

THE WEATHER. Maritime—Light to moderate breeze; local showers, but mostly fine.

The St. John Standard, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE TODAY—at 10.30-2.15-8.15 "BRITAIN PREPARED"

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ENEMY TORPEDO BOAT SUNK IN LOWER ADRIATIC; FERCE ARTILLERY DUELLING ON BELGIAN FRONT

CARVELL AND KYTE SEE THEIR HOPES SHATTERED

With Nothing Proven in Shell Probe to Back Up their Charges they Resort to Scheme of Having Scope of Inquiry Widened in Hope Something May Develop to Save them from Being Discredited—House, However, Refuses to Stand for Another Fishing Excursion.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., May 5.—Cap in hand F. B. Carvell came to parliament today and asked for an enlargement of the scope of the investigation by Sir William Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff into shell contracts. This commission is at present investigating the charges made in the House of Commons by G. W. Kyte of Richmond, N. S., concerning the fuse contracts made by the committee. Four contracts were mentioned, two regarding fuses contracted for with two American companies, one with a Providence company for picric acid and one with a Chicago company for cartridge cases. But finding that there is nothing in the charges, and in fact stating them in the face that they have to make good in some way or be absolutely discredited, Messrs. Kyte and Carvell are anxious to get the investigation widened in the hope that something may develop which may save them. In other words they want to go on a fishing expedition.

It should be remembered that while Kyte laid the charges they were work of Mr. Carvell's veritable invention. He had already spoken in a debate calling for an investigation, and he could not speak a second time. So the speech and the charges were handed over to Mr. Kyte, Mr. Carvell sitting alongside him and coaching him. Today the premier refused to allow Mr. Carvell's fishing excursion, pointing out that the investigation was proceeding along the lines of Mr. Kyte's charges. There was nothing brought out at the enquiry today. As a matter of fact the whole thing has been a fizzle. The opposition may put witnesses on the stand and make some more spectacular displays, but that is not evidence. The Americans whose names were mentioned in connection with the charges are all here. They will be examined at the beginning of next week. They seem to be enjoying the discomfiture of Messrs. Kyte and Carvell. There is no doubt they expected that the Americans would be afraid to show up. So far from being afraid they appear to be enjoying their picnic to Ottawa. Mr. Carvell in the course of his speech in the house aroused anger by describing John Best of Dufferin as a "farmer". There was a shout of anger from the members of the house and Oliver Wilcox of North Essex protested as a farmer against the sneer at the farmers, saying that he was more acquainted with the house was that there were too few farmers in it, and too many of Mr. Carvell's class. The incident caused quite a commotion while it lasted and Mr. Carvell apologized.

(Canadian Press).

Ottawa, May 5.—Mr. F. B. Carvell moved at the beginning of the sitting that the House adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the desirability of immediate enlargement of the scope of the royal commission fuse contracts. After stating that Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, government counsel before the commission, had presented his case ably and fairly, Mr. Carvell detailed the evidence indicating that from October 1, 1914, to the time the first contract for shells was made, with the war office, down to the time of its abandonment, the four manufacturing members of the shell committee had acted as contractors with the war office as represented by Sir Sam Hughes. The shell contracts which the fuse contracts for which were given to the two United States firms, were component parts with one for 5,000,000 rounds of fixed ammunition and was made July 1, 1915. Members of the shell committee under examination had held that the prices paid for component parts made no difference as long as they did not exceed the prices agreed to by the war office for the fixed ammunition. Gen. Best has also told of profits having

BAD WEATHER IMPEDES OPERATIONS ON GREATER PART OF VERDUN FRONT

Only Artillery Fighting, but Bombardment West of Meuse Increased in Violence—French Submarine Sinks an Enemy Torpedo Boat in the Lower Adriatic.

Rome, via Paris, May 5.—"The French submarine Bernouille sank an enemy torpedo boat in the Lower Adriatic Sea yesterday," says an official communication issued this evening.

"Five enemy aeroplanes raided Brindisi the same day. Bombs fell on a hospital and four patients were killed and five injured."

Paris, May 5.—The war office communication, issued this evening, says: "Bad weather has impeded the operations on most parts of the front, where only artillery fighting has been reported."

"To the west of the Meuse the bombardment went on with increased violence during the course of the day on the sector of Hill 304. In the region of the Assomattois wood the Carvelles wood the bombardment is less violent, but continues."

"To the east of the Meuse and in the Wouver moderate artillery activity is reported."

"Army of the east: On the night of May 4-5, about two o'clock in the morning, a Zeppelin which was hovering over Saloniki was brought down by the artillery of the Allies fleet. The Zeppelin fell in flames at the mouth of the Vardar river."

Belgian communication: "The German artillery on our positions to the north of Steenstraete and Dismede. A very spirited fight between bomb throwers and pieces of every calibre ensued. During the bombardment of the German line on severely damaged six German defence positions, which were abandoned at several points."

