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Americans Place Ships At Disposal Of Entente Allies

Construction Rate Does Not Keep Pace With the Losses

SEIZED GERMAN VESSELS?

Submarine Matter Grows More Serious - Agitation in British Press Growing in Volume - Call For Younger Blood in Admiralty

Washington, May 1.—The United States has already placed a considerable amount of ship tonnage at the disposal of the Entente Allies. Lord Easton, secretary of the British Admiralty, said today that the government had supplied certain vessels to be used according to the Allies' needs, but refused to indicate what they were or if they were seized German ships. Lord Percy declared that the present rate of British construction of ships could not keep pace with the present rate of destruction by submarines. "The balancing figure in the world's struggle," said Lord Percy, "is the tonnage the United States can supply."

New York, May 1.—An Associated Press cable from London says: "A vigorous attempt was made in the House of Commons yesterday failed to persuade the government to adopt a policy of greater publicity with regard to the submarine warfare. The only satisfaction critics of the government were able to obtain was a promise that the matter would be discussed in secret session. "Some of the members of the house raised the question of the accuracy of the tonnage sunk, as quoted by the Daily News, the German minister of the interior, but no reply was given. When invited to give figures of the tonnage sunk, the minister said that he would do so in a separate report. "The minister said that the tonnage sunk by British ports, 1,000 tons at and more, financial secretary of the admiralty, said he could only reply that the present system of publishing the tonnage returns had been agreed upon between the Allied countries, the inference being that no modification in this system was contemplated. "Sir Edward Carson declined to give any information concerning the sinking of German submarines. "In the meantime agitation by the press and the public is daily growing. A shipping authority, says ships are now being launched in British yards, not being one-fourth of the British vessels sunk. Demands are being made in various quarters that the government should even build merchant tonnage in government yards rather than warships, taking the ground that, especially with the aid of the American navy, the British navy is fully adequate to the requirements, while the replacing of sunken tonnage is a dire necessity. "In connection with the submarine problem a loud demand is being made for younger blood at the Admiralty, this being heightened by the announcement of Captain W. Bellairs in the House of Commons on Saturday that he would make a motion calling on the cabinet to adopt the navy the practice followed by the war office having a separate staff for the conduct of the navy, and the placing of command of the fleet squadrons, squadrons and naval bases in the hands of selected officers. "It is understood that Premier Lloyd George is giving these questions his personal attention and it is not unlikely some interesting announcement will come up for discussion in the House of Commons soon. "Within recent days several captains have been promoted to be rear-admirals and immediately retired, the object being to allow younger officers to come to the front."

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers of real estate have been recorded as follows: St. John County: Bertha E. and H. S. Dryden to R. G. Magee, property in Simonds. S. H. Ewing et al to Ethel M. wife of James Garnett, property in Simonds. W. M. Mackay to Robert Totten, property in St. Martin. N. B. Reilly, Ltd. to Brunswick Realty, Ltd., property in Lancaster and Westmorland roads, Douglas avenue and Great Marsh road. Kings County: G. H. Brown to Elizabeth J. Brown, property in Stadhouders. W. Williams Howard to W. D. Stewart, property in Sussex. Richard Clafferty to Margaret Rafferty, property in Robbsey. Elda Rose to M. J. Thorne, property in Norton. H. D. Pitts to Richard Nicholson, property in Norton. E. C. T. White to Elizabeth Connelly, property in Simonds. WHEAT TAKES TUMBLE IN CHICAGO MARKET Chicago, May 1.—Opening wheat prices, which ranged from the same as yesterday's finish to 3-4 cents higher, with May at 27 1/2 and July at 22 1/2 to 22 3/4, were followed by sharp declines that in some cases amounted to more than five cents.

