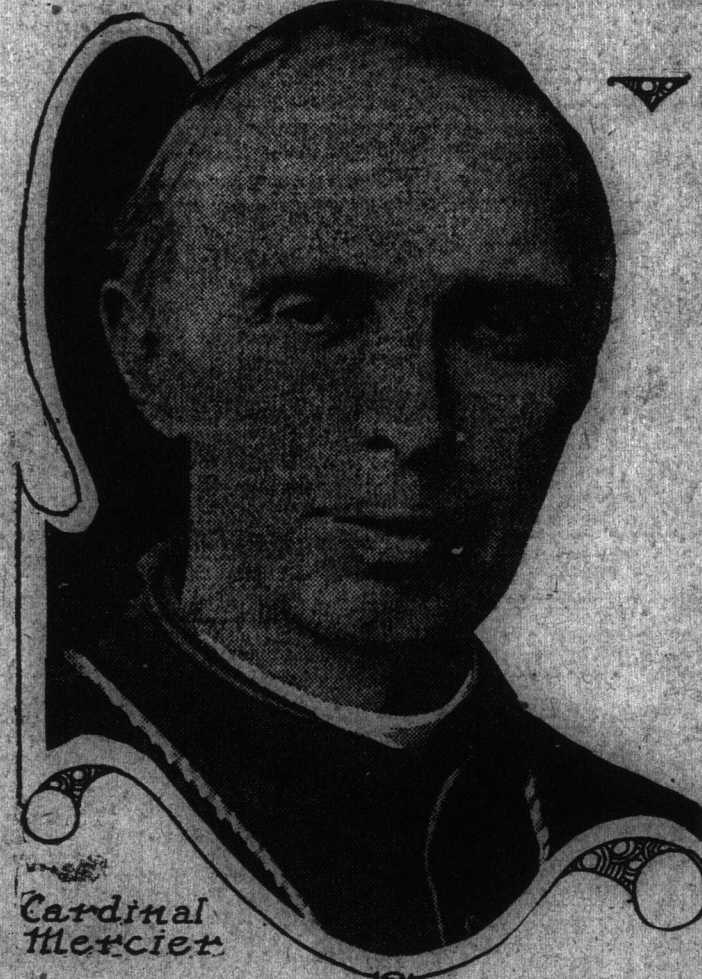


CARDINAL MERCIER RESERVES COMMENT ON VEXATIOUS MEASURES



Cardinal Mercier

The Hague, Netherlands, Jan. 13, via London.—Cardinal Mercier, the primate of Belgium, declines for the present to discuss what he defined the "vexatious measures" of the German authorities in Belgium with reference to him and to the pastoral letter written by him on Christmas.

General Von Bissing, governor general of the Belgian territory occupied by the Germans, in reply to a request made by the Associated Press that he forward to Cardinal Mercier a telegram asking him for the exact facts in connection with the incident, today said:

"Cardinal Mercier requests me to forward to you the following despatch in response to your inquiry: 'I feel very much the sympathy you have shown me, and for which I thank you; but I prefer not to dwell for the moment on the vexatious measures to which you allude and I prefer to continue to shut myself in my episcopal ministry. I wish to declare, however, that I have withdrawn nothing and will withdraw nothing from my pastoral letter.'

(Sgd.) "CARDINAL MERCIER."
"Archbishop of Malines."

Gen. Von Bissing adds:

"As this reply of the cardinal might give rise to misunderstandings, I add thereto the following remarks: 'I certainly caused proofs of the pastoral letter in the printing office to be confiscated and I summoned the priests to give up copies of it in their possession. The cardinal never has been arrested nor has his personal liberty in any other way been encroached upon. I have merely, by means of officers of my staff, requested him to give me explanations of the contents of the pastoral letter, and besides this, to prevent possible manifestations I asked him to abandon a projected journey to Antwerp.'

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(Sgd.) "FRIEDRICH VON BISSING."
"Governor General."