London, May 5.—A British communication, issued this afternoon, concerning the situation in Mesopotamia, says: "Lieut. General Sir Percy Lake reports, under date of May 3, that the military situation is unchanged. The arrival of the first batch of sick and wounded from Kut-el-Amara (recently surrendered by the British, after a long siege) is reported by the corps commander."

WILL RELEASE 38 TEUTONS TAKEN OFF AMERICAN STEAMER

British Government Admits Itself in Wrong, but Reply to U. S. will be so Couched that this Case is Not to Establish General Precedent.

London, May 5 (5 p. m.).—The British government has decided to release the 38 Germans and Austrians who were taken from the American steamer China. The release of these men will be ordered immediately. The Germans and Austrians were removed from the China by the British auxiliary cruiser Laurentic on February 19, while the China was on her way from Shanghai to San Francisco.

The action of the British authorities in ordering the release of the seized passengers on the China was not unexpected, it was known that the last American demand declined to admit any form of legality in the reasons given by the foreign office for their detention.

The formal document in reply to the final American note on the subject is not yet in readiness, but according to Lord Robert Cecil, minister of war trade, it will be carefully framed so as to admit the general right of belligerents to enjoy the protection of a neutral flag. In the present case, Great Britain admits itself in the wrong in regard to the facts outlined in the American communication, but the reply will be couched in such terms that no general precedent is established and British doctrine as to the seizure of boards of hostile nationality on board neutral ships will be safeguarded.

The state department at Washington has contended that the facts in the case are similar to those of the famous Trent affair, but while it is not known what attitude the British reply will adopt towards this argument, Lord Robert Cecil gives it as his personal opinion that the two cases present wide differences.

The release of the prisoners, who are held at some place in the Orient will be immediate. The Germans and Austrians were removed from the China by the British auxiliary cruiser Laurentic on February 19, while the China was on her way from Shanghai to San Francisco.

Dorchester, May 5.—Benjamin E. Tower, a prosperous and well known farmer at Dorchester Cape, Westmorland County, died this morning at 10.30 o'clock after an illness extending over some months from paralysis. He had attained his 64th year and is survived by a widow, who was Miss Bessie Tower, five sons three daughters, two brothers and one sister, among his sons is Private Daniel Tower of the 345 Battalion. The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon at two o'clock and Rev. W. H. Frede of the First Baptist church will attend. The interment will take place at the Cape cemetery.

Word reached Dorchester that Mrs. Nehemiah Cole of Rockland, about four miles from the town, is critically ill and can scarcely live through the night. Mrs. Cole is about 80 years old and her husband predeceased her about two months ago.

CUNARD LINE TAKES OVER C.N.R. STEAMERS

Services will be Maintained Between Canada and Ports in United Kingdom—Agreement Operative at Once.

Montreal, May 5.—Official confirmation of the story published a few days ago, that the Cunard Company was about to take over the steamers owned and controlled by the Canadian Northern Railway Company, was given tonight by the Robert Hood Company, Limited, the Canadian agents for the Cunard Line, Liverpool, in a statement handed out for publication. The steamers in question are those which, before the war, were running from Avonmouth and Rotterdam, and the services will be maintained between Canada and ports in the United Kingdom and on the continent. The various Canadian services of the Cunard Line and the Canadian Northern Railway system will, in effect, become a single transportation unit between Europe and the Dominion of Canada. The agreement becomes operative at once. Steamship services on the Pacific Ocean are also in contemplation.

Believe Rupture Averted. Cabinet members went over the unofficial text carefully with the President, and while they uniformly refused to discuss it, they reflected the view that a break had been averted; that Germany's new assurances would be recorded the test of time, notwithstanding the reference to the action Germany expects the United States to take against Great Britain's restraints on neutral trade. They expressed this view with full realization of the differences of opinion on what constitutional law and of the President's steadfast determination not to permit the interests of the United States with one of the belligerents to become entangled with those of another.

The United States, only recently declaring its views on the right of merchant ships on the high seas, ratified and provided for the condition under which Germany charges British merchant ships, by orders of the British admiralty, actually are acting as naval war vessels in attacking submarines.

Germany, in her note, reserves "complete liberty of decision," should the United States fail to prevail upon Great Britain to bring her practices into conformity with international law. The official view is that the United States, for some time has been and now is conducting diplomatic correspondence with Great Britain, and the outcome on that subject and the success or failure of the negotiations and Germany's consequent action must necessarily remain for the future.

"The United States does not know how Germany's new instructions to submarine commanders compare with previous instructions which were given at the behest of President Wilson. Secretary Lansing stated today that it was possible the state department might ask for official copies of the old orders."

The newest orders, however, apparently are regarded as meeting the president's demand for a declaration of an abandonment of the present practices of submarine warfare, officials here agreed that the president's demand that Germany also "effect" such an abandonment only could be answered by time.

