The St. John Standard

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WILL NOT PERMIT SALE OF OCEAN TONNAGE TO BRITISH SYNDICATE

United States Shipping Board Puts Its Foot Down on Proposed Transfer of Eighty-Five Big Steamers Owned in America, But Under British Registry.

Not a Desirable Action Under Existing Conditions, But Government Offers to Purchase These Vessels at the Same Price as New Syndicate Offered — A Million Tons Involved in the Deal.

Washington, Nov. 26.—The United States government has refused to approve the proposed transfer to a British syndicate of the vessels now under British registry owned by the International Mercantile Marine Corporation. Bainbridge Colby, of the Shipping Board, in making this announcement tonight, said the government had offered to take over the ownership of these vessels upon the terms of the British offer. The vessels concerned in the British syndicate's offer number approximately 85, of an aggregate of 730,000 gross tons. They include some of the most important now engaged in the trans-Atlantic service, such as the Olympic and many others of familiar names.

This formal statement was issued at the office of the Shipping Board:

"Announcement was made at the Shipping Board that the International Mercantile Marine Corporation had today been advised of the government's disinclination to give its approval to the proposed transfer to a British syndicate of the American ownership, which has for years been vested in the International Mercantile Marine Corporation of the latter's vessels now under British registry.

"Bainbridge Colby, of the Shipping Board, stated that an offer by a British syndicate to acquire from the International Mercantile Marine Corporation, the tonnage in question, had been under consideration for some time. The offer was expressly conditional upon its approval by both the United States and British Governments. The negotiations, he further stated, had been carried on by the International Corporation, with entire frankness so far as the government is concerned, and the decision now reached is due to the reluctance felt that an ownership which has so long been held in this country, covering so important a tonnage, should at this time, and under the conditions now prevailing in shipping throughout the world, be suffered to pass out of American hands.

"The vessels immediately concerned in the syndicate's offer are approximately eighty-five in number, and aggregate 730,000 gross tons, or in their deadweight equivalent about 1,000,000 tons. They include some of the most important vessels now engaged in the trans-Atlantic service, such as the Olympic, and many other vessels of large type and familiar names.

"The government has announced its willingness to take over the ownership of these vessels upon the terms of the British offer, which is considered a fair price for tonnage of this exceptional character.

"Notification has been sent to the International Mercantile Marine Corporation of the government's decision."

Negotiations for the sale of the ships have been under way for some weeks, and a few weeks ago the shipping board requested the International Mercantile Marine Corporation to take no further steps looking to consummation of the deal until the government could reach a decision.

AVOID DISCORD AMONG THE ALLIES

Bonar Law Urges Continuance of Existing Good Feeling—Dark Days Financially in Past Few Years.

Glasgow, Nov. 26.—For the future of the world and for the sake of the nations which participated in the war, it is not less essential now than during hostilities that there should be good feeling among the nations that helped to win the war, Right Hon. Bonar Law stated in the course of an election address delivered here last evening.

Dealing with criticism of an election at the present juncture, Mr. Law emphasized how essential it was that the British representative at the peace conference should have the support of the whole country. He said that the Allied victory would have been impossible without the financial assistance of Britain, which ran terrible risks.

"More than once I could only look a week or two ahead as the time during which we could meet our obligations," said Mr. Law. Continuing, he remarked: "Yet we were right to run that risk, for without success what would have been the use of gold or security or anything else?"

Mr. Law, after praising the Dominions and Indian Troops, said eighty-five per cent. of the United Kingdom troops would be able to vote in the election.

Baltimore, Md., Nov. 26.—The Baltimore District of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, in session here, tonight decided to postpone action with regard to the threatened strike until December 5. Government mediation was declared imminent.

WILSON WILL SAIL NEXT WEEK

To Discuss Treaty With Other Leaders Before Conference Meets—Press Will be Given All the News.

