The Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

VOL. LV. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1916 NO. 81.

Last German Post in Kameruns Falls To British; Persia's Sinking Calls Wilson To Washington

SUBMARINE ISSUE NOW SQUARELY UP TO WILSON

President Returns to Deal With Persia Matter

LIKELY DISCUSSED IN HOUSE AND SENATE

Immediate Decision May Be Demanded of Teutonic Powers as Result of Latest Outrage — Times Reports Another P. & O. Boat Gone.

London, Jan. 4—The Times learns that the Peninsular & Oriental liner Geelong, 5,030 tons, has been sunk near the Mediterranean.

All on board the vessel were saved.

Washington, Jan. 3—President Wilson started to Washington from Hot Springs (Va.), tonight to take personal charge of the nation's foreign affairs in the new crisis brought about by the sinking of the British steamship Persia, with a loss of a least one American life. The situation is regarded in official circles as being the most serious to confront this government since the submarine operations of the Central Powers began.

The president probably will lay the facts thus far established before his cabinet tomorrow. The destruction of the Persia, following closely upon the crisis precipitated by the Ancona disaster may result in the United States determining to settle immediately all the questions involved in the submarine warfare. The subject is expected to find its way to the floor of the house and senate tomorrow, when congress reconvenes after the holidays.

The United States is represented tonight as being prepared and determined to take any action that the facts concerning the Persia, yet to be established, may warrant. Officials still are trying to view the situation with an open mind, but it is apparent that they are disturbed by the reports received from consular agents at Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt. Every effort will be made to establish the truth of the report that the Persia was torpedoed without warning. Secretary of State Lansing contemplates taking no steps until the complete details are known.

Austrian Agent Seeks to Blind Issue.

Officials find one source of gratification in assurances given by Baron Zwiedinek, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy, to Secretary of State Lansing during a conference today at the White House. Baron Zwiedinek is said to have suggested that judgment be suspended until the facts are known and to have expressed the belief that the final explanation of the latest incident would be satisfactory. He is said to have assured the secretary of his belief that if an Austrian submarine commander violated the principles of international law and the rules of humanity his government would be quick to take action which would fully satisfy the United States. Baron Zwiedinek also sought information for the benefit of his government.

Secretary Lansing today instructed Ambassador Penfield at Vienna to make informal inquiries which might lead to the establishment of the identity of the submarine which sank the Persia or the receipt of information concerning the circumstances of the attack.

The secretary acted upon an indication received from an undisclosed source that no submarines of other than Austrian nationality were known to be operating near the point where the Persia went down. No specific instructions were given to Ambassador Penfield. He is expected to proceed as he thinks best and forward any information obtainable. Officials here are not finally convinced that a submarine was responsible for the sinking of the Persia, and still see a remote possibility that the vessel might have struck a floating mine, which had drifted to that part of the sea from some adjacent field of operations.

Was Persia Armed?

The report that the liner was carrying a 4.7 gun served to revive consideration of the position taken by the United States in regard to the armed merchantmen. In the early days of the war it was announced that merchant ships belonging to belligerents might be allowed to enter and leave American waters with guns of six-inch calibre or less, mounted upon their sterns. At that time cruisers of the Central Powers had not been swept from the seas. Later Great Britain and France, at the suggestion of the United States, agreed that their ships coming into American waters should not be armed, thus eliminating the possibility of a controversy over that point so far as vessels plying out of ports of the United States were concerned.

Since then all war craft of the Teutonic Allies with the exception of submarines, have disappeared from the high seas. Consequently, it is considered in some quarters that merchantmen mounting guns even of small calibre astern, might be considered prepared for resisting a hostile submarine.

(Continued on page 8.)

CHIEF OF FRENCH GENERAL STAFF

General C. de Castelnau, who has recently been looking after Allied interests in Greece.

MORE OPTIMISTIC REPORT FROM ATHENS

King Peter of Serbia Welcomed to Saloniki and His Visit Improves Situation—Alien Enemies Under Surveillence.

Paris, Jan. 3—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Athens says:

"It is announced that the chamber of deputies has been convoked for January 17, a week earlier than had previously been intended. King Constantine himself will open the session.

