to that declaration. The integrity of our territory was guaranteed to us by England and Russia. Last Monday Emperor Nicholas, reiterating this promise, said 'I wish you to tell your government that we shall not take a single foot of your territory.'"

"We have protested against Turkish violation of our territory, and if Turkey continues its invasion we shall continue to protest. At present the Turkish garrison at Tabriz consists of little more than two regiments but it is possible, even probable, that Turkey will send through our province of Azerbaijan into the Caucasus large number of troops, because our country is unfortified and the frontier between Russia and Persia is the only unfortified Russian frontier."

"For this reason the use of our country by Turkey is an even more obvious expedient than was Germany's violation of Belgian neutrality for Belgium could offer resistance, while we are unable to do so. The Russian government knows, however, that we are not culpable. Nearly all Kurds joined the invading army, but again we were not blameworthy, since we were helpless because we lacked an army."

"Certain Russian papers have demanded that we expel from Teheran the diplomatic representatives of Germany, Austria and Turkey. This we shall not do, because it would constitute a breach of neutrality and would justify the Turks in treating us as a hostile country, whereas now we are perfectly sure, no matter what the result of the war, that Persia will remain independent."

Minister Khan said Persia hoped to succeed in forming an army, which it has been endeavoring to do since 1908, but hitherto unsuccessfully because of the country's poverty and lack of united action by the various tribes.

RAILWAYS A STRATEGICAL FACTOR IN WAR

London, Jan. 16.—In a recent article the Engineering Review insists that the part played by the railways in the present war does not necessarily, as might be claimed, afford a strong argument for nationalization in the United Kingdom.

"When the time comes to produce a complete history of the war," the reviewer declares, "the railway will be found among the dominating factors of the strategy. The shuttle methods of the Germans are no different upon their magnificent system of east-west railways; and their advantage over the Russians depends upon the network of railways which extends thickly to the frontier and beyond in a few straggling routes."

"Russia had taken steps to improve its railway communications toward the Prussian side, and these steps were carried out by their magnificent system of east-west railways; and their advantage over the Russians depends upon the network of railways which extends thickly to the frontier and beyond in a few straggling routes."

"But whatever may be said for the building of strategical railways in a territory dependent upon their magnificent system of east-west railways; and their advantage over the Russians depends upon the network of railways which extends thickly to the frontier and beyond in a few straggling routes."

"The manner in which our railway companies," the writer continues, "placed under the control of a committee of managers working according to general instructions from the war office, carried out the transport of troops and supplies could not have been surpassed. True, the arrangements had been worked out beforehand, and the committee had to do no more than execute plans carefully with the military and naval authorities."

"It is one thing, however, to draw up schedules and time-tables and quite another to put them into operation suddenly and with a minimum of disturbance to ordinary traffic. The efficiency of our railways under this supreme test," he adds, "shows, therefore, that the advocates of nationalization cannot afford to quote military necessities in support of their case." (Special to Christian Science Monitor.)

CHURCH PARADE OF SOLDIERS AT CAPITAL

Fredrickton, Jan. 17.—The first church parade of soldiers stationed here was held this morning, when the 23rd and 24th Batteries, consisting of about three hundred men attended Christ Church Cathedral and the members of the Divisional Ammunition Column, under Captain W. A. Harrison, went to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

At the Cathedral, Dean Schofield preached. The ammunition column was accompanied by the Fredrickton Brass Band and the members of that organization were thanked by Captain Harrison for their services after the parade.

ESTATE OF \$385,000

London, Jan. 16.—Field Marshal Lord Roberts, who died in France November 14 last, left an estate of \$385,000, all of which goes to his widow and daughters. This amount is exclusive of property previously settled on his family by Lord Roberts.

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FREDRICKTON SOLDIER DIES IN ENGLAND

Pte. Hartley Chase of First Contingent Succumbs to Illness.

Special to The Standard

Fredrickton, N. B., Jan. 17.—Word reached here on Saturday afternoon of the death at Bulford Manor Hospital, England, of Pte. Hartley Chase of 12th Battalion, who had been at Salisbury Plains with the first Canadian contingent. He had previously been reported seriously ill with cerebro spinal meningitis. Deceased was about twenty-three years of age and a son of Mrs. Edward Chase, a widow of this city. His father mysteriously disappeared several years ago and his body was found in the St. John river some time later. Several brothers and sisters, including Mrs. Parker Howe of Plaster Rock, also survive.

Pte. Chase was a member of E company of the 71st York Regiment before enlisting for active service, and left here last summer with the draft for the first Canadian contingent. This is the first casualty in the ranks of Fredrickton volunteers with the first contingent.