Washington, Nov. 26.—President Wilson will sail for Europe next week to attend the opening of the peace conference and he expects to be back in Washington soon after the middle of January. Plans for the President's trip are going steadily ahead, but beyond the original announcement that he would leave immediately after the convening of congress on December 2, no details have been made public. However, it was said today authoritatively that the President plans to be back on American soil within six weeks after his ship leaves this side.

There has been no indication when the peace conference will assemble, but the general belief here is that it will convene immediately after the Christmas holidays. The President goes in advance to confer with the Entente statesmen, and it is said that the broad outline of the treaty will be framed beforehand with a view to its adoption soon after the conference meets.

The President was understood to have discussed his trip with members of his official family at the regular Tuesday cabinet meeting today, but if his plans were revealed, they were not permitted to become public.

Reports of censorship of the news of the peace conference were met today with the statement that not only would there be no censorship, but the American newspaper correspondents will be given all facilities possible for transmitting their despatches.

Correspondents sent from this country will make the trip on a naval vessel, which will be placed at their disposal. They will leave next Monday ahead of the President, because there is no ship available which can make as fast time as the steamer on which Mr. Wilson and his party will sail.

U. S. SOLDIERS START FOR HOME

Twelve Thousand Men or More Will be Brought Back to America at Once.

American Army Headquarters in France, Nov. 26.—The 76th Division of the American Army, reduced by replacement drafts to 61 officers and 1,000 men, has arrived at St. Nazaire and is embarking for home. The 27th Division, totalling 484 officers and 12,681 men, and the 30th Division, totaling 488 officers and 12,099 men, both of which operated on the British front, have been withdrawn from the Le Mans area, and probably will embark in a few days.

FRENCH WRITER PRAISES BRITAIN

Motherland Credited With Wonderful Work — Prosperity Has Never Lessened Its High Regard for Moral Force.

Paris, Nov. 26.—In connection with the forthcoming visit of the British Sovereigns here, the well known writer "Pertinax" in L'Echo De Paris deals with the services of the British Empire during the war.

"This assistance," he says, "covered many fields of activity and taken as a whole was always the determining factor in events. The co-operation of the fleet for example conferred upon us the security of the seas.

"The mercantile marine supplied us with foodstuffs, raw materials and munitions, and brought over the American army. The vast British financial system assured us almost unlimited moral and material credit. In fact the alliance with Britain became a world-wide one. Slowly but surely was formed that glorious army whose unceasing hammer blows, as Foch said, were the decisive factors in the great final defeat of the enemy. The British empire is one of the few empires that in its greatest material prosperity never lost its high regard for moral force and stands forth as one of the greatest craftsmen of moral law."

GERVAIS TRIED TO HANG HIMSELF

Mysterious Leader of Western Outlaws Used the Sheet off His Bed Without Success.

Prince Albert, Sask., Nov. 26.—Dr. Gervais, one of the Steep Creek gang, attempted to commit suicide today in his cell. He took the sheet off his bed, tied it around his neck, and fastened the other end to a hook on the wall. Then he jumped from the bed. He was almost strangled when the jailers found him. He has completely recovered. He protests that he does not desire to live. He appears to be in great mental distress.

Centers Named For Demobilization

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—The Department of Militia, in its scheme for demobilization has divided the dominion into 21 districts, called "dispersal areas." Irrespective of where the soldier enlisted he may choose which district he will go to for the final act of demobilization. By means of a concise list which the department has prepared, under the title of the Military Postal Guide, which shows the dispersal areas and military districts of Canada, it can at once be seen in which area the particular town to which the soldier wishes to go can be found.

As for example: Say the soldier wishes to settle in Flaxcombe. Reference to the Guide will show that Flaxcombe is in dispersal area "O," while the military district is No. 12. By reference to this book the work of demobilization offices will be greatly simplified.

