

Fair Play Will Save American Commerce

President to Follow Note of Protest to Great Britain by Warning to Shippers

Cases of Concealed Contraband in Cotton Cargoes and Other Subterfuges Led to Stringent Action by British Naval Authorities—Other Neutral Countries to Support U. S. Protest—Much Discussion in London Although Note Has Not Actually Reached Foreign Office.

Washington, Dec. 29.—President Wilson today appealed to American shippers of non-contraband goods, such as cotton, not to allow their cargoes to be mixed with contraband articles. The United States government, he announced, could deal confidently with the difficulties which had arisen in the treatment of American commerce by Great Britain only if supported by absolutely honest manifestos.

This statement followed a discussion by the president with his cabinet today of the note despatched yesterday to Great Britain protesting against the prolonged detentions of cargoes and other interference with American trade.

Publication of a synopsis of the note, the contents of which was confirmed at the White House and State Department, aroused much interest, not only in diplomatic circles, but in Congress and official quarters generally. Many diplomats of European and South American countries made formal inquiries at the State Department concerning the note, and were promised a memorandum on the subject.

There was a confident feeling in diplomatic quarters that steps would be taken by other leading nations of this hemisphere, as well as by some European neutrals, to point out to Great Britain their acquiescence in the American point of view.

From the way the president discussed the situation with callers, it was evident that the Washington government had spoken firmly of its desire for an improvement in the conditions of neutral commerce, and was prepared to insist further on its rights. The president declared that the theory expounded by the United States in its note was from the American point of view hardly debatable, as England had adhered, in previous wars, to the same principles.

TO WARN SHIPPERS AGAINST SUBTERFUGE.

During the cabinet meeting it was suggested that in order to support the American government in its effort to protect cargoes of non-contraband goods, shippers and shipping companies should be warned against concealment of doubtful articles on the same ships. The White House then issued its suggestion to American shippers to be careful about the manifests describing the cargo. The president said the great embarrassment to the government in dealing with the whole matter was that some shippers had concealed contraband in their cargoes of non-contraband articles. So long as there were instances of that kind, the president added, suspicion was cast on every shipment, and all cargoes were liable to doubt as to their contents.

State Department officials said later that there were two cases in which this had occurred, and that Great Britain had consequently refused to accept the cargoes. One case advanced in congressional circles, and discussed in executive quarters to some extent, was the possible enforcement of an embargo against shipment to the Allies of certain commodities. The United States considered legitimate articles of trade, but which the British fleet prevented from reaching Germany or Austria.

In circles close to the White House, however, the belief was confidently expressed that some of these measures would be necessary, as Great Britain's understanding the seriousness of the situation to American industries, would take steps to ameliorate the conditions against which this government had protested.

State Department officials would venture no guess as to the size of the damage claims being accumulated by detentions of American cargoes, but President Wilson himself predicted that millions of dollars in private indemnities eventually would have to be paid by Great Britain, if the correctness of the American position, as expressed in its note, were maintained—and he confidently believed it would be, as it was based on principles of international law hitherto generally accepted.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, who received a copy of the note at the same time that it was sent to London, by telegraph to Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, declined to make any comment on it.

In Congress the note was referred to in a speech by Representative Mann, the minority leader, who commended the administration's position and action. Senator Smith, of Georgia, placed before the senate a telegram of protest from his constituents against Britain's action in putting turpentine and rosin on the contraband list. Senator Walsh introduced a resolution asking for information about the American government's correspondence with foreign powers concerning seizures of copper.

It became known that protests against the attitude of the allies on the subject of contraband have been coming to the state department through senators from various parts of the country, a situation which has not been in our sense of justice.

German Fighters Make Merry in Shell-Ridden, Starving Dinant



At Dinant, being attacked by an iron labeled "Inchigo," which I later learned was Flemish for salmon, I entered and sketched the scene. In the rear wall are still holes made by cannon fire from across the Meuse. The place is typically Belgian, even to the archery game on the wall. But the atmosphere is foreign; the German soldiers singing their songs over beer, which they expiated with pride, was imported from Munich. The clock has been set ahead an hour to German time. The barmaid is a Belgian girl.

