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to be hoping to call a conference of Scandinavian and Low Country representatives to 'discuss' trade matters."

A Paris despatch of the 15th, in the same paper declares:

" Although the wisdom of precautionary preparation by Holland and Belgium is unquestioned here, the general verdict appears to be that these periodic outbursts of tension are being deliberately provoked by Germany to play on the nerves of nations whose attitude of correctness in the matter of neutrality fails to hide the bent of their moral sympathies."

12. While it is not possible to determine the degree of reality in the ostensible danger thrust upon the Low Countries during the past week-end, and while in both Belgium and Holland vigorous measures were taken to meet any contingencies, the psychological impression here is that it was a further "false alarm" deliberately designed to keep the neutrals in a state of nervousness, and possibly, by such repetitive tactics, to leave them off their guard when a real attack takes the place of these prearranged feints. It is impossible to verify this interpretation.

13. In any event, it seems clear that, instead of throwing the Low Countries into consternation, the alarm has strongly reinforced their precautions and consolidated their determination. It has brought into even closer accord and coordination the Governments and Army Commands of Brussels and The Hague; it has strengthened the potential support that would undoubtedly be offered by France and Britain in the event of invasion; it has reportedly increased the distrust of Germany of public opinion in the United States; and it has had further salutary influences on the public spirit of the Dutch people who are slow to react but strongly determined when aroused. The Dutch are by degrees becoming inured to intimidation and alert to any further threats. The behaviour of Finland is a heroic example to the equally stubborn patriots of Holland.