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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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British Naval Experts Ridicule Report German Fleet Making a Dash

New York, Feb. 8.—A News Agency despatch from London, published here this morning, says: The idea that the German fleet will come dashing out the Kiel Canal some say equipped with 17 inch guns that will blow England's dreadnoughts to pieces was ridiculed by the British naval experts to-day. The story about the 17 inch guns was printed in London papers.

The inactivity of the German navy, it was explained, was due to the fact that these new guns capable of hurling more than a ton of metal at a distance of 20 miles were being placed on board German warships. Official utterances have the subject tabooed in London.

Spanish King Effects Exchange of Prisoners

Plymouth, Feb. 8.—Prince and Princess Emmanuel De Salm of Austria, British prisoners of war, who have been released in exchange for Col. Gordon who was captured at Mons, arrived here to-day from Gibraltar, where they had been held since captured while on a hunting trip in South Africa.

King Alfonso of Spain is credited with having arranged this exchange of prisoners.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

BERLIN, Feb. 8.—A total of 1,429,171 enemy soldiers to date are prisoners of war in Germany, the Overseas News Agency announced to-day. This is not inclusive of prisoners made by German troops and left in Austria-Hungary in order to shorten transport. In addition 9170 cannon, 7,700 military carriages and 3,000 machine guns have been taken. The number of rifles taken which are still fit for use are 1,300,000.

Bryce and Balfour to Adjust Blockade Question with U.S.

London, Feb. 8.—The Manchester Guardian suggests that Viscount Bryce or Arthur J. Balfour be sent to the United States with full powers to adjust the blockade controversy with the Government in Washington.

It publishes a statement from a London correspondent to the effect that people close in touch with Anglo-American affairs express the opinion that some such steps should be taken.

RUMOUR OF MANY CHANGES CONTEMPLATED

LONDON, Feb. 7.—"Changes of great importance in the direction of the war are contemplated," says the Daily Sketch, which asserts that Kitchener probably will leave the War Office. The Sketch also says that Sir Wm. Robertson, now Chief of Staff, probably will take the active direction of the war without interference, except from the Cabinet as a whole and that a civilian of real ability for organization will become Secretary for War.

In the event that Kitchener leaves the War Office, the Sketch adds, he will undertake work of an important character elsewhere.

Kut-el-Amara of Strategic Value Says Townsend

LONDON, Feb. 8.—An official communication from Military Headquarters at Delhi says that General Townsend is holding Kut-el-Amara as a post of strategic value, and that General Aylmer's operations are being carried out for the purpose of supporting General Townsend at that point. The communication adds, that no withdrawal is contemplated.

ANOTHER GERMAN YARN DISPROVED

LONDON, Feb. 7.—A special statement was issued to-day, as follows:—"German wireless messages to-day quote Koelnische Zeitung reports from the Dutch frontier, that on the occasion of the recent air raid on England, H.M.S. Caroline was struck by a bomb in the Humber, and sunk with great loss of life. Neither the Caroline nor any of His Majesty's ships, nor any other merchant ship, large or small, was struck in the Humber nor in any other port."

OFFICIAL BRITISH

To Governor, Newfoundland:

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Fire broke out to-day on H. M. boarding steamer Peel Castle, in the Straits of Dover. No lives were lost.

Headquarters in France report receding activity. The enemy shelled Ypres, and we occupied a portion of three mine craters on the Vermeles-Le Basse road. In 28 air combats, five German machines were driven down in the enemy lines. One British machine was lost.

Elsewhere nothing special. BONAR LAV.

London, Feb. 8.—A British official regarding progress in campaign on the west published to-day as follows:

Except for some hostile artillery activity about Loos and the bombardment of hostile trenches near Ypres Roulers railway, the days are quiet.

TENSION LESSENER AS RESULT OF FAVORABLE NEWS

Berlin, Feb. 8.—Tension in what is called here to Lusitania crisis, lessened somewhat to-day as results of more favourable news from America which was featured prominently by most of the newspapers. A lessened strain was reflected instantly on the bourse which showed a greater strength in American securities than at any time for the week.

New York Herald's Exposure Of German Plot Draws Some Observation from London Press

Washington, Feb. 8.—Optimism prevails in Washington that the situation between the States and Germany which arose over the sinking of the steamship Lusitania by a German submarine will be settled amicably.

In official circles it has been stated that the use of the word "illegal" or "disavowal" will not be insisted upon by the United States and that no choice of words used by Germany meeting the American Government's contentions in premises will be permitted to block the success of the negotiations. While Secretary of State Lansing, who is to have a final conference with President Wilson on the matter, stated he considered the situation unchanged.

Chairman Stone of the Senate, Foreign Relations Committee, said his impression was that the case was "practically settled."

