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PROBS—FAIR

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GERMAN SUBMARINE BLOCKADE BEGINS TODAY; MORE SEVERE FIGHTING IN WESTERN WAR ZONE

UNEASINESS INCREASES IN WASHINGTON OVER THE QUESTION OF BLOCKADE

No Reply from Germany to U. S. Note Concerning Submarine Attacks in New Sea Zones of War—Situation Fraught With Grave Possibilities, White House Officials Believe—Germany's Suggestion for Warship Convoy meets with Scant Approval.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Secretary Lansing said tonight that no reply had been received from Germany to the American note concerning submarine attacks on belligerent merchant ships in the new sea zones of war under the German Admiralty's proclamation, which goes into effect tomorrow. If a reply to the representations of the United States had been delivered in Berlin to Ambassador Gerard, the State Department had not been apprised of that fact.

Publication tonight of the text of Great Britain's complete reply to the American communication concerning contraband and neutral shipping revealed that Great Britain does not intend to relax her vigilance in the shipment of foodstuffs to Germany, and announces that measures are in contemplation to retaliate against submarine attacks by Germany on British merchant ships.

The warning in the British note that if Germany abandons the principles of international law by refusing to verify the character of a merchant ship before attacking it, England may not be bound by the rules hitherto accepted, injected into the general situation further uncertainties on which the developments of the next few days were generally expected to have an important bearing.

While officials at the White House and State Department did not discuss what might be done if any American vessels or lives should be lost in the war zone, it was admitted on all sides that the situation was fraught with many grave possibilities. Ambassador Gerard's despatches continued to give

the text of anti-American editorials being printed in semi-official papers in Germany. Officials of the Washington government, however, were confident of the rights of the Washington government, and pointed out that a position similar to that of the United States had been adopted by practically all the other neutrals of the world.

Convoy Plan Does Not Meet With Approval.

The recent suggestion from German sources that American merchantmen might escape attack if convoyed by an American warship, had not met with approval in naval circles here. It was pointed out today that no naval captain would be willing to assume full responsibility for the non-contraband character of the cargo of any American ship which might fall in with his vessel and claim his protection, as an adequate search of the merchantmen on the high seas will be out of the question. Furthermore, it is suggested that the threatened British retaliation for the German war zone order may be the issue of notice of a blockade of the German coast.

In that case not even an American man-of-war would have the right to pass the blockade lines alone, much less with a convoy of merchant ships. Formal notice by the British of the blockade, and recognition of it by the United States, would of course at once remove from the field of diplomatic negotiations all questions relating to the right of neutral nations to send cargoes of food to the civil population of the blockaded state.

Official Reports of War Offices Indicate Heavy Fighting in the West — French Claim Capture of German Trenches and Repulse of Violent Attacks by Enemy — More Severe Fighting Developing on Line From Plock to Raciez, in East.

The time limit set by Germany for neutral shipping to take measures of safety has expired, and Germany is now expected to put into operation her declared intention of employing her submarines and mines in the waters around the British Isles, which she has proclaimed a war zone, with the object of shutting off the food supplies of the British people.

Germany has earnestly warned the neutral states that this zone will hereafter be a danger zone for all shipping and has expressed her determination of taking the most stringent action against the British merchantmen.

It is announced from Berlin that Germany's reply to the American note of protest against such action has been handed to the American Ambassador at the German capital, but this reply has not yet been received by the State Department at Washington.

In the meantime, Germany, in developing her submarine warfare, has added one more merchant ship to the list of vessels destroyed by sinking the small French steamer *Ville de Lille* off Cherbourg.

Regarding the operations on land, it is apparent from the official announcements issued by the French War Office that some heavy fighting is taking place both in Belgium and in France. The French claim not only to have maintained the ground recently gained but to have captured some of the German trenches and repelled many counter-attacks by the Germans. French aviators have dropped bombs on the railway station at Freiburg, Baden.

In Poland, north of the Vistula, from Plock, recently occupied by the Germans, to Raciez, another great battle is apparently developing, the fighting in that region already being of a desperate nature.

Austria, according to Swiss advices, for ten days has been concentrating troops, chiefly artillery on her Italian frontier. Guns have been employed to dominate the Tyrolean passes.