GIVE UP TRYING TO GUIDE GUNNERS FROM AEROPLANES

GERMANS SEEK NOW TO SMASH ALLIED AIR FORCES HAVE A NEW MACHINE

CLIMBS 20,000 FEET TO OVERTOP BRITISH IN HOPE OF CLEARING THEM OUT—OUR MEN DARING AND MANY MACHINES LOST

Washington, April 30.—How the British and French are maintaining practical control of the air over the western battle front was graphically described here today by Major L. W. B. Rees of the British flying corps, who himself once routed single-handed a squadron of ten German raiders and is one of the few Englishmen to receive both the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross. While the allied operations are conducted almost entirely beyond the German lines, the major said, the German machines now cross over the Allied lines only rarely in raiding parties. The lowest are the single men light fighters, which are the artillery directors, who circle about in big figure eights about 6,000 feet above the enemy trenches and flash back directions to the British gunners by wireless, bobs, horns, at 10,000 feet, are the heavy fighters with two men to a machine and able to keep an air for four hours at a speed of 110 miles an hour. At a height of 15,000 feet are the single men light fighters, capable of 150 miles an hour and of ascending the first 10,000 feet in ten minutes. The Germans, Major Rees said, have given up all attempt to guide their artillery by aeroplane and seek only to smash up the allied reconnaissance over their lines. Their machines are largely of one class, therefore fast, heavy fighters, generally biplanes, which are continually seeking to swoop down on the British reconnaissance planes. The Germans had developed another light fighting machine, which, by climbing to 20,000 feet, seeks to overtop the British light fighters and clear them out.

LEUT. C. K. WHITTAKER DIES IN WAR

CALLANT ST. JOHN SOLDIER, KILLED IN ACTION, HAD WON MILITARY CROSS

Mrs. Charles Whittaker, daughter of J. M. Robertson, 122 Orange street, received word this morning that her husband, Lieut. Charles Kenneth Whittaker, M.C., was killed in action on April 28. Lieut. Whittaker, who was thirty years of age, has been living in the west about eleven years. He formerly was a resident of St. John and was employed with the C. P. H. here. Besides his wife, he is survived by two young sons. It is only a short time since the news was received that Lieut. Whittaker had been awarded the military cross for distinguished services.

MAY DAY IN GERMANY

London, May 1.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from the Hague says: "Travelers from Germany announce that strikes have been going on for the last ten days in Westphalia and the Rhine provinces, especially in the steel industry. The military authorities consequently have forbidden newspapers to be sent out of the country." Rations Improved. London, May 1.—As a result of recent strikes among the German workers in the war industries, considerable concessions in foodstuffs have been granted, according to a despatch to the Daily News from Rotterdam. The meat ration has been raised by a half pound weekly, while the potato ration has been increased by five pounds.

STEAMER AFIRE IN FEARFUL GALE ON LAKE ERIE

Toledo, Ohio, May 1.—An unknown freight steamer burned early this morning during a terrific southeast gale in Lake Erie. The steamer was on a run from Toledo to Cleveland. Observers at North Bass Island say they discerned the boat clearly and that it was apparently ashore just off the island and burned furiously. It is not known whether or not there was loss of life. East Sister Island, entirely uninhabited, is in Canadian waters, twelve miles north of Putin Bay.

ALLEGED PLOT TO EXPLODE BOMB IN WALL STREET

New York, May 1.—Two German employees of Roosevelt Hospital—Wolf Hirsch, an assistant chemist, and George Meyringer, a general utility man—were arrested last night, charged with having a bomb in their possession. The police said they had received earlier in the day information of an alleged plot to explode a bomb in Wall street, with the object of creating a panic at the stock market opening tomorrow. Hirsch, upon whom the bomb is alleged to have been found, and Meyringer, were taken into custody, according to the police, as they were about to board an elevated railway train bound for the financial district. Hirsch, it was charged, constructed the bomb from a tin can and chemical ingredients taken from the hospital laboratory.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service. Synopsis.—The disturbance which was over the northwest states yesterday is now centered near Lake Huron, with increased intensity, causing strong winds and showers in Ontario. In Quebec and the maritime provinces and also in the west the weather has been fair and cool. Ottawa Valley—Strong winds and showers today. Wednesday, westerly winds, fair and cool. Showers. Maritime—Moderate winds, fair today, showers tonight and Wednesday, with strong east shifting to southwest winds. New England—Showers tonight, Wednesday, probably fair winds becoming south to west and increasing to moderate gales.

WAS SETTLED

In the local police court this morning nine colored sailors and firemen of a vessel now docked here, entered a protest against the manner in which they were being used by the captain. The men said that when they reached port they were not allowed to go ashore and the captain had made threats. The captain read some extracts from his log book concerning the conduct of some of the men on the high seas. The court was unsuccessful in acting as mediator between the members of the crew and the officers. The members of the crew promised to obey orders after the magistrate had explained the exacting demands that war now imposed on all classes in all lines of work. The men left the court apparently satisfied, as did the officers of the ship.

