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PROBS—FAIR AND COLDER

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## AUSTRIAN DEFEAT TURNING POINT IN BATTLE OF POLISH RIVERS; GERMANS DROP BOMBS ON DUNKIRK

### SHOOTING OF AMERICANS AN ACCIDENT

Jury Returns Verdict in Case of Hunters Shot by Canadian Soldiers.

### INTENDED ONLY TO FRIGHTEN THEM.

Provincial Police Officer Assumes Full Responsibility—Soldiers Still Held Pending Military Inquiry.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 30.—A coroner's jury at Port Erie, Ontario, empaneled to investigate the death of Walter Smith, the Buffalo man shot by Canadian soldiers on Monday, returned its verdict this evening, after hearing the testimony of the soldiers, Thomas Delaney, a provincial police officer, and several eye-witnesses.

The verdict was: "We find that the deceased, Walter Smith, met his death on Monday forenoon, December 28, while evading arrest for unlawfully shooting ducks out of season in Canadian waters, by a volley delivered accidentally from the rifles of three Canadian soldiers who were called upon by Provincial Officer Thomas Delaney to assist him."

Officer Delaney took the responsibility for the whole affair on his own shoulders. He called upon the soldiers to help make the arrests, he said, under the law that permits an officer of the law to call upon any citizen for help in an emergency, and ordered the rifle.

J. B. Curtis, United States Vice-Consul, questioned the officer's authority to call upon the soldiers, but he was assured by the "crowd" attorney that Delaney had such authority under the laws of Ontario.

"I want to arrest those two fellows," Delaney testified he told the soldiers. "Throw a scare into them, but don't hit them."

When the bullets from the first and second volleys splashed near the hunters' boat, Delaney said, he again called the soldiers not to shoot so close.

The third and fatal volley, Delaney said, was fired after the hunters had headed toward the American shore. He had told the soldiers to let them go, when one of them said: "Let's give them another scare," and he consented. Only two of the British, struck by the bullets, were killed.

While the coroner's verdict releases the three soldiers as civilians, they are still prisoners at the barracks, pending the result of a military inquiry held simultaneously with the civil proceedings. All witnesses before the coroner testified at the military inquiry.

### CREW STILL ABOARD THE NAVARRA

Steamer Aground Near Yarmouth a Total Loss—Carried Hay, Grain and Army Supplies.

Yarmouth, N. S., Dec. 30.—The steamer Navarra, from St. John, N. B., for a port in Sprink, with a full cargo of hay, oats, automobiles and army supplies for the British, struck on the Holmes ledges, Tusket Island, in the Bay of Fundy, last night and will probably be a total loss.

The steamer went on the ledges during fog, and the heavy sea pounded her hard on the rocks, which pierced the hull. The engine room is full of water and some of the holds are flooded. The government steamer Aberdeen and tug from Yarmouth are alongside salvaging some of the cargo. The crew was still on board when word came from the ship early this evening. The Navarra registers 2,848 tons and was under charter to the British government.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—In the wreck of the Navarra, the French government steamer, which is reported to the Marine Department as a complete loss, was laden with hay

Chief Fighting in East Now Taking Place on Nida River — Fifteen Killed in German Airship Attack on Dunkirk — Four Aeroplanes Took Part — Princess "Pat's" Regiment Within Sound of Guns Await Order to Go Into The Trenches — Given Great Welcome by French.

London, Dec. 30.—Since the Russian defeat of the Austrians in Galicia, which, while not irreparable, is likely to have a marked effect on the whole Austro-German campaign in the east, there has been no important development on either side.

The Allies, although making no dramatic attacks on the German lines, are steadily hammering away with their artillery, and when occasion arises push their line a few yards forward. A French eye-witness, in a description of the battles from December 16 to 24, gives a good idea of the kind of fighting in progress and records gains, which, while by themselves are marked only in yards, amount in the aggregate to a considerable advance at many points.

A few hundred yards in Flanders were taken by primitive methods, for, having the breeches of their rifles choked with mud, they used the mas clubs, and in many cases fought the Germans with their fists.