GEN. FRENCH'S VISIT HOME

For Three Days Directed Operations by Wire From London House—A Comparison With the Days of Wellington—French Travelled in Private's Uniform.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press)

London, Jan. 1.—For three days the operations were directed by telegraph from the home of Sir John French, near Hyde Park, London, during the General's recent visit here. While it took Wellington three days to get a message to Whitehall and as long to receive a reply, during the Waterloo campaign, Gen. French was able to communicate directly with Sir Archibald Murray at the base headquarters at St. Omer, France.

From a man who was in close touch with Sir John during his recent visit to England, the following details are learned:

Gen. French arrived at Folkestone wearing the overcoat and other soiled cap of an enlisted man. He made no attempt to disguise himself otherwise, and on the channel boat attracted no notice. At Folkestone, he was met by Lord Kitchener, and both proceeded by motor to Walmer Castle, near Deal, where Premier Asquith resides. There a council of war was held, attended also by the leaders of the two political parties.

Sir John then came to London, where he attended councils the next two days, the King being present on one occasion. His nights were spent in his own home, where hourly messages were received direct from his headquarters at the front.

On his trip by train from Folkestone to London, and on his return from Victoria station, none of the passengers gave a second look at the old soldier in the private's coat and cap, shorn of its signals, nor did they on the boat during the trip to Calais.

On landing at Calais, however, Gen. French appeared in his full uniform, by Field Marshal, and was enthusiastically acclaimed by the crowd as he drove through the streets to the station.

Gen. French is said to have remarked that this would be his last visit to London until the end of the war.

MANY CANADIANS IN THE HOSPITAL

London, Jan. 12.—(Montreal Gazette Cable)—In view of the alarming reports concerning the health conditions of the Canadian troops at Salisbury Plain, the Montreal Gazette correspondent today interviewed Col. Jones, chief of the medical staff, and suggested that a definite statement might allay many of the fears arising out of such reports. Beyond the statement that the percentage of sick now in the hospitals was 8.2 and that an epidemic of mild influenza prevails, Col. Jones refused to discuss the matter or to impart any further information.

Another medical officer, in roundly condemning the authors of the exaggerated stories, expressed the opinion that a semi-official denial or statement through the press would be better than the present reticence, as he believed that things would be proved less black than they had been painted.

The Gazette gathers that a dozen deaths have occurred recently from spinal meningitis. It is also learned that the general standard of health of the men, who all perform their daily work as far from satisfactory.

FEAR RAVAGE OF SPINAL MENINGITIS.

(Montreal Gazette Cable)

London, Jan. 12.—In consequence of the serious outbreak of spinal meningitis in the Canadian camps at Salisbury Plain, which has already caused a number of deaths, a determined effort is being made in the highest British Canadian circles to secure the straggling force of the entire contingent billeted, or removed to France at once, the latter move being considered preferable. Anything which the authorities at Ottawa can do to back up the efforts being made in England would be greatly appreciated, as it is considered by those in touch

APPALLING DISASTER STRIKES ITALY AGAIN

Many Towns and Villages Destroyed by Earthquake—Estimated Dead 12,000 and Injured 20,000—Avezano Wiped Out With 8,000 of Its Inhabitants—Many of Rome's Finest Churches and Buildings Badly Damaged—More Than 300 Miles of the Country Affected by the Shock.

Rome, Jan. 13.—Italy has again been visited by an earthquake of great extent, which, according to the latest advices has destroyed towns and villages and resulted in the death of 12,000 persons and injury to possibly 20,000 more. The shock was the strongest that Rome has felt in more than a hundred years.

The town of Avezano, in the Abruzzi, Department, 63 miles east of Rome, has been levelled to the ground; here 8,000 persons are reported to have been killed.

In many small towns surrounding Rome, buildings were partially wrecked, while at Naples a panic occurred and houses fell at Caserta, a short distance to the east.