Under such circumstances one set of officials feel that the threatened break will not come at this time; another set is convinced that Germany's apparent determination to make the fulfillment of her promises conditional upon the subject of the president's negotiations with Great Britain, war-

PLOTTERS PLACED UNDER HEAVY BONDS

Eight German Conspirators Plead Not Guilty in Federal District Court.

New York, May 5.—Eight of the alleged German bomb plotters recently indicted on the charge of conspiring to destroy vessels carrying munitions for the Allies, pleaded not guilty today before Justice Howe in the federal district court and were placed under heavy bail bonds. Captains Eno Bode and Otto Wolf were held in \$25,000 each, Carl Schmidt was held in \$15,000 and the others were held in \$5,000 each. Dr. Walter T. Scheedo, the ninth under indictment, has not been arrested. Captain Hans Tauscher, husband of Mrs. Gieski, the singer, pleaded not guilty to superseding indictment charging him with having engaged in a conspiracy with Captain Von Papen and others to destroy the Walland Canal. His bail was placed at \$25,000.

PROMINENT FARMER OF WESTMORLAND COUNTY PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY

Special to The Standard.

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POPE'S LAST WORD ON DE CASTELLANE MARRIAGE CASE

Rome, May 5.—Pope Benedict has ratified the decision of the commission of Cardinals concerning the validity of the marriage of Count Don De Castellane to Anna Gould, now Duchess Talleyrand. The papal ratification definitely bars annulment of the marriage.

U.S. WILL TAKE NO "HASTY" ACTION ON GERMAN NOTE

No Decision Likely for Some Days—Variety of Opinions on Note—What American Newspapers Think of it—May Ask for Official Copy of Orders Berlin Government Claims to Have Sent to Submarine Commanders.

Washington, May 5.—Germany's note has postponed, if it actually has not averted, a diplomatic break with the United States.

President Wilson will make the decision after he has read the official text, which reached the state department late tonight.

It was stated authoritatively after the cabinet meeting today that if the official text bore out the unofficial version transmitted in today's Berlin news despatches, Germany's assurances undoubtedly would be accepted, and before taking another step the United States would await the fulfillment of her latest promises.

In such case the United States might not reply to the note, and would await evidence of the actual abandonment of Germany's present practices of submarine warfare which is declared.

The German embassy view is that the note gives all President Wilson asked for; that it signifies a return to "cruiser warfare,"—the use of submarines as regular naval cruisers intercepting commerce with visit and search, and that inasmuch as it makes no mention of the armed ship question, that perplexing feature of the controversy is not involved.

Congress took the note quietly, and although a variety of views were expressed the general sentiment seemed to be in favor of leaving the situation in the hands of the president.

Cabinet members went over the unofficial text carefully with the President, and while they uniformly refused to discuss it, they reflected the view that a break had been averted; that Germany's new assurances would be recorded the test of time, notwithstanding the reference to the action Germany expects the United States to take against Great Britain's restraints on neutral trade. They expressed this view with full realization of the differences of opinion on what constitutional law and of the President's steadfast determination not to permit the interests of the United States with one of the belligerents to become entangled with those of another.

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COMMENT OF THE AMERICAN PRESS ON BERLIN NOTE

New York, May 5.—Commenting editorially on the German note the Evening Sun says: "We cordially hope our government may find in the note the solution of our own difficulties, but as a general indication as respects the prospects of peace, it fills us with gloom. Plainly Germany is not in the humor yet to heed the counsels of wisdom or humanity. She is still world-defiant."

The Globe says: "The reply is thus not to be accepted as a settlement of the matters in dispute between the United States and Germany. There is no compliance or substantial compliance. The little that is conceded is conceded conditionally. No choice would thus seem open to our government but to carry out its declared intention to sever diplomatic relations."

Some of the editorial comment throughout the country follows: Boston Traveller: "The note is an amusing combination of evasion, denial, irony and fact. It is an invitation to the President to begin a new series of communications, and the services of humanity is dragged in after the President's own fashion, as if to make him wonder whether the Kaiser is patting him on the back or poking fun at him."

Pittsburg Leader: "The latest German note in reply to President Wilson's last word on the submarine question leaves plenty of ground for hope that a working understanding will be reached with a lessening of friction between the two governments."

Louisville Times: "The unofficial text of the German note serves notice that the United States must either force Great Britain to end her blockade of foodstuffs or acquiesce in a continuance of Germany's methods of submarine warfare about the lines already laid down. This means either the United States must recede or it must break with Germany. The President has announced what his course would be under these conditions. The country stands with him."

Baltimore News: "The United States demanded the establishment of a certain status quo. Germany has established it. How long she can or will maintain it is another question. But for the time being we are left with nothing to complain of."

Chattanooga (Tenn.) News: "The German note is about as satisfactory as could be expected. The immediate issue is whether or not the concessions made are sufficient. We believe they will cause a better feeling among the American people."

Providence Bulletin: "The note is a brutal mockery of the wounds again (Continued on page 2).