In one little French village within sound of the guns, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, the first of the Canadian contingent to go to the front, are billeted, waiting their turn to go into the trenches. They were accorded a splendid reception by their comrades in arms, and the French villagers.

With the defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and South Poland, and the retirement of the Germans across the Bzura, Petrograd believes that the turning point has been reached in the battle of the Polish rivers. The chief fighting is now taking place on the Plika, where the Germans are still on the offensive and have brought up big guns.

The losses in these battles have reached enormous figures in dead, wounded and prisoners, and must have been largely added to by disease, for the men fought under dreadful climatic conditions, and in mud, for which Poland is noted.

### GERMAN AIRSHIPS DROP BOMBS ON DUNKIRK

London, Dec. 31.—Four German aeroplanes flew several times over the city of Dunkirk Wednesday, dropping bombs as they went, according to the Dunkirk correspondent of the Daily Mail. Soldiers in the streets fired on the machines, and one Taube seemed to be hit, but all got safely away.

The official return of the casualties shows that fifteen persons were killed and thirty-two wounded. The bombs were filled with shrapnel.

Two bombs also were dropped on Furnes. The attack on Furnes was evidently an effort to wipe out the Belgian headquarters, where King Albert is at present. No damage was done there.

It is probable that the German attack was made to discourage a movement of British troops from England to the battlefield.

### FRANCE PLANS AERIAL INVASION OF GERMANY

Two Fleets of Aircraft Under Construction For Attack in Spring, Mexican Aviator Back from Europe Says.

New York, Dec. 30.—France is building two great fleets of aircraft, armed with cannon and bombs, with which to invade Germany in the spring, according to Pedro Chapa, a Mexican aviator who has been in Europe for the last four years and who arrived here tonight on the Cunard liner Carpathia. Hundreds of armored biplanes, each carrying a small cannon and

and grain, purchased in Canada for the purposes of the army of France. The Navarra was of four thousand tons, and registered in Glasgow. No lives were lost in the disaster.

### WHITE AND WELSH SIGNED

FOR BOUT ON JAN. 13, Chicago, Dec. 30.—Charley White, of Chicago, and Freddie Welsh, of England, lightweight champion, have been matched to fight ten rounds in New York, on January 13, according to word received here tonight from White's manager. The message said the fighters are to weigh in at 135 pounds at three o'clock on the day of the fight.

### Died in the Hospital

James Holt of 145 Orange street, who has been in the General Public Hospital for a few days, passed away at that institution at an early hour this morning. Mr. Holt who was an iron moulder by trade was about fifty years of age.

### PRISONERS AND CAPTORS SWAP "SMOKES"

German Captives and French Guards Work in Harmony Repairing Roads Back of Battlefield.

### ALLIES SOLDIERS DREAD INACTIVITY.

British and French Troops Keen to be in the Thick of Battle.

Saint Pol, France, (Via Paris), Dec. 30.—German prisoners of war work cheerfully at the side of their armed French guardians in repairing the much damaged national highways in this region, just to the rear of the colossal battlefield. The prisoners are on the best terms with their captors, who snoop naturally after their cigarettes, whiffs from their pipes and other luxuries with their erstwhile foes.

The prisoners remain only a short time in this neighborhood. As soon as a sufficient number is taken to fill a train, the captives are dispatched to some town on the coast, or in the interior, or embarked for Algeria. In this region there is much activity from morning till night on account of the passage of great supply convoys, interspersed with columns of troops proceeding daily to the front, to take their turns in the trenches. The soldiers march at a swiftness toward the firing line. Without exception they express a preference for work in the trenches, rather than remaining idly at their billets. While the frost set in to reserve a short distance to the rear they have nothing to occupy their time, which drags along. They say that, after the time when they are sleeping off fatigue, each minute seems to them like an hour. The postal service is very uncertain, and they rarely receive news from the rest of the world.

While the men are in the trenches, sometimes only fifteen yards from the keen edge, with every faculty alert. Almost every day there is a change in the weather. Today it marked by a hard frost, turning the roads into long skating rinks, on which the heavy motor trucks are almost useless. The soldiers are obliged to take to the fields beside the roads. Thousands of men are engaged in throwing earth over the glassy surfaces in order to avoid interruption of the transportation of supplies. Before the frost set in the roads were like quagmires, owing to the frequent rains.