NO HEAVY FIGHTING ON WEST; FIRMER GRIP ON THE SHIPPING PROBLEMS

OFFICIAL RE-ORGANIZE GAINS; SUCCESSFUL BRITISH RAID

PARIS, MAY 1.—The French are re-organizing the positions captured in the Champagne, and no heavy fighting occurred last night. Following is today's official account of military operations: "South of the Meuse we captured a German tank on one of our small posts in the region of Bastille. Along the Chemin des Dames, the artillery fighting was rather violent. In the sector between Troyon and Hurebette patrol encounters occurred. "A German reconnoitering party which attempted to approach our lines west of Hurebette was driven back by our fire. "In the Champagne the night passed in relative quiet in the sector of our attack where our troops are organizing the captured positions. The number of prisoners captured by us in the fighting yesterday and actually enumerated is more than 400. "There is nothing to report on the remainder of the front."

STRIKES ON MAY DAY IN CANADA

Montreal, May 1.—Industrial Montreal is not greatly affected by May Day strikes, about 200 men are out. Of these between thirty and fifty are linemen of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co., and 145 are cigar makers employed by the Andrew Wilson Co. Both ask for increase in pay. It was said by the cigar makers that about 200 cigar makers were also on strike in Toronto. The usual May Day parade by Socialist societies will be held this evening when about 5,000 will march to the Champ de Mars and listen to Socialist speakers. Winnipeg, May 1.—After eight o'clock this morning it was impossible to get any connection over the Winnipeg telephone system. A that hour the telephone system was being held in a meeting to consider a suggestion that the strike be postponed until tomorrow. The city electrical workers have postponed action for twenty-four hours. Three next-type hydrants are being installed in Adelaide street. Rapid progress is being made in the laying of the twenty-four inch sewer cotta main to replace the old wooden sewer along the head of Brussels street to connect with the main in Union street. The call for tenders for the big Lancaster water main renewal contract has been delayed beyond the first of the month by the fact that the specifications are not quite ready.

CUT DOWN SIZE OF PARIS PAPERS

Paris, May 1.—The scarcity of print paper has compelled the government to order still further restrictions in the size of newspapers. After Saturday the principal one-cent newspapers will be of two pages four days a week and four pages the other three days. Newspapers selling for more than a cent, such as the Temps, the Figaro and the Journal des Debats, will print two pages once or twice a week, according to the measurements of the sheets.

ABOLISH SALUTE IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY

Officers No Longer to Have Swords—Soldiers Get Liberty in Barracks and When Off Duty. Petrograd, April 30, via London, May 1.—General Gurko, commander of the army on the western front, attended a dosing session of the congress of delegates from the forces under his command and in a long speech congratulated the officers and men on their successful labors. He asked the delegates to explain fully to the soldiers the resolutions of the congress. The full particulars are in the hands of Rear-Admiral Sims and the American naval attaché, who presumably have made reports to Washington. The American consular officials will observe the customary traditions of the officers and members of the crew who have landed.

WORST WEEK YET FOR NORWEGIAN SHIPS

Twenty-three Sunk—Plan to Try New Style of Motor Ships. London, May 1.—A Christiania despatch to the Daily Mail says that twenty-three Norwegian ships, aggregating 86,000 tons, were sunk by submarines last week. This is a record for Norwegian losses. The correspondent says that an experiment is about to be made with two motor ships, the hulls of which are constructed of ferro-concrete, to test the fitness of such vessels for North Sea trade. The boats will be of 1,000 tons and 600 tons respectively. Ferro-concrete lighters have been used successfully for some time in the Swedish coast traffic. The Norwegian boats can be built in four or five months and are cheaper than those of steel or wood.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1917

J. B. SMITHERS, FORMERLY OF ST. JOHN, DIES IN HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., May 1.—James B. Smithers died this morning in the Home for Aged Men, this city. Years ago he conducted a successful business in Barrington street. Leaving Halifax, he located in St. John in 1877. He removed to St. John to Brockton, Mass., remaining there until 1909, when he returned to Halifax. WAS SETTLED. In the local police court this morning nine colored sailors and firemen of a vessel now docked here, entered a protest against the manner in which they were being used by the captain. The men said that when they reached port they were not allowed to go ashore and the captain had made threats. The captain read some extracts from his log book concerning the conduct of some of the men on the high seas. The court was unsuccessful in acting as mediator between the members of the crew and the officers. The members of the crew promised to obey orders after the magistrate had explained the exacting demands that war now imposed on all classes in all lines of work. The men left the court apparently satisfied, as did the officers of the ship.