That trust we shall assuredly do our best to preserve. It is quite inconceivable that two sensible peoples on the frontiers of terms with each other should not succeed in devising a modus vivendi, in accordance with the general principles of international law, which will let at the same time meet the peculiar facts and circumstances of this unprecedented war.

The Morning Post, in an editorial, says: "The note will fulfill the British government the fullest consideration, and will be answered in a spirit not only of justice and equity, but of goodwill."

The editorial adds that the examination of suspected cargoes always has been a sore point with neutrals during wars and confederations.

"We shall not attempt to discuss the American complaints until the text of the note is available, but we will ask those Americans who hold the balance of the world in their hands to try to put themselves in England's position. Without securing command of the sea England cannot help her Allies on the continent, and cannot secure herself against invasion. How, then, do our American friends suppose command of the sea should be used as a means of exerting pressure on the enemy? It was used by the United States government as a means of exerting pressure on the Confederacy. The whole coast of the Confederacy from the Potomac to the Mexican border was blockaded and every neutral ship trading with Confederate ports was liable to capture.

"The allied governments might now declare a blockade of the North Sea, of the Baltic and of the Mediterranean and could doubtless make it effective. That would injure neutral states, but it would make an end of sea-trading with Germany."

In conclusion, the Morning Post argues that the whole difficulty lies in the presence of neutral states in close proximity to the belligerents, and in the disputed doctrine of neutrality, and suggests that consideration of the problem of neutrality may throw some light upon the real nature of the relations between states and upon the truth about peace and war.

"We are keenly anxious that America should suffer the least possible loss from the war, and that the neutrals and belligerents should agree upon their respective rights, and if the Americans made no protest their silence might be construed as acquiescence in the British view, and consequently as an unfriendly act towards Germany."

"But," adds the Graphic, "the hardship to the American shipper is less great than he supposes. He can dispose of all his goods either to Great Britain or her allies or to remote neutral countries at quite good prices."

All he loses is the chance of making an exceptional profit out of Germany's military needs.

The Daily Mail considers that though the question is thorny and complex, it is not impossible of solution by two businesslike nations that thoroughly appreciate each other's difficulties, and have no desire to add to them.

"Americans," the Daily Mail continues, "must be aware that the greater the economic pressure the allies are able to bring to bear on Germany the sooner will the war be over, and trade left free to follow its normal course. In the prosecution of this policy, which is both legal and essential, we regret inconvenience is necessarily caused to American trade, and any solution which will mitigate this inconvenience without harm to our military interest will be eagerly sought, and when found, heartily welcomed."

JUSTICE, EQUITY AND GOOD-WILL IN ANSWER.

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SHARP PRACTICES MAKE INSPECTION IMPERATIVE.

It is generally believed in London that the foreign office will make a detailed statement as to the activities of the navy in detaining suspected cargoes which will set these contraband articles in a different light. The foreign office has time and again expressed its regret that merchants in no way violating neutrality should suffer delay because their shipments were mixed with contraband, which have frequently been found hidden in cotton shipments or in other cargoes at the same time. It takes the position that transshipments at sea and other sharp practices have made careful inspection imperative to the welfare of the Allies.

Frequently cargoes are so loaded that an inspection makes necessary a complete shifting of virtually everything in the ship.

The statement that this protest of the United States is thoroughly approved by President Wilson, and also has added weight to the protest, is a source of satisfaction in London to regard it, to a certain extent, in the light of a protest necessary to satisfy the insistent demands of Congress and the public.

British officials have expressed surprise at the disposition on the part of certain Americans to blame Great Britain for being one of the causes of the depression in cotton. This is held by them to be due to over-production, and not to any action on the part of the British government.

BRITISH PRESS CONFIDENT OF UNSHAKEN GOOD-WILL.

London, Dec. 30, 1:30 p. m.—All the morning newspapers comment at length on the American government's note to Great Britain concerning the treatment that is being accorded American commerce by the British fleet, and agree that the American protest should be met by the British government in the same spirit of friendly good will as is shown by the note. Generally, however, the newspapers are inclined to await the actual text of the note before indulging in detailed criticism of it.