All along the entire boundary of Serbia Albania forces are active. Corrida, 100 miles north of Janina, has been captured by the Albanians, and violent fighting is in progress at several places.

A Constantinople despatch to Berlin says that the Bulgarian seaport of Dedesatch, on the Aegean Sea, is blockaded by British and French war ships, to prevent foodstuffs from being

transported to Germany and Austria through this route.

Copenhagen hears a report that five million Germans, ineligible for army service who have independent means, are to be ordered by the German government to proceed to neutral countries and there remain until the end of the war in order to decrease the consumption of food in the empire.

Britain Answers U. S. Protest

Great Britain, in her answer to the American protest against the detention of American ships by British war vessels, denies that Great Britain unduly detains ships or that the naval operations of Great Britain have been the cause of any diminution in the volume of American exports, adding that if the commerce of the United States is in the unfavorable condition charged in the American note, "the cause ought, in fairness, to be sought elsewhere than in the activities of His Majesty's naval forces."

Among these causes the note cites the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of the cotton trade and the destruction by submarine mines, "laid by the enemy" of many neutral vessels.

The answer concludes that foodstuffs for a civil population are not contraband but says "in any country in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and whom it is not."

The note says Great Britain will retaliate against Germany's submarine campaign, but does not go into details concerning its proposed procedure.

Dutch Note Unanswered.

London, Feb. 18.—Neither Great Britain nor Germany, as far as is known, has yet replied to the Dutch notes of protest respectively against the use of neutral flags and the sea war zone.

The Dutch shippers have decided to ask the Netherlands government to penalize foreign vessels entering Dutch ports under the Dutch flag.

A despatch from Berlin says that the Emperor has conferred the Order "Pour Le Merite" on the chief of the general staff, General Von Falkenhayn, "in recognition of his services in connection with the victory of the Masurian Lakes."

Geneva, Switzerland, Feb. 17, via Paris.—Austria has been concentrating troops for the last ten days on her Italian frontier. The men are chiefly artillerymen, and their guns have been employed at favorable positions dominating the Tyrolean passes.

Swiss, Italian and Austrian soldiers are close on one another on the lonely three corner frontier of the Alps at a height of from 5,000 to 8,000 feet, and frequently fraternize in the deep snow. The Swiss soldiers usually act as the interpreters between the Austrians and Italians.

Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—Mrs. W. R. Stark, an elderly widow, is dead, and her son, George Stark, aged 30 years, is in the general hospital as a result of a shooting affray at their home, 314 William Avenue. It is believed that George Stark, after coming home early this evening, became involved in a quarrel with his mother and shot her with a revolver and then turned the weapon on himself. He may recover.

Winnipeg Woman Found Dead and Son Badly Wounded—Son Came Home Intoxicated and Row Followed, is Theory

Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—It is expected that the Canadian Pacific steamer *Metagama*, the sister ship of the *Mississippi*, will make her maiden trip late in March, as scheduled, notwithstanding the present maritime conditions. To obviate any confusion as to nationality, the British steamers *Zeeland* and *Vaderland*, operated by the White Star Dominion Line, have been renamed the *Northland* and the *Southland*, respectively, as the *Vaderland* was frequently taken for the German vessel of that name, which was found wrecked.

EIGHT KILLED, SIX INJURED IN EXPLOSION

Feeder Gas Escapes, Leaping to Lights of Miners and Ignites.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Feb. 17.—Eight workers were killed, and six others seriously injured by an explosion of gas at the Prospect colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company here today. Two of the injured probably will die. The accident occurred in the Red Ash vein at a point nearly two miles from the shaft. A heavy pocket of feeder gas, that had accumulated behind a wall of coal forced the coal out and, leaping to the naked lights of the miners, ignited, causing a terrific explosion.

LIKE PROPHECY ABOUT END OF THE WORLD

Scriptural Forecast of Conditions Which Will Prevail at End of World Seem to be in Process of Fulfillment, Cardinal Gibbons Says.

Baltimore, Feb. 17.—That the scriptural prophecy of the conditions that shall prevail near the end of the world seems to be in process of fulfillment was the statement made today by Cardinal James Gibbons.

