

# TO-DAY'S Messages.

10.30 A.M.

## BRITAIN AND THE NEUTRALS.

LONDON, To-day. In the Commons to-day a question was put by Arthur Lynch, Nationalist, suggesting that in many particulars the policy of the British Government with regard to the States has been of an irritating kind, without any compensation corresponding to the danger of producing a misunderstanding. Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, said, "Unfortunately it is inevitable that our measures should inconvenience citizens of neutral countries, much as we regret it. I can only say that consistently with our paramount duty of using our belligerent rights we have and are doing all we can to make their exercise as little irksome to neutrals as possible."

## MADE IN U.S.A.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The embassies of the Entente Allies here to-day reflected the view that Germany's peace proposals will not be rejected without examination, but that the Allies in reply will probably call for a statement. The Premier expresses the hope that he will be able to appear in the Commons next Tuesday as planned.

## TWO BIG STEAMERS SUNK.

LONDON, To-day. Lloyd's Shipping Agency announces the British steamer *Stursula* sunk. The steamer *Harlyn*, previously reported having struck a mine on Dec. 9th, as sunk. The crew were picked up by the steamer *Harlyn*, sunk later by a mine and lives lost. The *Harlington* and *Harlyn* were both British steamers, the former 11,000 gross tons, the latter 3,495 tons gross. Lloyds announced on December 10th that both had been damaged.

## GERMAN SUB CLAIMS.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. A Berlin despatch says that German submarines between November 28th and Dec. 8th sank off the French Atlantic coast among other vessels, steamships carrying coal cargoes which were on the way to France, also an English steamship with 6,000 tons of war material which was proceeding from New York to France.

## RUSSIAN OPINION OF THE PROPOSALS.

PETROGRAD, To-day. From a highly authoritative source the Novoe Vremya says it has obtained the following expression with regard to the peace proposal of the Central Powers: "The appeal of our enemies is a fresh attempt to cast upon France, Russia and Britain the responsibility for the war and a fresh trap for the public opinion of the world. The Entente Powers would be taking upon their shoulders a terrible responsibility before their own people if they stopped the war and concluded a premature peace which would nullify all their countless sacrifices. The firm resolve of France, Russia and Britain to carry the war to a final triumph can be weakened by the proposed terms, so they will not be placed in a position of unqualifiedly rejecting peace."

## NO DETAILS YET.

PARIS, To-day. The peace proposals of the Central Powers has been delivered to the Italian Government. No definite indications are given as to the conditions upon which peace negotiations might be attempted.

## ABOUT TIME.

LONDON, To-day. In the Commons to-day, Thomas McNamara, Financial Under Secretary to the Admiralty, announced that the Admiralty had under earnest consideration the matter of arming merchant ships.

## LOYD GEORGE WORSE.

LONDON, To-day. The condition of Premier Lloyd George has taken a slight turn for the worse. He suffered considerably from the severe chill contracted early in the week and his physicians ordered him to remain in bed a few days more.

## McKENNA SUPPORTS BONAR LAW

LONDON, To-day. That the extent to which England is able to convert her Sterling wealth into dollars is the real measure of her ability to continue to meet the war's demands, was the gist of a briefly pointed speech in the Commons to-night by Reginald McKenna, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, supporting and supplementing Bonar Law's present action in Britain's financial position. McKenna opened

by congratulating Bonar Law on his speech, thus showing an entente cordiale between the old and new Governments. He then continued: "We are bound to supply munitions to the full extent of our capacity. We are bound likewise to meet all the demands of our Allies so far as we are able to extend. Our ability to meet these demands is enormous, but there is one restriction, namely, that it will not be easy to convert our Sterling wealth into dollars wealth. We must pay in dollars what we pay, but all over the world that is the limit of our power to help our Allies." Touching on the large increase in expenditure during the past two months Mr. McKenna said: "Bonar Law mentioned that our average daily expenditure for the past sixty-three days had reached 5,700,000 pounds, but that there were brought into the account large sums expended in the States which ought to have been brought in to the charges at an earlier period. I believe the daily expenditure now is about five and a half millions; therefore we may hope that the estimate of £1,950,000,000 for the financial year will not be exceeded."

## WASHINGTON RECEIVES THE OFFICIAL NOTES.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The arrival of both the German and Austrian peace notes and the intimation of the Entente Allies' Embassies that the proposals of the Central Powers would be flatly rejected without examination, were the outstanding developments here to-day in the peace move. Germany's note is substantially the same as the published text. It arrived by cable this morning and was followed later by the Austrian note. Secretary of State Lansing said this was identical with Germany's and neither contained any change of meaning from the semi-official versions. It was stated officially that the President had not decided what action, if any, he would take in transmitting the Central Powers' proposals to the Entente Belligerents.

## BRITISH MAKE SUCCESSFUL RAID

LONDON, To-day. The War Office to-night issued the following communication: Last night enemy trenches were entered by us in the neighborhood of Monchy au Zais. South of Arras and a number of casualties were inflicted. Enemy dugouts filled with troops were bombarded. A raid was attempted against our trenches in the neighborhood of Hulluch but the enemy failed to enter them; prisoners were left in our hands. The usual artillery activity continues to-day on both sides. Our bombardment of an enemy dump in the neighborhood of Pys, North-east of Albert, set fire to material collected there, causing large clouds of smoke.