In the meantime they point out how inevitably serious difficulties arise when questions of neutrality are involved. Moreover, they are inclined to dispute the theory that Great Britain alone is responsible for the disposition of the world's trade, arguing that even had she remained neutral, the fact that a number of other nations were involved in the hostilities must have had a detrimental effect on the world's commerce. In any case, they say, Great Britain was not responsible for the war. The Times in an editorial, says:

"The note is dated December 24 and although the ideas may seem fanciful, we cannot help imagining that it was by no accident that the eve of the great festival of peace and good will was chosen for the despatch of this friendly communication from one of the great branches of the English speaking communities to the other."

In the meantime the telegraphic summary of the note, as received here, should seem peremptory we feel assured that this appearance is entirely due to the necessities of compression and will vanish when the text of the document is before us. We fully realize the inconvenience and the loss the conduct of the war must occasion to America and other neutrals. We also are confident that when the note is published we shall find that President Wilson, and his colleagues are not insensible to the imperious requirements of our military situation.

"We do not suppose this is a dispute of our right as belligerents to practice such interference with commerce between neutrals as is manifestly necessary for the protection of our national safety. What they do question, as we gather it, is whether the action of our ships does not in some cases exceed that manifest necessity."

Proceeding to state that there are many peculiar circumstances arising from the war which justify Great Britain's policy, the editorial continues: "The note deals largely with our various parts of the country, a situation which has not been in our sense of justice."

FRANCE REACHING OUT FOR TRADE OF WORLD.

Paris, Dec. 29, 6:10 p. m.—France is going to make an effort to obtain her share of the world's trade which was formerly in the hands of Germany.

Minister of Commerce Gaston Thomson presided today at a large meeting of merchants and manufacturers who are members of the Paris Chamber of Commerce. He told the business men that this was the time for them to reach out for trade in all countries where Germany previously had been a large purveyor.

Before the meeting adjourned a committee representing the principal industries and financial institutions of France had been chosen to organize this work of expansion.

ARMED CIVILIANS TO FIGHT WELLS FASHION.

West Hartlepool, England, Dec. 18.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—English east coast towns are on the alert since the German raid upon Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool. Notwithstanding the power of the British navy to keep Germans away from England, every preparation is being made for the re-appearance of German troops if not the landing of German ships.

The mayors of the Hartlepool and other stricken towns have organized volunteer constabularies, and are making an effort to hold the public in check. Before the raid all citizens should be armed with clubs, and the orders of constables. Nearly all civilians, however, are carrying arms, and they are expected to stand up for themselves. Travel by automobiles at night is hazardous, as excited guards stop all motor cars, frequently with a flourish of guns and revolvers.

Many of the families living near the coast have moved back into the interior. The large number of women and children killed during the recent bombardment especially has attracted attention to the German raid, and whenever possible the heads of families are sending their wives and children beyond the possible range of German shells.

At Hartlepool the Germans fired with amazing accuracy. The first shell they directed toward the town knocked over twelve soldiers who were manning one of the coast guns. None of them were killed, but several were stunned. The railway lines were hit in several places, and traffic was temporarily suspended. The Germans had also cut all telegraphic and telephone connections with the harbor, and it had been cut off entirely. In fact, the two Hartlepool are being shelled by the Germans, and the shells wrecked many poles, and completely destroyed the supposed work of some spy.

The military has now taken over all wires, and communication with the coast towns is very difficult.

The spy fear has now become so acute that along the coast that even civilians provided with credentials above dispute are subjected to arrest by the civil officials.

LIGHTHOUSE UNDAMAGED IN BOMBARDMENT.

Although the lighthouse here stands in a very prominent location on the peninsula it was undamaged. The devastation visited upon the residences standing back of the lighthouse shows it to have been the target for many German shells, which were deadly in their effect, although they did not hit the contemplated mark.

While the fog Wednesday morning assisted the Germans in slipping near the coast without being observed, it also hindered marksmanship seriously until they were abreast of the peninsula, a position they were unable to maintain very long, because of the fire from shore guns, which seems to have been accurate while the cruisers presented their sides to the shore batteries.