The dispersal stations of the 21 dispersal areas, which are known by letters are known as follows:

A, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; B, Halifax, N. S.; C, St. John, N. B.; D, Moncton, N. B.; E, Quebec; F, Montreal; G, Ottawa; H, Kingston; I, Toronto; J, Hamilton; K, London; L, Port Arthur; M, Winnipeg; N, Brandon; O, Regina; P, Saskatoon; Q, Medicine Hat; R, Calgary; S, Edmonton; T, Vancouver; U, Victoria.

YOUNGER MEN MAY RE-ENLIST

Britain Getting the Regular Army in Shape Again for Mixed Services.

London, Nov. 26.—To provide men for overseas garrisons and necessary reserves at home, it has been decided that men between 19 and 35 years now on general service may re-enlist for another two, three or four years in any of the following units of the British army: Household Cavalry, Line Cavalry, Infantry, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Foot Guards, Machine Gun Corps, Tank Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Veterinary Corps, Army Pay Corps and Military Police. All men will retain their existing rank up to that of sergeant. The present rates of pay and separation allowances will continue. Bounties will be given to men extending their service before January 1 next.

SOLDIERS' AID COMMISSION MEETS

Plans to Widen the Scope of Vocational Training for Returned Men.

Toronto, Nov. 26.—With the object of widening the scope of the vocational training work now being carried on for the benefit of returned soldiers, a lengthy conference was held at the parliament buildings here today, at which the members of the Soldiers' Aid Commission, Sir James Lougheed, head of the department of soldiers' civil re-establishment, Sir Wm. Hearst, premier of Ontario, and Hon. Dr. Cody, minister of education, were present.

At the present time the Soldiers' Aid Commission is conducting classes in several instances, giving returned soldiers training that will enable them to engage in new occupations. It is recognized, however, that with large numbers of men returning to Canada in the near future, many of them unfitted physically for the work in which they were engaged before the war, and others anxious for a chance to fit themselves for better work than they did before, there is need for great enlargement in the provision made for vocational training. The various phases of the subject were discussed, and further consideration provided for.

MAKE IT THE GREATEST PORT IN THE WORLD

London Will Have Docking Facilities Good Enough for Many Years.

London, Nov. 26.—In the course of three months, it was announced, London will be so well equipped with docking accommodation of thoroughly up-to-date character that it will be the greatest port of call in Europe, if not in the world. Every device for accelerating loading and unloading, and for making provision for the increased size of vessels and the increasing depth of water that will be required has been carefully thought out and embodied in the docks.

The port of London authorities are confident that the requirements of the mercantile marine have been anticipated for a generation at least by the new works now approaching completion.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 26.—It was learned here tonight that the federal government may become sole owner of Hog Island, the largest fabricating shipyard in the world. Steps, it was said, have been taken to lay the proposition before the government.

PARLIAMENT WILL LIKELY MEET JAN. 6TH

Government is Already Preparing Its Legislative Program and Esitmates.

GINGER GROUP GIVING DINNER TO BOB ROGERS

Anybody With a Kick Against Union Government is Supposed to be Present.

Important Reconstruction of Federal Cabinet is Sure to Follow Sir Robert Borden's Return from England.

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—Parliament, according to present intentions, will meet on or about Jan. 6. The government is already engaged on a legislative slate and estimates are under preparation. The session is expected to be long and interesting, demobilization and reconstruction problems demanding solution, and Laurierites and "ginger group" anti-Unionists working to embarrass and impede the work of the government.

The dinner to Hon. Robert Rogers in Toronto tomorrow night is expected to disclose the strength of this so-called "Ginger group." The banquet itself is a sort of free-for-all, everyone with a grievance being welcome, and for that reason is likely to attract a large crowd, but few figures of national prestige are expected to attend.

Sir Robert Borden may not return to Canada until near the end of the session. His return is almost certain to be signalized by an important reconstruction of his cabinet. This reconstruction plan was at the point of consummation when Sir Robert was suddenly called to England. It can be stated now that this reorganization was of a much more drastic character than was hinted at the time, involving the retirement of at least three ministers, one of whom has been for years an outstanding national figure, and the placing at the head of the trade and commerce department of one of the country's leading captains of industry.