"The Greek government, through the Prefect of Saloniki, has sent an address of welcome to King Peter of Serbia. The newspapers emphasize the influence that the visit of the Serbian king is likely to have on the relations of Greece and the Entente Powers. The newspapers say that the situation between Greece and the Entente Powers is obviously improving."

Provisions Scarce at Saloniki.

Paris, Jan. 3—A Havas despatch from Athens says that word is received from Saloniki to the effect that all suspected subjects of nations at war with the Entente Allies are being arrested and taken on board a warship after being interrogated.

Saloniki merchants have appealed to the government to facilitate the transportation of supplies necessary for the population, the scarcity of provisions becoming more noticeable every day.

Portugal Faithful to Allies.

Paris, Jan. 3—A Havas despatch from Lisbon says: "The president of the republic, in receiving members of parliament, manifested a desire that the sacred union of all parties be maintained during the war in order that the Allies might have reason to be satisfied with the services rendered by the Portuguese nation."

Not Much In This.

Berlin, Jan. 3, via wireless to Sayville—"General opinion in Bulgaria," says the Overseas News Agency today, "is that the relations between the Entente Powers and Greece will be seriously affected by the reported disclosures in letters found on Colonel Napier, former British military attache at Sofia, when he was taken from a Greek steamer by an Austrian submarine last month.

"The contemptuous remarks concerning Greece and the revelations regarding Serbian military preparations against Bulgaria before the Bulgarian mobilization, said to have been contained in the letters, made a deep impression upon Bulgarians, and the subject was one discussed by members of all parties in the lobbies of parliament at Sofia."

King Constantine's Condition Satisfactory.

Athens, Greece, Jan. 3—Professor Kraus, of Berlin, and Professor Eiselberg, of Vienna, who are attending King Constantine, announced tonight that his condition was most satisfactory.

CANADIAN PERSONALS.

Major J. A. MacKenzie Reported at General Headquarters—Dr. Beland in Berlin Jail.

(Montreal Gazette Cable).

London, Jan. 3—C. P. Just, former Canadian trade commissioner at Hamburg, has returned from Canada and is expected to address the Canadian Export Merchants' Association next week.

Major J. A. MacKenzie, of the 26th New Brunswick battalion, who was recently wounded, is under treatment at general headquarters.

Lieutenant M. N. McPhee, of the 5th field company of engineers, is at the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital at Le Touquet, suffering from a bullet wound in the thigh.

Hon. Dr. Beland, former postmaster-general of Canada, of whom news was received at the high commissioner's office in London last week, is now reported to be in a Berlin jail, having an unpleasant experience, which is rendered worse by the fact that Madame Beland is seriously ill at the German capital.

Hon. Dr. Beland, according to advices received in London, has done something to increase the enmity of the officials in Berlin who had him removed from the civilian internment camp at the capital. The ex-Canadian minister was in Belgium when the war broke out and was taken prisoner of war by the Germans.

SHIPMENT OF WOOL FROM AUSTRALIA AND GREAT BRITAIN RESTRICTED.

London, Jan. 3—Licenses for the shipment of English wool, Australian crossbred wool and top merino tops to the United States are not being granted. It is believed that American purchases this season in the Cape and Australia and New Zealand, estimated at 800,000 bales, will not all be allowed to be shipped. The wools bought privately up country are the first to be discriminated against.

FORD PARTY TO CROSS GERMANY AS PRISONERS

Going Through in Sealed Train Under Strict Conditions

DISBAND AT HAGUE AFTER JANUARY 12

Secretary in Charge of Expedition Offered Price of 200 Fords for Privilege But Only Regular Rates Are Charged—Leaving Copenhagen Friday.

Copenhagen, Jan. 3, via London—The German government has granted the Ford peace expedition permission to travel to The Hague through Germany by special train. The party will leave Copenhagen next Friday.

The final arrangements for the trip were made through the German consul in Copenhagen who, after consultation with Berlin, announced that his government was willing for the mission to proceed through German territory. This privilege was granted despite the refusal of the American state department to extend the passports of the members of the party to cover a belligerent country.