From below Naples in the south, to Ferrara in the north, a distance of more than 300 miles, and across almost the width of the country the undulatory movement continued for a considerable period.

In Rome it was thought at first that two shocks had occurred, but the seismographic instruments in the observatories showed that there was only one, which, beginning at 7.55 o'clock in the morning, lasted from 22 to 30 seconds.

In the Capital itself, so far as is known there was no loss of life, but a great deal of damage was done, churches and statues suffering most. For a time the people were stricken with fear and there was a veritable panic in the hospitals, monasteries and convents.

The buildings on both sides of the Porta Del Popolo, the north entrance to Rome, threatened to fall, and the eagle decorating the gate crashed to the ground. The Obelisk in St. Peter's Square was shaken and badly damaged, while the statues of St. John Lateran and of the Apostles surmounting the Basilica are in danger of collapsing. The famous Colonnade decorating St. Peter's Square was lowered four feet, while the adjacent house, once occupied by the sisters of Pope Pius X, was badly cracked.

Owing to the wide extent of the disturbance, and its evident terrible consequences, the actual effects of the earthquake are not at present known owing to the cutting off of communications. The fortified city of Aquila has in this way been cut off, but it is reported that several villages in that region were destroyed. Likewise Potenza, capital of the province, the same name on the eastern declivity of the Apennines, which has a population of nearly 20,000 persons, has been isolated.

Father Alfani, director of the observatory at Valle Die Pompeii, the noted seismologist, has sent the following telegram to Rome:

"The earthquake registered by our apparatus appears to have been most disastrous for a radius of more than 100 miles. Probably its centre was the province of Potenza. Meanwhile communications with Potenza are interrupted, and a grave disaster there is feared."

At Avezano two persons were killed. At Giuliano two persons were killed. At the meteorological institute it is said that buildings continued to rock or tremble for about thirty seconds after the shock had ceased, and that the duration of the phenomenon altogether was about one minute. It was stated that it was not believed that the disturbance extended to Sicily.

1,000 Dead in Aelli.

London, Jan. 14.—One thousand persons have been killed and 500 injured by the earthquake which completely destroyed the small town of Aelli, to the east of Rome, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Magliano was also destroyed. In the province of Aquila forty persons were killed.

Naples, via Rome, Jan. 13.—A violent earthquake shock occurred here today, and caused a panic. It is reported that many houses fell in Caserta, northeast of Naples. All the glass in the observatory on Mount Vesuvius was broken.

In the Church of the Divine Providence, sisters were praying around the bier of a dead nun when the first tremor of the earthquake caused one of her arms to move. The sisters cried out that a miracle of resurrection had taken place, but simultaneously the candles and crucifixes in the chapel began falling. Then they realized what was happening.

At Torre Celestina, about thirty-three miles east of Rome, the entire village was almost destroyed, while at Amara and municipal buildings collapsed.

From numerous places in the affected region calls for doctors and medicine are reaching Rome.

Pope Benedict was reciting the thanksgiving after the morning mass when the shock occurred. The pontiff retained his composure, and gave orders immediately that the damages be inspected, and requested a report whether assistance was required.

King Victor Emmanuel also ordered the minister of the interior to furnish him with all details of the earthquake. The King expressed a desire to visit the damaged cities.

Churches Badly Damaged.

At the capital two magnificent candlesticks fell and were broken.

At the Palazzo Del Drago, where Thomas Nelson, the American ambassador, lives, several cracks in the building which already had existed, opened wider and plaster fell in several of the rooms. The glass was broken in the embassy office.

In addition to the statue of St. Paul on the column of Marcus Aurelius, the facade of the church of St. John Lateran was damaged, and the statue of the Saviour, which is fifty feet high, was twisted out of plumb.

In the Lateran palace, especially that part occupied by the museum, the earthquake caused cracks of sufficient size to permit of the light from the outside penetrating the building. The hall of the chamber of deputies, likewise was cracked.