GARRANZA LETS THE EMBARGO ON OIL EXPORTATION

Washington, Jan. 17.—The British embassy announced tonight that word had been received from General Carranza, through the British legation in Mexico City, hitting the embargo on the exportation of oil at Tampico, which had threatened the fuel supply of the British fleet.

ALLEGED ROUT OF FRENCH MERELY A WITHDRAWAL

Washington, Jan. 17.—Foreign Office despatches to the French embassy here tonight discounted the impression that Italy cannot rely on international troops still covered the town, and had merely withdrawn to the left bank of the river because the rising of the stream had made it impossible for reinforcements to come up.

ITALY SUFFICIENT UNTO HERSELF

Rome, Jan. 17.—The Messaggero, commenting on articles appearing in the Austrian newspapers to the effect that Italy cannot rely on international troops still covered the town, and had merely withdrawn to the left bank of the river because the rising of the stream had made it impossible for reinforcements to come up.

Austrian Press Say Stricken Country Cannot Rely, as at Time of Messina Disaster, on International Aid.

Rome, Jan. 17.—The Messaggero, commenting on articles appearing in the Austrian newspapers to the effect that Italy cannot rely on international troops still covered the town, and had merely withdrawn to the left bank of the river because the rising of the stream had made it impossible for reinforcements to come up.

Operation Decided On As Only Means of Relief

But the Writer of This Letter Resolved to Try Dr. Chase's Ointment First and Was Cured.

This is not an isolated case, for we frequently hear from people who have been cured of piles by using Dr. Chase's Ointment after physicians had told them nothing short of an operation could bring relief and cure.

If you could read these letters, coming as they do, day after day and year after year, you would realize what a wonderful curative agent Dr. Chase's Ointment really is. The new ailments are more numerous than you can name, and when this suffering is promptly relieved by the application of Dr. Chase's Ointment there can be no

doubt as to where credit is due. Friends and neighbors are told of the results and so the good word spreads, and Dr. Chase's Ointment is becoming known far and wide as the only actual cure for hemorrhoids.

Mr. Charles Beauvais, a respected citizen of St. John's, Que., writes:—"For 14 years I suffered from chronic piles or hemorrhoids and considered my case very serious. I was treated by a well-known physician and he could not help me, and my doctor decided on an operation as the only means of relief. However, I resolved to try Dr. Chase's Ointment first. The first box brought me great relief, and by the time I had used three boxes I was completely cured. This is why it gives me such great pleasure to recommend Dr. Chase's Ointment to everybody suffering from hemorrhoids as a preparatory to the greatest value."

Dr. Chase's Ointment, 50¢ a box, all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

UNEXPECTED MOVEMENT BY GERMAN CAUSED DEFEAT OF FRENCH NEAR SOISSONS

According to the German accounts of the fighting the French had, during the past month, occupied in the region of Soissons a network of trenches on the right bank of the Aisne which extended away to the north. On Jan. 7, the French commenced a heavy bombardment in which the Germans suffered severely, some of their trenches being wrecked and their machine guns buried.

The following day the French attacked and penetrated into the German trenches, from which they could not be driven. Heavy fighting, man

against man, followed day and night until Jan. 11, the Turks battling bravely with rifle, bayonet and knife. On the 12th the Germans began a counter-attack, and the French soon were driven from the trenches and also their own and were chased from the heights. Then they occupied fresh positions half way down the slope.

The French, expecting further German attacks on their left, sent reinforcements to that wing. The Germans, however, attacked on the center and right, the French being taken completely by surprise. Within three minutes the Germans captured the first line of trenches, and that afternoon the entire border of the plateau was in German hands.

The position of the French troops advancing against the German right wing commenced an encircling movement. The German artillery now commands the Aisne Valley.

Amsterdam, via London, Jan. 17.—Emperor William, who witnessed the battle north of Soissons in which the French were driven back across the river Aisne, decorated, on the field, Gen. Von Lochow and Lt. Gen. Wisnura, who commanded the victorious troops. On Gen. Von Lochow he bestowed the Order of Merit, and upon Lt. Gen. Wisnura a Commandership of the Order of the House of Hohenzollern.

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SEARCHING FOR WIRELESS NEAR PANAMA CITY

Officials of City Believe Wireless Station is Located Near by—Navy Operators' Work Hindered.

Panama, Jan. 17.—Both Panama and Canal zone police are engaged in an energetic search for a powerful wireless outfit that is believed to be in operation in the vicinity of Panama City. The wireless telegraph operators of the United States Navy report that recently they have encountered considerable interference when sending or receiving messages.

Sir Claude Mallet, the British minister to Panama, today said he possessed information which led him to believe that the powerful sending apparatus was located within a few miles of Panama City.

SEGREGATE C.P.R. STEAMSHIP ASSETS?