The conditions under which the Americans will travel are strict. Their passports will be sealed, being opened within Germany only by officials authorized to touch German soil during the journey. The members of the mission will not be permitted to carry written, printed or typewritten papers. The concealment of any papers, even of an innocent character, will result in complications for the entire party. Other things that the party must abandon before reaching German territory are cameras, postcards, opera glasses and gold coin. Most of the baggage of the expedition will be shipped back to the United States from Copenhagen.

Disband After January 12.

It is announced that the expedition will disband at The Hague on January 12, most of the members returning home from Rotterdam on that day.

That the peace expedition will be able to travel through a belligerent country, even though its journey is under special guard with the members of the party almost as prisoners, is regarded in Europe as the most picturesque feature that this unique project has developed. For days the managers of the party were perplexed as to how they could reach The Hague, which previously had been selected as the party's ultimate goal. The United States government refused to extend the passports of the delegates so as to enable them to travel through Germany, although an appeal had been made to Minister Morris at Stockholm and to Minister Egan at Copenhagen to this end.

Definite word came from Washington, however, it is declared, that the peace party must be kept out of warring countries, as its presence in them might entail complications.

That seemed to make passage through Germany out of the question. Accordingly, arrangements were made to charter a steamer to Holland, but this was thought to be objectionable on account of war condition in the North Sea. Finally Gaston Plantiff, Mr. Ford's representative, went to the German minister and consul in Copenhagen, offering to pay $50,000 for a special train on the German railroads.

No Extra Charge.

After negotiations with Berlin in which the nature of the peace expedition was explained, and it being made clear that the members of the party did not desire to remain on German soil, the consul announced that the request had been granted, provided the peacemakers subject themselves to the strictest military law. It is understood that the railroad refused to accept any pay for the trip in addition to the regular charge in such cases. The 150 members of the party were busy throughout the day complying with the special arrangements. Each was obliged to furnish four extra photographs of himself, two to be sent to Berlin and two to remain with the consul. Each members of the party was cautioned against carrying papers, on the penalty of being left in Germany if delayed on this account, as the train must proceed on schedule regardless of any side issues. Each person before departing must personally present his passport to the German consul as proof that he is an American citizen.

The announcement that the party will disband at The Hague on January 12, is explained, means only that those who are not connected for places on the permanent peace board will depart.

Famous Circus Proprietor Dead.

New York, Jan. 3—A despatch from Baraboo (Wis.), announces the death of A. L. Ringling, 66 years old, of Bright's disease. He had been ill about a year. Mr. Ringling was the oldest of the Ringling Brothers, circus owners, who have their winter headquarters at Baraboo.

NO CESSATION IN FIERCE BATTLE IN BESSERABIA

ENEMY REPORT GAIN IN WEST; NOT CONFIRMED

French Report Artillery Used With Good Effect in Pursuit of Fleeing Columns—Austrians Meeting Bitter Attack of Russians.

London, Jan. 3—The latest despatches from the southern extremity of the Russian front indicates that heavy fighting is continuing, with the Russian army of General Ivanoff gaining ground. One correspondent reports that these operations began with an offensive movement on the part of the Austrians, designed to straighten their line, and that after repulsing this attack the Russians assumed the initiative. It is evident the Russian advances are now extended a considerable distance beyond the Stripa river.

In other despatches it is asserted that two great offensive actions clashed, the Russians having advanced as a threat against the Teutons in their Balkan campaign, which the Austro-Hungarians had begun with the capture of Belgrade, their positions against the attack expected from General Ivanoff early in the spring.

Whatever may be the case, there is no doubt the result of these operations will have an important effect on the Balkan campaign, especially in their influence on the future plans of Roumania.

It is reported with increasing frequency that the central powers are planning an attack on Saloniki, but they are said to be experiencing difficulties with Bulgaria which, according to these reports, does not wish to participate in such a campaign, unless it promises something more than expulsion of the Allies from Saloniki. In Athens anxious thought is being given to the seizure of the consuls representing Germany and her allies at Saloniki. It is expected that so far as Greece is concerned the incident will be closed with the release of the consuls under safe conduct. While requesting some such action by the Entente Powers, Greece also has protested to Germany against the aeroplane attack on Saloniki.

