

- ii. The frequency of supposedly German flights over Holland has increased during the past fortnight. (See despatch No. 20 of Jan. 16). German flights have also increased in violation of Belgian neutrality.
- iii. The accusation (denied by the Dutch authorities) of a Dutch flight over German territory on Jan. 13th is interpreted as an attempt to create an offense justifying reprisal, the technique familiarized in Germany's relations with Czechoslovakia and Poland.
- iv. The declaration of the Dutch Government on January 9th as to Holland's determination to resist any attack (despatch No. 8 of Jan. 8), followed by the radio address of Jonkheer B.C. de Savornin-Lohman on January 12th with the same import (despatch No. 23 of Jan. 17), is interpreted as indicating an intensified need of such reassurances. If the danger were not great, it is argued, why was it necessary to make new declarations?
- v. The relatively long spell of freezing weather, might have been regarded as offering a more favourable condition for German military operations in the Low Countries; but this supposed advantage was offset on January 12th-14th by Dutch utilization of ice in their own unique defense plans, (See despatch No. 22 of Jan. 17th), and was further offset by the temporary thaw of January 14th which badly softened all the approaches that German troops might have tried to use. (a new frost on January 16th, however, partly annulled that momentary change of condition).
- vi. An examination of the press of the past week shows that an increased tension is being developed by reports, tendentious or otherwise, from various sides, by correspondents and foreign press circles. (see despatch No. 16 of Jan. 11). The German press now point to these reports as being a deliberate fomentation, mainly on the part of Gt. Britain and France, of a hostile attitude toward Germany in neutral lands.

All these factors, when pieced together into a single fabric - or exaggerated fabrication - were regarded as omens by the more pessimistically inclined.

3. On the other hand, as represented to you in a number of recent despatches from this Legation, these seemed reason to discount these omens - at last as regards an imminent attack on Holland. The diplomatic