FIRMER GRIP ON THE SHIPPING PROBLEMS

P. CLINCH JUDGE AT BLUE BONNETS AND WOODBINE

ALLIES' REPRESENTATIVES IN AMERICAN CAPITAL

UNITED STATES' GREAT TASK

She Faces Work of Feeding the World—Commissioners Confer—Apportionment of Cargoes Among Allies Likely. Washington, May 1.—It was said today that ministers of British and French war commissions will take up shipping problems with the shipping board immediately. This question is one of the most serious faced by the allied government and is one that has given the United States government great concern in planning for transporting and supplying American troops abroad. In the event an American army eventually is put on the firing line. It is believed the commissions will work out with the American government some definite plan of apportionment of cargoes among the allies so that each will be assured of sufficient supplies. A balance, too, will have to be arranged for the classes of supplies sent abroad so that food and munitions may be furnished in proper proportions. The administration within a few days will have introduced in congress legislation to give the president and the shipping board a firmer grasp of the nation's shipping. It would be a humane work to end the torture which these good and brave soldiers, whose heroism and hardihood are uncontested, have been undergoing for thirty-two months. I should be most happy if I could bring it about."

ALFONSO TRIES TO SECURE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS TAKEN IN EARLY DAYS OF WAR

Madrid, via Paris, May 1.—King Alfonso is working hard to obtain the consent of all the warring governments to the exchange of prisoners of war captured in the early battles of the war. In an audience given recently to Deputy Prat, of Versailles, the king said: "It would be a humane work to end the torture which these good and brave soldiers, whose heroism and hardihood are uncontested, have been undergoing for thirty-two months. I should be most happy if I could bring it about."

AMERICAN OILTANK STEAMER SUNK BUT DETAILS ARE WITHHELD

London, May 1.—The survivors of the American oiltank steamer Vacuum, which will arrive in Liverpool at midnight tonight, have been rescued. The full particulars are in the hands of Rear-Admiral Sims and the American naval attaché, who presumably have made reports to Washington. The American consular officials will observe the customary traditions of the officers and members of the crew who have landed.

YOU MAY GET AFTER THE LITTLE RIVER TROUT NOW

The Little River reservoir was opened today for public fishing, but so far as was known this morning there was no one on hand to take advantage of the opportunity. One boat has been placed on the lake and two others are ready to be taken out. As the lower end of the reservoir still is full of ice, the opportunity for fishing is not so great as it will be a little later. The regulations for the use of the reservoir fix the rate at fifty cents a rod, or day, with a minimum of \$1 for the use of a boat. Fishing from the shore will be entirely free and returned soldiers may fish from the boats also without payment. Only fly-fishing will be permitted. It is said that the reservoir is well stocked with brook trout, and that the good fish, but that they are wary and that it will take a good fisherman to land a creditable catch.

FREDERICTON DECLINES TO CHANGE TAX ON MOVIES

Fredricton, N. B., May 1.—The city council last night declined to make any change in the rate of taxation fixed for moving picture houses. Application was made by people who are to erect a new theatre for a fixed assessment instead of a tax of five cents a chair, but the council declined to grant it. Lieut-Governor and Mrs. Wood arrived last night and will occupy Glen Isle House for the session. B. Frank Smith and family, who have been occupying this house during the winter, will return tomorrow to Florenceville. The wedding of Pte. Charles T. Allen of the 236th Battalion and Miss Barbara Duplisse, daughter of Charles Duplisse, now overseas, took place here this afternoon. Rev. H. D. McLeod performed the ceremony. The city council at last night's meeting accepted the resignation of George McKnight as city engineer. The body of Miss M. G. Murray of St. John was brought here this morning, accompanied by relatives and friends, and was taken to Springhill this afternoon and interred in St. Peter's cemetery. Rev. W. J. Wilkinson conducted burial services. The weather continues very cold and the river is falling steadily.

AMERICAN RED CROSS UNITS TO WAR SCENE

Washington, May 1.—Six base hospital units recently organized by the Red Cross for army medical service have been ordered out for active duty, probably in France, and are expected to leave within three weeks. The Red Cross so announced today. Secretary of War Baker indicated that other units will go forward rapidly. INVESTIGATE HIGH COST OF LIVING IN NEWFOUNDLAND St. John's, Nfld., May 1.—A commission has been appointed by the colonial government to investigate the increased cost of living in Newfoundland. The committee is empowered to take evidence under oath. It is composed of P. T. McGrath, president of the legislative council; W. J. Ellis, a contractor and builder, and former mayor of St. John's; Thomas Hall, government engineer; Henry Lemessurier, deputy minister of customs, and Charles Hutchings, deputy minister of justice.

NEUTRALITY OF HOLLAND IS VIOLATED

London, May 1.—Bombs were dropped by an airplane on Sunday night on Zierikzee, in the Dutch province of Zeeland, says a Heuter despatch from the Hague under Monday's date. Three persons were reported killed and much material damage done.