Company's Officials in London Neither Affirm or Deny Rumors—Rise of 1 3-8 Points Saturday.

London, Jan. 17.—The rumors of the impending segregation of the Canadian Pacific steamship assets are neither admitted nor denied by the company's officials here, but the opinion that it would improve the value of Canadian Pacific stock is in yesterday's rise of one and three-eighths, while the American issues fell.

SAYS BREAD AND COAL DEALERS NOT REPRESENTED

London, Jan. 17.—Commenting upon the rise in the prices of foodstuffs, Reynolds' Newspaper declares that the experts say that the prices will con-

OPERA HOUSE

Tonight Tue.-Wed. Wed. Matinee
YOUNG-ADAMS COMPANY
In the Best of Comedy Dramas
"THE GREAT JOHN GANTON"
6 GOOD VAUDEVILLE FEATURES
PRICES NIGHTS 10-20-30c
MATINEES 10-20c
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Real Old-Time Romantic Duelling Incident This Time
Are You Following the Fortunes of
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Louis J. Vance's "TERENCE O'ROURKE" No. 3 CHAP. "The Inn of the Winged God"
ADVENTURER, GENTLEMAN
"THE HAZARDS OF HELEN" HEARST-SELIG WEEKLY
Our Railway Heroine Falls Two Thriving Hoboes
What's Going On in the World Besides the Great War

Genuine Big Time Act direct to St. John from Keith's Philadelphia
MACK AND WILLIAMS Singing and Dancing Team with Novelty Pedestal Dancing Finale
GERTRUDE ASHE THE ORCHESTRA
In Late Rallied Successes Eleven Professionals
ADDITIONAL PICTURES AT THE MATINEES
Theat. W. Rose in Winchell Smith's Heart-Story FAMOUS
WED. "THE ONLY SON"—5 Reels PLAYERS

RENEW SHOCK PEOPLE

(Continued from page 1)

The Duke of The Al... the earthquake zone, place to place without even to allow him where he is. In many cases the government without the survivors who he was. The government appropriated \$1,000,000 to...

Severe winter weather to the misery of the kind. Urgent appeals have been made for help from many places. Some of the rescues are almost miraculous. One established a camp and mother, the children, were extricated at the ruins of their home.

Tenement houses in the quarter of this city, an earthquake, have been their tenants, who fearings would collapse. The earthquake caused a cam-boring square.

Avezzano, Italy, Jan. 17.—Twelve thousand bodies of debris and desperate struggle to rescue them. Most of the irregularities have not yet been picked or shoveled. This is no one, because it is thousands of workmen return over and excavate...

They quarried and buried the bodies. The city has a charge of the dead, estimates that the dead in Avezzano, Canada and the villages in the district. Up to midnight only 600 bodies had been the ruins. These were buried in open spaces city.

Like Soissons After Ten Days
Supplies are now received. 25,000 cans of meat, 150 quintals (a c230 pounds) of rice, 400 coffee, fourteen quintals of salt. Up to midnight heads of timber also as tents for 12,000 people for illumination.

In the midst of the which reminded correspondents had been at the battle-sons after 100 days' German and French campfires around which survivors are cooking which have been distributed. They sit shivering winter air on this high the Apennines. An only hanging on the only wall which remains striking the hours. A dozen bodies are lying in the square. "In this square," said tort, "I saw a father of his wife, three daughters. I think the best incident I have seen."

BORN.

SINCLAIR—On January 17, to the wife of John A. Sinclair, a son.

DIED.

BAIRD—In this city on the 17th inst., Isabe M., youngest daughter of John M. and the late Sarah Baird, aged three years and ten months, leaving a father, two brothers and one sister.

Funeral Monday, at 2.30 p. m., from the residence of Mrs. W. T. Case, 34 Elmwood street. Friends and acquaintances invited to attend (Funeral notices please copy.)

TAPLEY—On the 15th inst., at 40 Douglas avenue, Kimball C. Tapley, leaving one sister and two brothers to mourn their loss.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

McMULLIN—In this city, on 15th inst., Adelaide (Ada) wife of John H. McMullin.

Funeral from Fitzpatrick's Undertaking Rooms today Monday at 2.30 o'clock. Friends invited to attend.

WALLACE—At Milford, on 17th inst., Margaret, widow of John Wallace, aged 73 years, leaving one daughter to mourn, in Montreal and Moncton papers please copy.

Funeral on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock from the residence of her son-in-law, Robert Carrier, Milford.

LEE—In this city on the 15th inst., James Lee, leaving six daughters to mourn.

Funeral from his late residence, 28 Richmond street Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock.

THE KING

This picture, as Epher, shows an immensely appreciated though he was participated with them as fish lines. In his description of the lines the King...