GERMANS EXPECT AIR RAID ON KIEL CANAL

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 7.—The Kiel authorities have published a warning concerning the action to be taken by the population of that German port in case of an aerial raid.

Steam siren warning, it says, will give notice of a raid with a series of short shrieks, lasting for two minutes. Similar notice will be given when the raid is over. The inhabitants of the city are urged not to expose themselves as did the Parisians during the recent Zeppelin raid on the French capital.

FRENCH PREMIER WILL VISIT ROME

PARIS, Feb. 8.—It was announced to-night that Premier Briand will leave for Rome on Wednesday. The precise purpose of his visit is not stated, but it is believed to be connected with the plan that the leaders of the Entente Powers come into closer unity regarding the more important questions of the war.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

IRELAND'S SYMPATHY FOR CANADA

OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—In the Commons to-day Premier Borden read the following striking cablegram from John Redmond, which he cabled with that of General Booth of the Salvation Army, among the numerous other messages of sympathy already published.

"All Ireland," cabled Redmond, "is filled with indignation at the brutal outrage, accept deepest sympathy of our people."

Whatever views of Col. Sherwood and staff may be, members of the House and men who were in the smoke and flames believe with an intensity of conviction that an enemy hath done this.

CHINESE REGULARS RECAPTURE PING SHAN

PEKING, Feb. 7.—The Government to-day announced that its troops had recaptured Ping Shan, north-east of Siam Fu, the far southern part of Sue Cuen province, and that a general attack on the rebels at Siam Fu is imminent. The rebels, defeated at Ping Shan, were driven back upon Siam Fu the announcement stated.

STEAMER AFIRE IN STRAITS

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Fire broke out this morning on board the British shipping steamer Peel Castle, in the Straits of Dover, it is officially announced this afternoon. Tugs from Dover and other craft assisted in fighting the fire.

Rumour Kitchener Leave War Office

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Newspaper authority was given out to-day for the statement that Earl Kitchener, the British Secretary for War, probably will leave the War Office and undertake work of a more important character elsewhere. If Earl Kitchener should leave, the newspaper adds, Sir William Robertson, Chief of Staff, will actively direct the war, and a civilian will become Secretary for War.

KAISER'S SON INJURED

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 8.—Prince Oscar of Prussia, fifth son of Emperor William, has been slightly wounded in the head and upper part of the thigh by shell splinters during recent fighting on the Eastern war theatre, according to a Berlin official report received here.

Prince Oscar was wounded at Virton, Belgium in September, 1914. He was ill for a long time. He is declared to be suffering also from affection of the heart. He returned to duty in the field in November, 1914 and narrowly escaped capture the following month during the fighting in Poland.

BRITISH TRADE FIGURES

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The British Board of Trade figures for January show imports increased £7,702,000, exports increased £8,609,000. The principal increase of imports is food £3,750,000, raw material £1,000,000, chemical dye £1,000,000. Increase of exports is made up principally of manufactured articles.

GETTING READY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The House to-day authorized an immediate expenditure of \$500,000 to equip Mar Island navy yard, to begin building dreadnoughts or battle cruisers, the first to be constructed on the Pacific coast government yard. It also authorized expenditure of \$100,000 to enlarge the facilities of the New York yard. The Senate has not yet acted.

CARSON'S PHYSICIAN ORDERS HIM 5 WEEKS REST

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Sir Edward Carson, former Attorney General has been ordered by his physician to take five weeks rest, as he is suffering from exhaustion due his activities of the past four years.

WITHOUT FOUNDATION

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The Government has received definite information that the report to the effect that an ultimatum has been delivered by the Central Powers to Roumania, is without foundation.

Washington Optimistic Over Situation Between States and Germany

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A cable to the Herald from London says: "The Herald's exposure of a German plan for the invasion of Canada, divides prominent newspapers here this morning with further revelations in connection with letters taken from Capt. Von Papen at Falmouth."

Commenting upon these new Von Papen revelations the Daily Chronicle says: "The opinions of one set of the Kaiser's creatures about another set make delightful reading." The newspaper express amazement at the appearance of Max Longhorn, American Military attaché at Berlin, in a curious role of letters carried to Capt. Von Papen from Europe. In view of revelation of German plot against Canada and outrages perpetrated there, the Daily Chronicle says, Von Papen's cheques to persons in Ottawa and Buffalo have more than ordinary interest.

All newspapers publish prominently George Von Shai's letter, in which he pillories Dr. Dernburg, extols Count Von Bernstorff and glorifies Falkenhain. The Daily Express commenting on this says: "No doubt Wilhelmstrasse now will convict Capt. Von Papen and not the American public of illiocy."