Among other edifices damaged were the churches of Saint Andrea Fratte and Saint Agatha of the Theologia, the latter being the oldest church of Teatino origin in Rome.

When the shock was felt the frightened populace rushed into the churches but the police ordered them out of these, which were in danger of collapsing. In all the churches in the city, after the shock had subsided, special prayers were offered for the victims of the disaster.

It is officially announced that the centre of the earthquake was between Caspiano and Sarno, and that it was felt strongly at Ferraro, and slightly as far north as Ferraro.

In the country places the people are camping in the open.

The town of Poli is reported to have been destroyed. At Giuliano two persons were killed.

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AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SUCCEEDED BY HUNGARIAN BARON

Vienna, Jan. 13, via London, 8.15 p. m.—Count Leopold Von Berchtold, Austrian foreign minister, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted, according to the Vienna Fremdenblatt. Count Von Berchtold will be succeeded by Baron Stephen Burian Von Rajecz, minister of the royal court in the Hungarian cabinet.

Count Von Berchtold was one of the main factors in the situation which led to the Austrian declaration of war on Serbia, which, in turn, precipitated the European war.

Count Von Berchtold for a long while desired to retire and had previously asked the emperor to relieve him of his office. The appointment of a Hungarian to succeed him in control of Austrian foreign affairs is believed to indicate that henceforth Hungary will assume a more prominent place in shaping the policy of the dual monarchy during the war.

Berlin's Comment on It.

Berlin, Jan. 13.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—A statement issued by the official press bureau today said:

"The Austrian emperor has agreed to the renewed demand that he accept the resignation of Count Von Berchtold, the minister of foreign affairs, which was tendered for important personal reasons."

"Count Von Berchtold's successor has been appointed. He is the Hungarian minister to the royal court, Baron Stephen Burian, a son-in-law of General Baron Fejervary, ex-premier of Hungary. Baron Burian was formerly minister of finance and chief of the administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The change in the Austrian premiership came unexpectedly."

Has Caused Sensation.

London, Jan. 13, 8.30 p. m.—The announcement from Berlin, and published also in the Vienna Fremdenblatt, that Count Von Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, has resigned and has been succeeded by Baron Burian, has caused a sensation in diplomatic circles in Europe.

Count Von Berchtold, who directed Austro-Hungarian foreign relations for a number of years, and was responsible for the note to Serbia which precipitated the war, had, on a number of occasions, both before and after the Balkan wars, asked Emperor Francis Joseph to relieve him of office. But the continued unsettled conditions which followed the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina made this impossible.

Anxious, therefore, as he was to retire,

it was not dreamed that he would do so while the war was in progress, for it was considered that such action might suggest that his policy had fallen into disfavor. More significant than his resignation, however, is the announcement that he is succeeded by a Hungarian.

Hungary, while at one with Austria with regard to the principle of the war, has shown dissatisfaction with the manner in which it has been prosecuted. While Austro-Hungarian troops have been utilized to prevent a Russian invasion of Germany, and even employed against France, Hungary has been left open to invasion.

Carried Complaint to Berlin.