He was commenting on the war news from Europe which, he said, was terrible. "We cannot grasp its magnitude or what it means," he added.

"Does it not seem that the scriptures are being fulfilled?—'Nation shall rise against nation, and there shall be sorrow throughout the world, and there shall the end come'?" he asked.

"Yes, it does," the Cardinal replied. "Less of life in great numbers occurs only once in a while, but now in this greatest war of the world, a thousand, nay, ten thousand lives are being sacrificed every hour the war continues."

LONDONERS PREFER HARD CASH TO PAPER

War Emergency Currency Not Popular With Working Classes.

London, Feb. 17.—The English people, who are accustomed only to hard cash, refuse to take kindly to the paper currency introduced as a war emergency measure.

Mr. Wardle, a Labor member, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could arrange for the payment of workers in gold, as there was complaint that the notes were soiled. The Chancellor, in his reply, pointed out the importance of keeping the gold reserve as high as possible, and said he thought if this were generally understood, and borne in mind, the notes would cheerfully be accepted.

SUPPLIES FOR CIVILIANS IN GERMANY WILL GO TO ARMY IF MILITARY EXIGENCIES ARISE

Britain's Reply to American Note of Protest of Dec. 28, Says Experience Shows Power to Requisition Goods Will be Used to Fullest Extent to Make Sure Military are Supplied—Sir Edward Grey Answers in Detail Charges that American Ships Were Unduly Detained—Notice of Retaliatory Measures Against German Submarine Blockade.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Great Britain's second and complete reply to the American note of protest, which, on December 28 last, asked for an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, was made tonight by mutual agreement between the State Department and the British Foreign Office.

The note, addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey, under date of Feb. 10, denies that the depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests, among other causes, the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of cotton trade and the destruction by submarine mines (laid by the enemy indiscriminately) of many neutral vessels.

After giving a lengthy and detailed answer to the charge that American ships and cargoes were being unduly detained, the communication contains, in its concluding paragraph, the announcement that Great Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign against enemy ships, but does not reveal their nature.

Hard to Find Line Between Civil and Military in Germany.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British government points out that any country in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not.

"It will still be our endeavor," says the final paragraph, "to avoid injury and loss to neutrals, but the announcement by the German government of their intention to sink merchant vessels and their cargoes, without verification of their nationality or character, and without making any provision for the safety of non-combatant crews, or giving them a chance of saving their lives, has made it necessary for His Majesty's government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one belligerent to depart from rules and precedents, and then to the other to remain bound by them."

Regarding the depression in American industries, referred to in the American note, Sir Edward Grey says:

"It is unfortunately true that in these days, when trade and finance are cosmopolitan, any war, particularly a war of any magnitude, must result in a grievous dislocation of commerce, including that of the nations which take no part in the war. Your Excellency will realize that in this tremendous struggle, for the outbreak of which Great Britain is in no way responsible, it is impossible for the trade of any country to escape all injury and loss, but for such His Majesty's government are not to blame."

Only Eight Out of 773 Sent to Prize Court

Sir Edward then points out that only eight out of 773 ships sailing from the United States for neutral European countries have been placed in prize courts, and that only forty-five have been "temporarily detained to enable particular consignments of cargo to be discharged for the purpose of prize court proceedings."

The next paragraph, analyzes the statistics of exports from the United States, and makes the observation "that it is therefore clear that, if cotton be included the effect of the war has been not to increase, but practically to arrest, the decline of American exports which was in progress earlier in the year; in fact, any decrease in American exports which is attributed to the war is essentially due to cotton."

"The general result," it continues, "is to show convincingly that the naval operations of Great Britain are not the cause of any diminution in the volume of American exports, and that if the commerce of the United States is in the unfavorable condition which Your Excellency describes, the cause ought, in fairness, to be sought elsewhere than in the activities of His Majesty's naval forces."

Greater Loss From Mines Sown By The Germans

The hope is expressed that the United States will realize that the detention of neutral ships by the Allies has not contributed nearly so much to the shortage of shipping "as has the destruction of neutral vessels by submarine mines, indiscriminately laid by the enemy on the high seas, many miles from the coast, in the track of merchant vessels."