FIELDING AND LAURIER HAVE A LITTLE DINNER

Ottawa Interested in Collection of Guests Entertained by Ex-Premier.

J. S. EWART, K. C. WAS ONE OF THEM

He is the Man Who is Writing the Anti-Imperial Articles in Laurier's Paper.

Significance in the Fact That He and Fielding Were Laurier's Guests at the Same Time.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—A small private dinner given by Sir Wilfrid Laurier which included among other guests, Hon. W. S. Fielding and Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., has attracted a lot of attention here. Mr. Ewart—sometimes referred to as the Bourassa of Ontario—is the author of the Kingdom papers advocating practically the independence of Canada, and only the other day declared in an address before the Ottawa independent labor party that the war was not, as people had supposed, fought mainly for democracy, and that the German Reichstag was, as a matter of fact, as democratic as the United States congress. He has also been writing a series of articles for the Statesman, the new Laurier Toronto weekly, attacking the imperial war cabinet. It is regarded as significant that Mr. Ewart and Mr. Fielding, who has just arrayed himself against Unionism, should be guests of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the same time.

Germany Will Not Be Given Her Colonies

London, Nov. 26—Winston Spencer Churchill, minister of munitions speaking at Dundee, said he would do everything in his power to make a league of nations a practical and powerful reality.

But a league of nations, he continued, was no substitute for the supremacy of the British fleet.

The minister declared that none of the German colonies would ever be restored to Germany, and none of the conquered part of Turkey would ever be restored to Turkey.

N. S. Steel and Dom. Coal Are At It Again

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—The cabinet this afternoon took up consideration of the dispute between the Nova Scotia Steel Company and the Dominion Coal Companies on questions which arose some time ago between the two companies in regard to development of mining areas under Sydney Harbor. The Nova Scotia Steel Company sought permission to mine on adjoining properties belonging to the Dominion Coal Company, claiming that by so doing production of bituminous coal could be increased. The two companies were unable to agree, however, and the points at issue were referred to C. A. Magrath, fuel director of the Maritime Provinces, for adjudication.

After hearing evidence on both sides, Mr. Magrath recommended to the government that the Nova Scotia Company be given authority to mine in certain directions on the Dominion Company's property.

The government's decision will probably not be announced for several days. It is regarded as very probable that the Dominion Coal Company will take the question to the courts should the government issue authority to the Nova Scotia Company. The view taken by the Dominion Coal Company, it is understood, is that such an order would be unconstitutional.

BRINGING BACK THE OLD REGIME

Ebert and Solf Working Their Little Game Very Nicely—Asking the Co-operation of All Classes.

Copenhagen, Nov. 26.—Chancellor Ebert is represented in a despatch from the semi-official Wolff Bureau of Berlin, as having addressed yesterday a conference of seventy delegates from various parts of Germany, gathered in the chancellor's palace, and to have urged co-operation from the former emperor in dealing with the present situation. The conference included a few former diplomatists, a number of widely known deputies who are now taking part in the government of the various states, and also several new men, some of whom were soldiers or sailors.

The cabinet would on Tuesday, said Herr Ebert, consider a bill for the election of a national assembly, but provisional arrangements must be immediately made for the government of the federated empire.

Dr. Solf, the minister of foreign affairs, declared the situation was extremely threatening, owing both to the "enemy's" will to destroy Germany and the separatist movements in that country. He based his hope on solving the pressing problems upon the conference then in session.

Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian Socialist premier, protested sharply that both Herr Ebert and Dr. Solf were compromised by being representatives of the old regime.

JELLICOE SAYS AMERICA HELPED

Situation in Spring of Last Year Was Critical and Aid Against Submarines Was of Great Value.

London, Nov. 26.—Speaking as the guest of the American Circle Lyceum Club at a thanksgiving dinner today, Admiral Viscount Jellicoe, former commander-in-chief of the British grand fleet, said the situation in the spring of last year was very critical and had it not been for the assistance afforded by the United States navy he was not sure that the dinner could have been held.