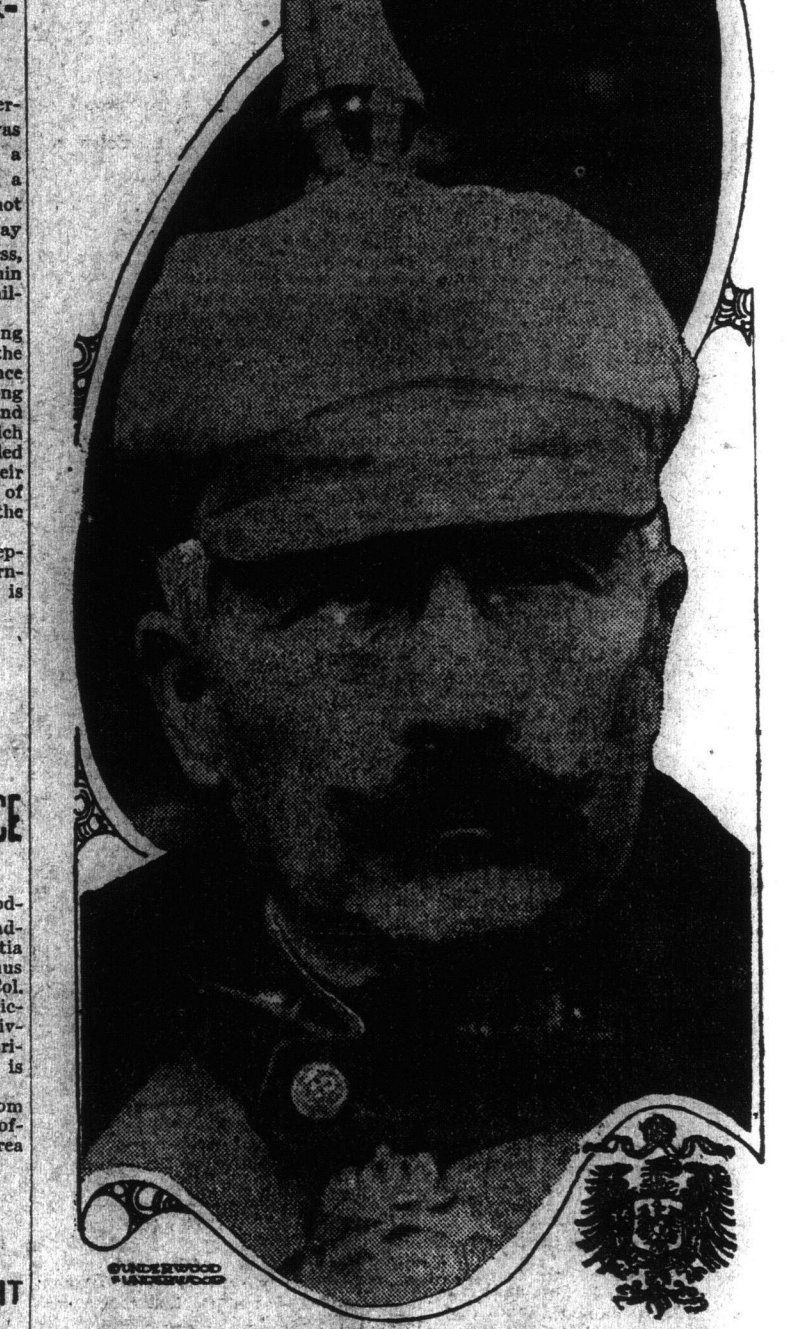
Count Tissa, the Hungarian premier, on several occasions gave utterance to this dissatisfaction and, finding that his complaints were not heard at Vienna, took them to Berlin, where he had an audience with the German emperor. Although it was said that after this trip the interests of Hungary were given more attention, Count Tissa did not stop his agitation, and in a speech on New Year's day complained that Hungary's position had not been fully recognized, insisting upon military and political harmony between Hungary and Austria and Germany, he said pointedly that the Hungarian nation must assume the place which it deserved in consequence of its material and moral strength, its active energy and the fact that all its interests, aspirations and desires were in complete accord with the true interests of the monarchy.

The Vienna papers took Count Tissa to task for this speech, one of them, Die Zeit, saying that it was impossible to reply on account of the censorship. The appointment of Baron Burian, however, suggests that the emperor has decided to give Hungary a greater voice in the government of the country.

Baron Burian was at one time Austro-Hungarian minister of finance; so that he has had some experience in the large problems of the monarchy, and latterly he has been Hungarian minister to the royal court—evidence that he is in royal favor.

Up to the time of this catastrophe the earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1755, caused the greatest number of casualties. Then the earth swallowed up 60,000 persons.