England awaits with the greatest interest details regarding the bill for compulsory military service which Premier Asquith will introduce in the house of commons on Wednesday. It is announced that Ireland will come within the scope of the bill.

Kamerun Post Occupied.

London, Jan. 3, 8.20 p. m.—A British official report from Kamerun, German Equatorial Africa, says that Jaunde, a governmental station, was occupied January 1.

The statement reads:

"On January 1, a British force under Colonel Corges occupied Jaunde in Kamerun. The enemy retreated to the south and southeast. Our troops are in contact with the enemy's rear guard. The German government officials fled from Jaunde."

French Guns Put Enemy to Flight.

Paris, Jan. 3—The French war office this afternoon gave out a communication on the progress of hostilities reading as follows:

"In the Champagne district, near the highway between Tahure and Sommepy, a German attack in which hand grenades were used was repulsed.

"In the Argonne district, near Four-De-Paris, there was an efficacous firing of our guns against the works of the enemy. The German troops, fleeing from their shelters were subjected to a concentrated fire of our 75-millimetre guns."

Austrians Repulsed in All Day Battle.

Paris, Jan. 2—A Montenegrin official statement received here today says:

"The enemy on January 1, attacked our positions at Goduivo and after a day's fighting was repulsed with appreciable loss. There have been artillery and infantry combats on the other fronts."

Germans Report Mine Explosion.

Berlin, Jan. 3, via London—The text of today's statement follows from the war office:

"Western front: A large mine exploded north of the La Bassee-Bethune road with complete success. A fighting trench, reserve trenches and a communication trench of the enemy were blown in. The surviving occupants attempted to escape by flight but were caught by the fire of our rifles and machine guns.

"A surprise attack made over a wide front took the occupants of the trenches by surprise, and they in part sought safety by flight. On the remainder of the front there were no events of importance. During the shelling of Lutterbach, in Alsace, by the French on New Year's Day, when the people were leaving church, one girl was killed and a woman and three children were injured.

"Eastern front: At various places the Russians continued, with the same lack of success as heretofore, their attacks with patrols and other small detachments of troops.

"Balkan front: There is nothing to report."

Bitter Fighting in Bessarabia.

Berlin, via wireless to Sayville, Jan. 3—The Austro-Hungarian official communication of January 3, as received here says:

"Bitter fighting is going on along the Bessarabian front. The enemy made the utmost efforts to break the Austro-Hungarian front. The attempts failed in their purpose. Three officers and 850 soldiers were made prisoners.

"Isolated Russian advances on the Sereth, at the mouth of the Lower Stripa, in the Kormin district, and on the Styr river were repulsed.

"Balkan theatre: A Montenegrin detachment which undertook an advance near Moykovac, on the north bank of the Tara river, was routed."

Quiet in Alps.

Vienna, via London, Jan. 3—The official communication issued today says that no important events have occurred on the Austro-Italian front."

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER MORE SHIPS

British Ships Trading Between Foreign Ports Likely Called In

SHIPPERS FEAR A LOWER RATE

Requisitioned Ships Receive Only Thirteen Shillings as Compared With Normal Rate of Seventeen—U. S. and South American Trade Affected.

London, Jan. 3, 8.56 p. m.—The government is taking stringent measures to see that the prevailing shortage in ships shall not interfere with the shipment of food and other necessities to ports in the United Kingdom. Vessels are being requisitioned right and left for the shipment of wheat from the Americas, and in shipping circles it is reported that the admiralty intends to call in the British ships that are now trading between foreign ports. The latter measure is expected to particularly affect British ships trading between South America and the United States. Shipping [illegible] expect a very [illegible] effect on this trade.

Ship owners in England and neutral shippers regard the new-born energy of the government with misgivings, as requisitioned wheat ships are receiving only thirteen shillings, compared with the normal rate of seventeen shillings. The first hint a vessel receives that it is to be requisitioned is the following telegram from the admiralty toward the free end of its voyage:

"You are required by the requisitioning (carriage of foodstuffs) committee to fix your vessel to load a cargo of 75 per cent wheat from the Atlantic coast of Canada, the United States or the Gulf to the United Kingdom. You may make your own arrangements as to freight, etc. Formal notice is following by letter."