It was the assistance rendered by the United States navy, Admiral Jellicoe continued, that had made possible the convoy system and it was that system that had saved the situation. Another assistance rendered by the Americans was the offensive operations conducted against enemy submarines, operations which were more to the taste of the American officers than convoying.

Later the magnificent American battle squadron had joined the British grand fleet, and Admiral Jellicoe said he was sure that the spirit of comradeship born by the presence of that battle squadron would endure forever.

COMMANDER WAS THROWN OVERBOARD

How German Sailors Are Treating Officers Who Give Them Any Trouble.

Braton, Firth of Forth, Scotland, Nov. 26.—That overbearing German naval commanders are receiving short shrift from their men is indicated in a story related here today.

Asked by a British officer who examined a German torpedo boat destroyer where the commander of the vessel was, the junior officer replied. "Oh, he gave us some trouble four days ago, so we threw him overboard."

The story was confirmed by a representative of the German workmen's and soldiers' council on board the destroyer.

ONE OF WORST WRECKS IN YEARS ON INTERCOLONIAL

Fast Freight from Halifax With John McDonald in Charge Was Ditched Yesterday Morning Just East of Memramcook and Track Was Blocked for Hours.

Ten Cars Were Piled on Top of Each Other or Scattered Along the Line—Roadbed Torn up and a Great Deal of Damage Done, But, Fortunately, No Livesc Were Lost.

Moncton, Nov. 26—Passenger traffic has been delayed and freight traffic completely blocked on the C. G. R. east of Moncton as the result of a bad freight smash at Gayton's Crossing just west of Memramcook.

At 8.30 this morning train No. 875, fast freight from Halifax, in charge of Conductor John McDonald, of Truro, was wrecked by a broken journal on a heavily loaded car, ten cars being derailed and scattered in all directions. Fortunately the train hands escaped injury, but the derailed cars were badly damaged and the roadbed was torn up for a distance of three or four hundred yards. All the cars leaving the rails were heavily loaded with freight and the damage to rolling stock and freight will be considerable.

Trainmen report the smash one of the worst freight wrecks occurring on this section of the road for some time. Cars were piled up on top of each other and telegraph poles were broken off and destroyed. Freight was scattered in confusion for some distance along the line. Neither engine or van left the rails, which accounts for the train hands escaping injury.

Wrecking crews have been hard at work all day clearing up the debris and laying a new track in order to get express trains through. Passengers this morning on the east bound Maritime express and the west bound Ocean Limited were transferred at the scene of the wreck after delays of about four hours. At ten o'clock tonight the line was reported clear for trains to pass over slowly. The east bound Ocean Limited got by the wreck at ten o'clock and the delayed express and other trains were also sent forward.

THANKSGIVING NEXT SUNDAY

Services Should be Held Everywhere to Offer Thanks to Almighty God for Our Great Victory.

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—Hon. Mr. Burrell, secretary of state, is anxious that as great publicity as possible shall be given to the fact that Sunday, the first of December, has been named by proclamation as a day of solemn thanksgiving to Almighty God for the victories won by the Allied armies in the war against the Central Powers of Europe, and for the armistice which has been signed by the contending nations, involving a general surrender by the enemy.

Immediately after the signing of the armistice, it was proposed that Sunday, 17th of November, be named as the day of thanksgiving, but the prevalence of Spanish influenza, particularly in the western provinces, rendered this impossible, as the churches in many districts were closed by order of the health authorities. In many places, however, the 17th was so observed.

On former occasions it has been the practice of the state department to notify the heads of religious denominations of days of prayer, but the shortness of the time did not permit of this course at this time. The Secretary of State wishes to express the desire of the government that Sunday next, the 1st of December, shall be observed as a day of thanksgiving.

FOOD SHORTAGE BOUND TO COME

Germany Deprived of Allied Prisoners Says She is Unable to Save the Potato Crop.