Except in France and Belgium Very Little Fighting is Reported

Special Police Guard E. River Bridges and Watch Vessels

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—The mystery as to why special police guards were placed on the East River bridges yesterday when the cruiser Washington was steaming up the river deepened to-day when police commissioner Woods admitted that the police had orders to watch other vessels. The Commissioner was pressed to explain his remark, but refused to say anything further, except that by "other" he meant smaller vessels.

Another development peculiar to the activities of the New York police, the last couple days, was the action at Harlem, in stopping citizens and asking them if they would volunteer as emergency patrolmen in case of necessity.

Commissioner Woods explained this as probably due to the ideas of preparedness now prevalent throughout the country. He admitted that several weeks ago a census was taken in one of the Brooklyn precincts to find out how many citizens would volunteer as emergency patrolmen in the event of regular officers being called out of the district on special duty.

King Holds A Conference With Chiefs

London, Feb. 8.—A court circular announces that the King to-day received in audience Premier Asquith, Sir Henry Jackson, Major General Charles Edward Caldwell. Asquith is President of the Imperial Defence Committee, Sir Henry Jackson is First Sea Lord, and General Caldwell is Director of Military Intelligence.

Special significance is believed to be attached to the conference of the King with these three such important chiefs of war operations. It is also noted that Earl Kitchener, Secretary of War, had a long audience with the King a few days ago.

Will Bar Import Of All Luxuries

Berlin, Feb. 8.—The Tag Blatts announces it is informed from semi-official sources that a ban on the importation of articles of luxury of every description is impending.

IN CHAMPAGNE REGION

PARIS, Feb. 7.—Artillery showed but little activity last night. In Champagne towards the end of yesterday we effected a destructive fire on the German trenches in Maisons de Champagne district. South of Peronne one of our aeroplanes attacked a German plane, which took fire and fell in our lines.

LONDON CHIMES WILL BE DISCONTINUED

LONDON, Feb. 1.—By direction of the naval and military authorities, the police to-day ordered discontinuance of chimes and the striking of hours by public clocks between sunset and sunrise, as a precautionary measure.

London, Feb. 8.—Except on fronts in France and Belgium little fighting has been reported.

Paris tells of the bombardment of German positions near Hetsas and Steenstraete in Belgium, the destruction of a German block-house between Oise and Aisne and effective work by the French batteries in Artois and Champagne regions. French shells on former sector caused a powerful explosion northeast of Arras and great fire in Champagne near Challerange.

The Germans have been busy with their artillery against the British around Loos, while the British in return have bombarded German trenches near Ypres, Roulers railway.

The Vienna war office reports situation unchanged on all fronts where Austro-Hungarian troops are fighting.

Nothing new come through concerning the reported concentration of troops in the Allies region on the Greek border.

GREEK COMMANDANT WILL BE COURT-MARTIALED

Athens, Jan. 29.—(Via Paris, Jan. 30).—High Greek officials are indignant over the occupation by the French last week of the Greek fort on the Karaburun Peninsula. They say the fortress was held by only eighty Greeks.

The French brought with them to the forts three regiments each, of infantry, artillery and cavalry, without warning. After a short parley, and in face of the overwhelming force, the fortress was delivered up by the Greeks.

The officials express the belief that the commandant will be court-martialed for giving up the fort, without instructions.

PREVENTS DESTRUCTION OF SHIPS FROM MINES

Copenhagen, Jan. 28.—An apparatus which, it is claimed, will prevent the destruction of ships by torpedoes or mines has been invented by Frantz Poulsen, engineer. The details are withheld, but the principal feature is said to be a device for diverting the pressure on ships' sides of the air masses formed by the explosion.

The invention has been offered to the British Admiralty, which has promised to test it at the earliest possible time.

REWARD GIVEN FOR FORTITUDE

London, Jan. 28.—We are authoritatively informed that the recent decoration of Miss Laura Ryerson, of Toronto, as Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem, was in recognition of her "courage, fortitude and unselfish devotion in the Lusitania disaster."

UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS ARE NOW MADE KNOWN

ROME, Feb. 8.—There have been published in Italy letters exchanged between Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium, who is now in Rome, and the German authorities, accompanied by hitherto unpublished documents which charge the Germans with the killing of a large number of priests in Belgium, than was specified when allegations of this nature were made previously. Sacrilege and violation of nuns is also charged.

St. Clair's Home LeMarchant Road.

The Sisters in charge of St. Clair's Home, LeMarchant Road, are now prepared to accept pupils for instruction in Shorthand, Typewriting, Drawing, Painting and Pianoforte.

For terms, etc., apply to the

Lady Superioress, St. Clair's Home, LeMarchant Rd.