## ARMING MERCHANT SHIPS.

LONDON, To-day. Robert Cecil, Minister of the Blockade, in reply to a question in the Commons concerning armed merchantmen, said that only (one) neutral maritime Government at present refuses to admit defensively armed ships into its ports and even that Government does not impugn the legality of arming merchant ships for defence.

## BARON DEVONPORT ON THE FOOD SUPPLY.

LONDON, To-day. Baron Devonport speaking for the first time as Food Controller in the House of Lords to-day, said, that the solution of the food question had resolved itself into one of rationing. It was not enough to maintain the food supplies; it was overwhelmingly essential that they be distributed fairly. The Food Controller said that his first duty would be to ascertain the quantity of food stocks available and the stocks visible. There were many un-patriotic people, he said, trying to get hold of supplies in excess of their wants. "My remedy," said Baron Devonport, will be to adjust the supplies coming into the country, so that everybody will have an equal chance of getting a fair share, no more or no less. On account of many people buying quantities, sugar can't be got at all. The remedy must be found for that. Possibly the only way will be to try a system of rationing. It was obvious, Baron Devonport, added, that a general diminution of the consumption of staple food was necessary. At present such diminution could only be brought about by voluntary abstinence, but if voluntary abstinence was not successful it would be necessary to make abstinence compulsory.

## PROHIBITION IN FRANCE.

PARIS, To-day. Total prohibition throughout France of the consumption of such alcoholic beverages as whiskey, brandy and liqueurs has been decided on by the Government.

## WAR REVIEW.

LONDON, To-day. Both the German and Austro-Hungarian notes concerning peace were received at Washington and will soon

be transmitted to the belligerent Entente Powers. No official intimation has yet come as to whether President Wilson will merely transmit the notes received or announce to their recipients that the States hopes a discussion of peace may result. While Britain has not yet officially received the proposals, her attitude and that of her Allies with regard to peace was reiterated in the Commons on Thursday by Andrew Bonar Law, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said that the Entente Allies required adequate reparation for the past, and adequate security for the future. That there is to be no abatement of Britain's military preparations was indicated by the unanimous vote by Parliament of an additional credit of 400,000,000 pounds. On the fighting fronts everywhere except in Roumania and along both banks of the Meuse only bombardments and minor operations are being carried out. In Roumania the Danube army of the Teutonic Allies has now crossed the Jablonitz River. All along the front the advance of the invaders continues unchecked. No details have come through as to the French operations along the Meuse except the statement of the Berlin official communication that the French have made advances on both banks of the River.

## THE GRILSE'S BAD TIME.

HALIFAX To-day. The Grilse got into bad weather about 150 miles off the coast on Monday night and commenced to make water forward. She decided to run to Shelbourne. The storm increased on Tuesday afternoon. The plight of the craft seemed hopeless. S.O.S. signals were sent out. The wireless aerial was carried away. Operators Clement and McLean endeavoured to rig a new aerial. While doing so a terrific sea swept the vessel. The mainmast went over and Clement was knocked into the sea and washed away. At one time in the terrific sea the Grilse rolled so much that water rolled into the funnels. At this juncture the Chief Engineer shouted it was all over and jumped into the sea and was never seen again. When the storm moderated on Wednesday, repairs were effected and the Grilse was able to make 8 knots toward Shelbourne, arriving on Thursday night at ten-thirty.

## BOILERMAKERS ON STRIKE.

LONDON, To-day. The Official Press Bureau issued the following statement to-night. Since Saturday the majority of the boilermakers in the port of Liverpool have been on strike. The strike followed the refusal on the part of some of the men for a period of five weeks to work overtime. Their action had been taken in defiance of urgent requests of the leaders of the Union and in violation of the provisions of the Munitions Act. The grievance of the men arises from an award given by the Committee of Production on November 3rd. They applied for an advance of ten shillings on the ground of the increased cost of living. The award given was three shillings.

## 1.00 P.M.

## THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION CLUB.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, Chief of the General Staff, has sent a message to the Imperial Chancellor congratulating him on his speech in the Reichstag and adding, "I read your speech with deep emotion and great satisfaction. By the Kaiser's command you made in this speech a great moral demonstration of the strength of the Fatherland at home and at the front. We soldiers know that at this moment there is no higher or holier duty than to prosecute victory with the utmost energy and live or die for the Kaiser and the Fatherland." The Chancellor replied saying, that he regarded Von Hindenburg's words as the voice of the German people's army and adding, "It is their deeds on land and sea that have cleared the way for the high spirited decision which the Kaiser and our Allies took yesterday. The death-defying loyalty to duty and the unshakable bravery of our men fighting for Germany is a guarantee to us that if it does not please the enemy to-day to terminate the war they will fight the more to secure for the Fatherland a strong and lasting peace."

## SWITZERLAND NOT DUPED.

GENEVA, To-day. The German press attaches great importance to the flying visit of the Emperor to Munich yesterday, where he held a Council with the King and Bavarian Ministers. Both peace and military matters were discussed. The Emperor remarked on the absence of young soldiers in the streets. The Emperor carefully read long telegrams concerning the opinion of the Allies on peace proposals. The Journal De Geneve says, "Germany will make the Germans believe that the Entente Allies will be morally responsible for the continuation of the war. Perhaps the Germans will believe this, but neutrals will not be duped, anyhow not the Swiss." (See 4th page.)

Potatoes are less nutritious in the spring, because the spring sprouts grow at the expense of the potato. It is better to wipe meats than to wash them before cooking. Washing robs the meat of some of its flavor.

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