Under the extremely trying conditions which prevail, the men and their commanders are remarkably cheerful and confident, and never utter a word of complaint. Along the battlefield, in the region of Arras and Saint Eloy, the position of the troops has scarcely varied a foot from the zigzag lines which have been occupied for three months. The possession of Arras is of greatest importance to the Allies, who are holding it with remarkable tenacity, although opposed by great forces of Germans under the command of General Count Von Armin, commander of the Four Army Corps, and the Crown Prince of Bavaria.

Every moment is a perilous one when Arras is approached, since the Germans have marked accurately the ranges along the highways. Any movement along these roads brings a salvo of artillery fire.

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### BRITISH CABINET MEETS TO CONSIDER AMERICAN NOTE

Protest Received at Foreign Office and Special Session Called — Will Require Days of Careful Study Before Reply Can Be Drafted.

### ADMIRALTY MUST BE HEARD FROM AND OPINIONS OF LAW EXPERTS OBTAINED

London Press Comment Most Pacific in Tenor—Plain Speaking, When Two Nations of Family Circle are Concerned, Pall Mall Gazette Says—Note III Advised, and a Dangerous Step, Glasgow Herald's Opinion.

London, Dec. 30.—The British cabinet held a special session this afternoon to consider the American government's note concerning the delay to American shipping, caused by the searching of vessels by the British fleet. The note reached the Foreign Office yesterday. The subject of American shipping continues to monopolize interest here.

It is not expected that a reply to the note will be drafted for some days, it being pointed out that a document which it took weeks to draft could hardly be digested by the cabinet at one meeting. Even Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, hardly had time to read, much less to consider it, before the meeting of his colleagues.

While it has come as somewhat of a shock to the public that differences have arisen between the two governments on a subject that admittedly is a difficult one, the note generally is calmly discussed, except by those who declare that Great Britain should disregard American wishes and opinion, and follow entirely a policy which would be best calculated to assist the allies in their war on Germany and Austria.

British shipowners, who are almost as greatly concerned over the situation as the American shippers, today expressed the opinion that the matter would be amicably settled. The directors of one large company, while admitting that inconvenience was inevitable in the searching of ships, said it was possible that some of this inconvenience might be obviated.

It was officially announced late tonight that the statement issued by the official press bureau today that the British Foreign Office only received the American note today is incorrect. Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, on Monday told Lord Halifax, who was the head of the Foreign Office in the absence of Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, of the arrival and the purpose of the note, which he added would require time to translate from code. The note was sent to the Foreign Office yesterday.

Mr. Page requested Sir Edward Grey to have the press bureau's statement corrected, saying it left the impression that the British government received the note only after a summary of it had been given the American papers.

Comment upon the note of the United States government in the British press is, on the whole, moderate and pacific in tone. The Pall Mall Gazette points out that the United States government has never adopted the silky tone which is traditional in diplomatic communications between European states. Moreover, two nations constituting a family circle can speak plainly to each other without misunderstanding.

A general argument advanced by both morning and evening papers is that some inconvenience to the neutral states in the present war is inevitable, and that stoppage of an enemy's trade is one of the means of curtailing the war, and therefore it is to the interest of the neutrals to bear the temporary inconvenience.

The Globe bluntly says: "The American demand is that we should renounce our most potent weapon against the enemy, to which our answer, in the friendliest spirit, is 'No'." The Glasgow Herald and the Daily Chronicle both hint that some success has apparently attended the pro-German campaign in the United States. The former considers that the note is not only ill-advised, but a conceivably dangerous step.

### B. FRANK SMITH OPENLY CHALLENGES F. B. CARVELL

Dark Lantern Brigadier Must Either Quit or be Forced to Take Back False Insinuations Concerning Mr. Smith and Lumbering on the Tobique Reserve.