NELSON MAIN, I. C. R. CAR INSPECTOR, KILLED AT MONCTON

Moncton, Jan. 3—Nelson Main, aged 48, I. C. R. car inspector, while at work in the Moncton yard at 6 o'clock tonight, was run over by a car and had both legs cut off. He died a few hours later of his injuries. He leaves his wife and nine children.

WILL NOT ACCEPT FIVE PER CENT. WAGE INCREASE.

Nashua, N. H., Jan. 3—Union mill cotton operatives today throughout New England will not accept the five per cent. wage increase which many manufacturers stated would go into effect today, according to a statement made here today by John Holden, of Fall River, president of the United Textile Workers. Union operatives, Holden said, have for some time been considering a demand for a ten per cent. increase.

NO TROUBLE TO RAISE 500,000 SAYS SIR SAM

Looking for Successful Business and Professional Men to Join Ranks—No More Drafts.

Ottawa, Jan. 3—Sir Sam Hughes stated today that no great difficulty was anticipated in raising Canada's quota of men for overseas service to the half million mark.

"What I especially desire is strong men with successful professional or business training," said the minister of militia, "to join the ranks and perfect their military training."

Training schools will be established all over the country and the practice of sending over drafts to reinforce battalions will be discontinued. In order to preserve identity all will go as separate battalions.

Congratulations on the premier's announcement have been pouring in from all over Canada. They include patriotic messages from the Winnipeg Clearing House, Rev. Dr. Chown, superintendent of the Methodist church, Colonel D. T. McLean, Liberal member for Queens-Sunbury, and the Manitoba Boy Scouts Association.

HEROIC FRENCH SISTERS AWARDED THE CROSS OF WAR

Vertus, France, Jan. 3, 5.56 p. m.—Four young sisters have been decorated with the Cross of War in the presence of a regimetn of artillery. They were cited in an order of the day of the —— division, in the following terms: "Marie, Helene, Camille and Madeleine Vatel, at the peril of life in a region occupied by the Germans, patriotically revictualed in the thick of the woods, from Sept 8 to 12, 1914, seven French soldiers who were then surrounded by the enemy at Fere Champenoise, and who, thanks to their care, were able to find their regiment after the German retreat."

The order was read to the sisters and the medals pinned on them, after which the regiment filed past them, the crowd applauding the sisters.

I. C. R. CONDUCTOR KILLED IN FREIGHT TRAINS COLLISION

Halifax, Jan. 4—Two freight trains from Moncton were in collision at Thomson's siding at midnight. It was a rear-end collision. Conductor E. Johnson was killed and one of the firemen injured. The wreck is a bad one, many of the cars being shattered.

WANTS FIRMER GRIP.

Thomas Gibson Bowles, Unionist Candidate, to Enter House of Commons as Naval Critic.

London, Jan. 3—Thomas Gibson Bowles, who changed his political coat and subsequently reverted to his original faith, will be the Unionist candidate for the parliamentary seat of St. George's, made vacant by the recent elevation of Sir Alexander Henderson to the peerage.

Mr. Bowles' role in the house of commons, to which, in view of the present system of uncontested elections, he is sure of being returned, will be agitation for the sterner use of Great Britain's sea power in the prosecution of the war. He contends that the navy's grappling irons are hampered by fear in some of the government departments of offending neutrals, and he wants to see a more complete stoppage of supplies reaching Germany through neutral countries.

Resumes Gold Payments.

Stockholm, via London, Jan. 3—The National Bank of Sweden has resumed the payment of notes in gold, which had been suspended since Aug. 2, 1914.

GERMANS FORCED TO WITHDRAW GOLD FROM SAFETY VAULTS

Berlin, via London, Dec. 30—At a meeting of the Reichsbank Central Committee today Rudolf Havenstein, president of the bank, discussed the recent measure to increase the gold stock of the institution by having the general credit banks compel customers to withdraw hoarded gold from lock boxes in safe deposit vaults.