"Up till now," continues the note,

"twenty-five neutral vessels have been reported as destroyed by mines on the high seas."

Discussing the general proposition that a belligerent is entitled to capture contraband goods on their way to the enemy, the British note cites precedents in the action of the United States government, both in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

The foreign secretary reiterates that the increased size of steamships necessitates search in calm waters, and insists that during the Russo-Japanese war, and also during the second Balkan war, "British vessels were made to deviate from their course and follow the cruisers to some spot where the right of visit and search could be more conveniently carried out," and in both cases, "although questioned at first, Great Britain finally acquiesced."

Realizing that in no war that has yet been waged have neutral individuals "not occasionally suffered from unjustified belligerent action," Great Britain suggests that opportunities for adequate compensation are offered in the British prize courts, the details of which proceedings are given.

Turning to the question of conditional contraband axis foodstuffs, the note says:

"No country had maintained more stoutly than Great Britain in modern times the principle that a belligerent should abstain from interference with the foodstuffs intended for the civil population. The circumstances of the present struggle are causing His Majesty's government some anxiety as to whether the existing rules with regard to conditional contraband, framed as they were with the object of protecting, so far as possible, the supplies which were intended for the civil population, are effective for the purpose, or suitable to the conditions present. The principle which I have indicated above is one which His Majesty's government have constantly had to uphold against the opposition of continental powers. In the absence of some certainty that the rule would be respected by both parties to this conflict, we feel great doubt whether it should be regarded as an established principle of international law."

Bismarck's Answer to Kiel Chamber.

Sir Edward then quotes Prince Bismarck's answer to the Kiel Chamber of Commerce in 1844, in connection with the treatment of rice as contraband in the French-Chinese war.

"The measure in question," Prince Bismarck is quoted as saying, "has for its object the shortening of the war by increasing the difficulties of the enemy, and is a justifiable step in war, if impartially enforced against all neutral ships."

"His Majesty's government are disposed to think that the same view is still maintained by the German government."

"The reason for drawing a distinction between foodstuffs intended for the civil population and those for the armed forces, or enemy government, disappears when the distinction between the civil population and the armed forces itself disappears."

"In any country in which there exists such tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not. Experience shows that the power to requisition will be used to the fullest extent, in order to make sure that the wants of the military are supplied, and, however, much goods may be imported for civil use, it is by the military that they will be consumed, if military exigencies require it."

After giving statistics tending to show that supplies are reaching neutral ports from the United States to "an unprecedented extent," and reciting forcibly on the part of His Majesty's government, "to deal as leniently as possible with neutral interests," Sir Edward points out that Great Britain has recognized "the transfer to a neutral flag of enemy ships belonging to companies which were incorporated in the enemy country, but all of which shareholders were neutral," even waiving objections to companies "incorporated in Germany which were subsidiary to and owned by American corporations," the only condition being imposed that these vessels "should take no further part in trade with the enemy country."

"I have given these indications," concluded Sir Edward, "of the policy which we have followed, because I cannot help feeling that if the facts were more fully known as to the efforts which we have made to avoid inflicting any avoidable injury on

GERMAN PIRATES TO MINE ENTRANCES TO BRITISH PORTS

Berlin Despatch Claims Government Has Squared Itself With Neutrals.

Basel, Switzerland, Feb. 17, via Paris.—The *Cologne Gazette* in its issue of Feb. 15, a copy of which has been received here, published a telegram from Berlin saying:

"Three days only separate us from the date fixed for war on British commerce. The two weeks' notice given on Feb. 4 of the intention to begin operations on Feb. 18 has been utilized by enemy. Nevertheless, we have placed ourselves in a correct attitude towards neutrals."

"What menaces them above all are the mines placed by Great Britain against our submarines, and also, one must say, the mines which our submarines will carry into the entrances of English ports."

WANDERERS DEFEAT THE SHAMROCKS

Montreal, Feb. 17.—The Wanderers won from the Shamrocks at the Arena in Montreal tonight by ten to seven in a game that was not at all exciting.