Special to The Standard. Woodstock, Dec. 30.—F. B. Carvell, who has blatantly made insinuations against B. Frank Smith in connection with lumbering operations on the Tobique Reserve, will now have a chance of meeting Mr. Smith and making good on his insinuations, if he can. Mr. Smith has come out fearlessly in the matter of the insinuations, which the newspapers, supporting Mr. Carvell have been making. Mr. Smith in order to give Mr. Carvell a chance of placing before the public any facts, he may think he possesses in connection with the matter, has issued the following challenge to Mr. Carvell: "During the past year Mr. F. B. Carvell, his paper, the Carleton Standard, have been criticizing by way of insinuation my business in connection with my lumbering operations on the Tobique Reserve. He dare not do more than make insinuations, as is his usual custom. Now in order to give him an opportunity of presenting facts on which he and his supporting newspapers base their insinuations, I propose that Mr. Carvell meet me at the Hayden-Gibson Theatre, in Wood-

stock, on the night of the sixth of January next, and let him put before the public the facts upon which his insinuations and innuendoes are based. I will pay the expenses in connection with such a meeting, and will give him one hour in which to present his case. I will take the same time, if I find it necessary, for my reply. If this offer is accepted he can let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.

B. FRANK SMITH.

DECISION IN COURT BONI DE CASTELLANE SUIT AGAIN POSTPONED

Rome, Dec. 31.—The Rota Tribunal met here yesterday to decide the suit of Count Boni De Castellane for annul-

### CONFIDENT OF AMICABLE SETTLEMENT

Official Washington Believes Trouble Over Delayed Commerce Will be Straightened Out Satisfactorily.

### ALREADY DISCUSSING CO-OPERATIVE MEASURES

Considering How U. S. Could Help Britain in Order to Minimize Necessity for Extended Search on High Seas.

Washington, Dec. 30.—While the American note to Great Britain concerning interruptions of the commerce of this country continued today to absorb official Washington, there was manifested a tone of confidence that the numerous difficulties which had arisen in the last five months eventually would be amicably adjusted.

Already the discussion has turned to measures which the United States could properly take in co-operation with Great Britain to reduce to a minimum the necessity for extended search on the high seas. It became known that agents of the Treasury Department, acting in co-operation with the State Department in one case, already had inspected a cargo of cotton, which inspection had satisfied the British embassy, and facilitated the progress of the shipment to its destination.

Surprised Note Should be Considered as "Brusque"

The belief was held in official quarters that a mutual understanding might be reached, whereby legitimate cargoes could be certified before their departure from this country, and thereby made immune from detention.

High officials of the Washington government were somewhat surprised that the American note has been regarded as "brusque" in some London quarters. They said the British cabinet, which has it under consideration, after a single reading of the document must be convinced that the United States had spoken in the most friendly spirit, though none the less earnestly and emphatically on points on which it considers itself thoroughly justified, under the laws of nations.

There is nothing of a peremptory character in the note, nor is it phrased in tones of irritation, but those who are familiar with its contents say it is a matter of fact and frank statement of the difficulties experienced by American shippers, and the failure of the British government to meet the various protests which have been made.

Reimbursement Cannot Remedy Matters

In all, it became known today, thirty American ships and cargoes, their value totalling millions, have been detained. The American note points out specifically, however, that reimbursement for previous damages alone cannot cure the situation, as the activity of the British fleet has restrained many American exporters, whose business has become stagnant for fear of the numerous technicalities and risks involved in shipments.

With respect to cotton shipments, the case of one or two illegitimate cargoes, it is recognized, has caused the British government to suspect all shipments. The United States government has no evidence that there has been contraband concealed in cotton cargoes, but England has made two specific complaints of it. Although not vouching for, or confirming the charges, the American government has thought it advisable, nevertheless, to issue a warning that one fraudulent shipment must produce embarrassment to cargoes generally.

Secretary Bryan discussing the note with callers today, declined to give any details. He described it as a general statement, summarizing the American position in several specific cases. Those neutral diplomats who called to ask about it, but were informed that the first newspaper report of it was accurate. They were told that the State Department probably would not deliver the text of the communication to foreign governments generally, as it still regarded the note as confidential. The American government itself having not authorized its publication in part or whole.

ment of his marriage to Anna Gould, who is now the Duchess of Tallyrand, it was expected that the final decision of the Tribunal would be rendered, but this was again postponed pending further inquiry into the case.