Copenhagen, Nov. 26—"It is certain that in the course of six weeks a catastrophe will occur in Germany both as regards the ordinary food stocks and the supplies of livestock.

This official announcement has been made in Berlin, according to a despatch received here, which says it is stated that the grain is better than in previous years, but the potato crop is much worse, owing to a lack of labor due to the departure of the Russian prisoners.

The supplies of grain from Rumania, Poland and Ukraine to Germany have ceased. The situation is aggrevated by the return of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, heretofore fed off the supplies of France and Belgium. Food distribution is disturbed, owing to recent events.

LUMBERMEN WANT BETTER FACILITIES

Will Ask Gov'ts to Provide More Rail and Water Accommodation to Help Solve the Shipping Problem.

Montreal, Nov. 26.—The Eastern Spruce Association of St. John, N.B., and the Canadian Lumbermen's Association met separately at the Windsor Hotel here today and at a joint luncheon of the two associations it was decided that the former should merge with the latter body. The union was cemented by the Canadian Lumbermen's Association accepting the invitation of the Eastern Spruce Association to hold their next annual meeting at St. John.

At the morning session it was decided by resolution to request the federal and provincial governments to give all possible assistance in solving the transportation problems— both rails and ocean—which now confront lumbermen and also ask these governments to establish a sufficient credit to finance the important operations anticipated.

THESE ARE THE BRUTES WE ARE ASKED TO FEED

Germans Turn Loose Thousands of Starving and Half Naked Prisoners to Shift for Themselves.

New York, Nov. 26.—Famished and half naked, 2,600 prisoners of war, freed by the Germans have come stumbling into Baccarat, Nancy, and Luneville in the past few days and have been cared for by Y. M. C. A. workers on the Lorraine front, according to a cablegram from Paris given out here today by the headquarters of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Germans had brought the prisoners to the border, given each a piece of bread, and turned them loose. Fourteen hundred British prisoners reaching Baccarat in a wretched condition were given hot drinks, fed and clothed by Y. M. C. A. men who had heard of their approach and sent trucks loaded with supplies to meet them, the cable message states. Five hundred more who entered Nancy were cared for by women workers of the organization, and 700 were met at Luneville, where the relief work is continuing.

ADMIRALTY WARM IN PRAISE OF NAVY

Success of British Sea Power Will Remain Forever in History an Example of Britain's Steadfastness.

London, Nov. 26.—The admiralty has issued a message congratulating the officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines on the completion of their great work, a triumph of their great work is unknown to history. The surrender of the German fleet accomplished without the shock of battle will remain for all time an example of the wonderful silence and sureness with which sea power attains its ends. The world recognizes that this consummation is due to the steadfastness with which the navy maintained its pressure on the enemy through more than four years of war, a pressure maintained no less insistently during the long monotony of waiting than in the rare opportunities of attack.

EMBARGO LIFTED A LITTLE TOO LATE

Apple Dealers Not Now Able to Take Full Advantage of the European Market.

Toronto, Nov. 26.—The privilege of shipping apples to England, just announced, comes too late to be of general advantage this season, either to growers or dealers in Ontario, in the opinion of P. W. Hodgetts, director of the provincial fruit division.

"Most of the apples in Southern and Western Ontario have already gone into consumptive channels," he says. "There are, however, considerable quantities of apples, mostly starks, russets and bens in the hands of Toronto dealers and co-operative organization of growers east of Toronto. If these men can only get vessel space they should do fairly well."

FIVE BIG PLANTS TO CLOSE AT ONCE

Nine Thousand People Will be Out of Work in Pitsburgh.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 26.—The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company tonight issued an order for the immediate closing of five of its big shell making plants here. The plants have been manufacturing shells of all sizes for the United States and British governments, and the closing order was issued following receipt of telegraphic instructions from Washington cancelling contracts.

Approximately nine thousand persons were engaged in the plants.