Persons who sought cellars during the bombardment practically all escaped injuries. Many of the deaths were in the streets. Children with their heads blown off entirely were found in streets in various parts of the two cities. In some of the houses which were destroyed very slight traces could be found of persons known to have been in upstairs bedrooms at the time of the bombardment. One entire family of seven members was so completely wiped out that the scattered remains of all were collected into one coffin.

Searchers found no artillery to reply to the guns of the German cruisers, so that not a shot was fired in resistance. There were no field guns there, nor had there been any attempt to make fortifications to resist shell fire.

A Home Guard organization is forming in Yorkshire among civilians whose duties or age stand in the way of enlistment in the army. Its object is to repel invasions. But the question arises whether the Germans would shoot armed civilians who might be captured, for the Home Guard wears civilian clothes and have no distinguishing mark, other than a badge.

KAISER BLAMES FAILURE TO REACH PARIS ON DEITY.

In Christmas Speech at Headquarters in Northern France He Predicts Victory Will "Arise from Festival."

(Special Cable to Daily Telegraph and Montreal Gazette).

Copenhagen, Dec. 29.—The Kaiser sat down to Christmas dinner with nearly 2,000 officers and men at the general headquarters of the Hotel de Ville, in a town in Northern France. An altar was erected at one end of the hall and in front of it a manger containing a figure of the Christ child. The Christmas festival is described as plain and simple, but very impressive. It was the Kaiser's personal wish to be present.

"God has decreed that the enemy should be defeated," the Kaiser said, and he decorated with holy and hung with pictures of the Kaiser and his generals. Christmas trees, with candles, were placed on the tables. Special officers present received as a special Christmas gift, a portrait of the Kaiser. Every soldier got a tobacco pouch and cigar.

The festival began with all standing and singing an old German Christmas song. The Kaiser on entering was cheered. He saluted and said "Good evening, comrades."

After the army chaplain had made a short speech, another song followed. The Kaiser then made the following speech:

"Comrades, we are gathered here in arms to celebrate the Holy festival which we are accustomed to celebrate in our homes. Our thoughts have turned back to our own homes, whom we have to thank for so many gifts we see today in multitudes on the tables.

"God has decreed that the enemy should force us to celebrate the festival here. We have been assailed, we are defending ourselves. May God grant peace. From this festival with Him for our God and our country, will rise the spirit of victory which we shall ultimately reach after heavy fighting. We are on hostile ground. The points of our swords are turned to the enemy, our hearts toward God. We say as once did the great Elscotar, 'Down with all enemies of Germany.' Amen."

The Kaiser then stated the tables, exchanging gifts with the officers. The soldiers sang "Deutschland Uber Alles," as the Kaiser left the hall.

A Kansas man wrote to his newspaper and asked: "What the matter with my news? Every morning when I go to feed them I find some of them have been over to see no more." To which the editor replied: "They're dead."

Austrians Soundly Beaten in Galicia

Army of 175,000 Fleeing Before Russians in Precipitate Disorder

Only Heavy Roads and Unfavorable Contour of Country Prevents Practical Annihilation by Cossacks While 50,000 Prisoners Have Already Been Taken—Germans Shoot Last Bolt in Warsaw Campaign—German Admission of Austrian Eclipse.

Petrograd, Dec. 29, via London, 6:10 p. m.—The retreat of the Austrian army in Galicia, along the Lisko, Sabok, Dukla, Zmigrod front is described officially here as more and more precipitate and disorderly. The retreating forces are estimated unofficially as numbering about 175,000 men.

The nature of the country favors the Austrians in their retreat. The corridor-like valleys and passes prevent the Russians from pursuing them over parallel roads or harassing their flanks. Only six roads cross the Carpathians, two of which are little more than mountain trails. The carrying of the broken character of this region the Russian cavalry is able to do little scouting, while the extreme cold renders aeroplanes useless.

The large number of prisoners taken, amounting in the last nine days to about 200 officers and 15,000 soldiers, together with fifty machine guns, is believed here to indicate that the Austrians are not offering a stubborn resistance.

Isolated attacks by Germans in the region south of Skiermiewice are reported officially to be continuing unsuccessfully.