Herr Havenstein said the measure promised gratifying results, and that the daily deposits of gold in the Reichsbank for a whole week had been as great as previously. Referring to the large increase in the note circulation of the bank, Herr Havenstein said this was due to the heavy currency demands in foreign regions occupied by the German armies.

A FRENCH EXPEDITION BLOCKS ROAD TO EGYPT

(Continued from page 1.)

eral headquarters follows:

"Russian theatre: The battles in east Galicia are increasing in extent and violence. The enemy yesterday directed attacks not only against the Bessarabian front but also against our positions to the east of the Lower Middle Stripa. His advance failed, due mostly to the fire of our batteries. Where the storming columns endeavored to penetrate our positions they collapsed under the fire of our artillery or machine guns.

"When attacked at the bridgehead of Burkanow the enemy left 900 dead or wounded. Three officers and 870 men surrendered. The total number of prisoners taken yesterday in East Galicia was 1,200.

"On the Ikwa-Putilowka front there were local artillery battles. On Kormyn brook, a tributary of the Styr, the Austro-Hungarian troops repulsed several Russian attacks.

"Italian theatre:—On the Tyrolean front attempted attacks on Torbole and Carbonile mountain were stopped by our fire. On the ridges north of Tonale Pass, the Italians under cover of a Red Cross flag, attempted to construct wire entanglements but were fired on. On the Doberdo plateau vigorous bomb throwing contests lasted until night.

"Southeastern theatre: There is nothing to report."

"In the harbor of Durazzo one steamer and one sailing vessel have been sunk. The fire of several coast batteries was silenced during which two destroyers struck mines. The Lika was sunk, and the Triglav was damaged. The greater part of the crew was saved.

"The Triglav was taken into tow, but after some hours had to be sunk, as superior numbers of hostile destroyers and cruisers menaced the retreat of our whole flotilla, which returned to its base.

"Among the hostile ships only a British cruiser of the class of the Bristol or Falmouth type, and a French destroyer of the class of the Bouclier, were clearly identified.

Austrians Doing Attacking.

Rome, via London, Dec. 30—The war office communication, issued today, says:

"In the Lagarina Valley groups of infantry repeatedly attacked in the environs of Costello Dante, south of Rovereto, but were repulsed, leaving some prisoners in our hands. In the region of Col Di Lana the enemy's attempted attack was halted by our fire."

COMPULSION ONLY DURING THE WAR

(Continued from page 1)

If the trades unions agree to compulsory service, says the Star today, they may demand as a corollary the exceptional taxation of members of the community exempted by age or incapacity from bearing arms.

The Press Assocation says it understands that the conference of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, which was sitting in London today, is strongly opposed to any form of compulsory service and that a resolution will be passed to this effect.

Miners Against Compulsion.

Cardiff, Wales, Dec. 30—The executive committee of the Miners' Federation of South Wales met today and unanimously adopted a resolution against the "sinister efforts of certain party politicians and a section of the press to impose conscription on the people."

The resolution asks the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to call a national conference immediately to protest against any legislation for conscription.

Henderson Loyal to Asquith.

London, Dec. 30—There are indications that Premier Asquith will find many supporters of his compulsion scheme among the Laborites. An unofficial report of today's Labor conference says:

"The details of Lord Derby's recruiting report were submitted at the meeting, together with a general outline of the cabinet's proposals for a bill to meet the situation. The number of men of military age who remain unattested took the conference by surprise, and they were less surprised by Mr. Asquith's description of the methods by which the government proposes to apply compulsion to these.

"So frank was the information vouchsafed by Mr. Henderson that practical unanimity was shown by those present."

CANADA HAS PLENTY OF MONEY TILL SUMMER, SAYS FINANCE MINISTER.

Ottawa, Dec. 30—The minister of finance, in an interview today, stated that the finances of the dominion at this, the end of the calendar year, were most satisfactory, and that the returns from the war budget of February last had exceeded his best expectations.

Asked as to future borrowings for war expenditure, the minister said that the question did not arise at present, as the recent war loan, with its instalment payments and the surplus cash and revenues of the dominion, would provide our war expenditure until early next summer. In the spring he would consider what further funds were required and where to raise them.

If your hands perspire while sewing keep by you a flannel bag of powdered alum with which to dust the hands at intervals.