The line-up:
Wanderers—Goal, McCarthy; defence, C. Cleghorn and Rodgers; wing, Baker; centre, Ulrich; wing, O. Cleghorn.

Shamrocks—Goal, Lesueur; defence, George McNamara and Howard McNamara; wing, Skinner; centre, C. Denny; wing, G. Denny.

RESIGNS AS MATRON OF
QUEEN'S CANADIAN MILITARY
HOSPITAL AT SHORNCLIFFE.

London, Feb. 17.—The resignation of Miss McMahon, matron of the Queen's Canadian Hospital at Shorncliffe is announced. No reason has been assigned for the action, but it is understood that the committee was

MAKING ROOM FOR THE YOUNGER MEN IN FRENCH ARMY

Joffre Weeding Out Many of Those Up in Years and Replacing Them by More Active Officers.

Paris, Feb. 17.—General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief, continues to carry out his settled policy of weeding out those in the higher ranks of the army in favor of younger and more active men. Today's appointments list, made public by General Joffre, contains the names of nine generals of division, who have been placed on the reserve list, and succeeded by men promoted to brigadier-generalships.

EXPULSION FROM GERMANY FIVE MILLIONS UNFIT TO SERVE IN ARMY

Copenhagen, Feb. 17, via London.—The report is in circulation here that, owing to the necessity to restrict food consumption, the German government intends ordering 5,000,000 Germans who possess independent incomes and are ineligible for military service, to leave Germany for neutral countries, and remain there until the war is over.

It is planned, according to the report, that 3,000,000 of these persons shall go to the Scandinavian countries; 1,000,000 to Holland and 1,000,000 to Switzerland.

HON. MR. BURREL TO
OPEN CANADA'S EXHIBIT
AT SAN FRANCISCO FAIR

Special to The Standard
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 17.—Hon. Mr. Martin Burrel, Minister of Agriculture, left tonight for San Francisco to open the Canadian exhibit at the Panama-Pacific exposition.

AGED WOMAN MURDERED, BELIEVED SON HER SLAYER

Winnipeg Woman Found Dead and Son Badly Wounded—Son Came Home Intoxicated and Row Followed, is Theory

Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—Mrs. W. R. Stark, an elderly widow, is dead, and her son, George Stark, aged 30 years, is in the general hospital as a result of a shooting affray at their home, 314 William Avenue. It is believed that George Stark, after coming home early this evening, became involved in a quarrel with his mother and shot her with a revolver and then turned the weapon on himself. He may recover.

WHITE STAR LINERS ZEELAND AND VADERLAND HAVE BEEN RE-NAMED

The Vaderland Often Mistaken for German Steamer of the Same Name.

London, Feb. 17.—It is expected that the Canadian Pacific steamer *Metagama*, the sister ship of the *Mississippi*, will make her maiden trip late in March, as scheduled, notwithstanding the present maritime conditions. To obviate any confusion as to nationality, the British steamers *Zeeland* and *Vaderland*, operated by the White Star Dominion Line, have been renamed the *Northland* and the *Southland*, respectively, as the *Vaderland* was frequently taken for the German vessel of that name, which was found wrecked.

AUSTRIA SENDING MORE TROOPS TO ITALIAN FRONTIER

Geneva, Switzerland, Feb. 17, via Paris.—Austria has been concentrating troops for the last ten days on her Italian frontier. The men are chiefly artillerymen, and their guns have been employed at favorable positions dominating the Tyrolean passes.

WILL INTERRUPT THE TRANSFER OF BELGIAN REFUGEES TO ENGLAND

Zeeland Steamship Service Between Folkstone and Flushing Will be Suspended for a Time.

London, Feb. 17.—The temporary stoppage of the Zeeland steamship service between Folkstone and Flushing will give a check to the transfer of Belgian refugees from Holland to England, which has been proceeding under government auspices at the rate of 2,000 weekly. Apropos of the Belgian town planning conference held this week, an official of the American Relief Commission expresses the opinion that the work of the commission will probably continue long after the war has been concluded, as he thinks they will have to face the work of rebuilding Belgium. One suggestion made is that the refugees be provided with portable houses, which could be moved southward when the enemy evacuates the country.