THE KAISER AS HE LOOKS TODAY



The latest photograph of the Kaiser. It was taken five weeks ago and shows William as he really looks now, his hair has turned gray and his face has grown haggard with illness and worry.

ONLY TWENTY CASES OF MENINGITIS AMONG CANADIANS.

Toronto, Jan. 13.—The following cablegram was received today at the headquarters of the Canadian Red Cross Society in this city from Lieutenant-Colonel Hodgetts, commissioner of the society in England:

"To reassure the public on the health of the contingent, the total general illness since Jan. 6 is 3.6 per cent. There have been only twenty cases of cerebro spinal meningitis since landing, with fourteen deaths. Of general diseases there have been 11 pneumonia, 101 influenza, 4 diphtheria, 2 measles, 2 scarlet fever, and 1 typhoid."

The central council of the society announces that all parcels and articles which have been forwarded by them to England or by the National Council of Women for patriotic service through the society have been sent by British vessels from Quebec and Halifax, and that no shipments have been made through American ports. Therefore, none of the articles shipped have in any way fallen into the hands of the enemy.

Anticipatory.

"I really dislike to see such a habit of finish for one. You know 'Yes; they listen & talk to them.'—Boston

AGENTS WANTED

RELIABLE representatives meet the tremendous fruit trees throughout New Brunswick. We wish to see four good men to represent and general agents. The fruit taken in the fruit-growing New Brunswick offers excellent opportunities for men of energy to offer a permanent position pay to the right men. St. John, Toronto, Ont.

THERE is a boom in the New Brunswick. The fruit-takers are now in every district. Pay weekly. Pelham Nursery Co., Toronto.

TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED—A second teacher to take charge in district No. 8, Perth and Victoria county, for present to John Walker, South Victoria Co., N. B.

WANTED—A second school teacher for the Johnston County of Quebec, stating salary, to W. Secretary, Canaan Rapid, Cole's Island, Quebec Co., 20405-1-11

WANTED—A second female teacher for No. 5, Parish of Aberdeen, P. No. 4, Parish of St. John's, Carleton county, N. B.

WANTED—Female teacher for District No. 1, Parish of St. John's, Carleton county, N. B.

I wish to the public for the generous patron to announce new term Monday, January

THE SOUTHERN SUTHERLAND—On Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Sutherland, Fairville, a son.

BIRTHS

SUTHERLAND—On Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Sutherland, Fairville, a son.

DEATHS

WILKINS—In this city Robert J. Wilkins, aged 77, Daniel Wilkins, his mother to mourn.

LYNCH—At 270 Chestnut street, Rose, nee Daniel Lynch, aged 72, her husband, three children and four grandchildren. The funeral was held at St. Andrew's, aged 82, two months.

CARSON—In this city 1915, Robert Carson, aged 75 years.

GERMAN FLYING BRITISH

San Juan, Porto Rico former British collier flies the German flag, at the command of a lieutenant man cruiser Karlsruhe, sister of four German ships. The vessel was at San Juan, and put into San Juan.

The customs and frontier officials have called the vessel. The vessel sailed from last September with a Montevideo. She was at San Juan, and put into San Juan, and put into San Juan.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Requests for instruction Chinese sailors of the migration officials tonight inspector at San Juan Chinamen to re-ship 2. This action was requested by the customs officer who wished to dispose of his vessel left San Juan. Treasury department should be taken in the career of the collier, and sealed a unique case. A unique case of a collier, and put into San Juan.

It wasn't Mrs. Smith was husband to her husband. "Willy" said she, cheerful manner. But she was over her imp cause of her anxiety. "Willy" said she, "How foolish, Mabel, cause you a moment's asked the doctor if he in England. What else into your head?"

"Well, it's very strange. I still unconvinced returned a check of my 'No Funds.'—Weekly

Anticipatory.

"I really dislike to see such a habit of finish for one. You know 'Yes; they listen & talk to them.'—Boston