Russian military critics describe these attacks as a final effort, stating that the great losses sustained by the invader in the last week or ten days are beginning to have an appreciable effect.

A period of inactivity apparently has set in along the front before Warsaw, between the Vistula and Pilica rivers. The last three lots, consisting of 600 men each, of Austrian prisoners taken to Kiev from Southern Galicia, contained numbers of men who are un wounded, but were made unfit for service by frozen feet. Most of the prisoners are between forty and fifty years of age.

The official Army Messenger says that 300 Slavs from Bosnia and Herzegovina encountered Russian soldiers near Tunoff, Galicia, and threw down their arms, crying: "Long live the Czar."

RUSSIANS FALLING BACK ON BUZRA.

Petrograd, Dec. 29.—The following statement received from the Russian general headquarters was issued this evening:

"Today between the lower Vistula and the Pilica only fighting of small importance took place. The Germans left their trenches on the right bank of the Buzra, near the village of Mistrzevica, and fell back on the left bank of the Buzra."

"On the River Rawka our heavy artillery is fighting efficaciously a large number of German batteries of heavy guns."

"In the region of Bolimov our attacks have alternated with those of the Germans."

"We have dislodged the enemy from a trench near the village of Sumino, which they had taken from us previously, by a counter-attack in which we captured machine guns and prisoners."

"On the centre, between the Pilica and the Upper Vistula, only cannonading was heard. We made progress on the two wings."

"During an attack on a German redoubt to the south of Inowolow we captured three machine guns."

"Our troops met with success while crossing the Lower Nida, in the taking of the villages of Starokorezin and Senislava, which are well fortified. During the fighting we captured forty Austrian officers and more than 1,700 soldiers and three machine guns."

"In Western Galicia we have made progress, in spite of the almost impassable condition of the country, due to the mud. We have driven the enemy from the front of Stromnik, Sorlice, Jasliaska, taking guns and a large number of machine guns."

"During the first half of December (old style calendar) we captured 50,000 Austrians."

GERMANS FACE FACT OF DEFEAT.

Berlin, Dec. 29.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—Among the items given out for publication today by the German official press bureau were the following:

"The Russians have strengthened their forces opposing the Austrians in Galicia, and the latter, it is understood, will be compelled to make new dispositions, which will require some time. Local military experts are making attempts to picture Russia's occupation of the line of Kronso-Jaslo as being no real gain for the Russians, but on the contrary, as weakening their position. This view, however, is considered too optimistic, and the fact must be faced that the extreme left wing of the Russians is proving itself superior to its opponents. The present action of the Russians in strengthening their forces there is due to their realization of what an encircling of their flank in Galicia would signify."

"News of importance is likely to come from the Vosges district at any time, since the French have assembled strong forces all along the line of Belfort, Epinal, Toul, Nancy. They still hold all the Vosges passes, and appear to be developing new activity along an extended line against Alsace and Sundgau."

Major Moralt, military expert of the Tageblatt, in an article discussing the English reconnaissance at Cuxhaven, declares that the landing of troops on the Holstein, or North Hanover coast, would be extremely difficult in winter, but says, even if it were carried out, the invaders would get a warm welcome.

"The German government will permit private traffic on the Belgian railway from January."

"A pastoral letter from all the German Catholic archbishops and bishops calls the world war a divine judgment for human wickedness. The letter lays emphasis on the statement that Germany was not to blame for the outbreak of the war."

AUSTRIANS AS BADLY BEATEN AS IN SERBIA.

In southern Poland the Russians also record some successes, while in Galicia they have apparently inflicted a defeat on the Austrians almost as serious as that which Emperor Francis' troops suffered in Serbia.

Since their latest offensive commenced the Russians have taken 50,000 Austrian prisoners and captured many guns, according to the Russian official reports, and, as it was estimated, Austria had between three and four army corps on its re-entry into Galicia, it must have lost more than one-third of the number in killed, wounded and prisoners. The state of the roads, which are several feet deep in mud, has prevented the Russians from making the pursuit as effective as it might have been could the Cossacks have found a firm footing for their horses.

Of the fighting in the west the French and German reports are in direct conflict. The French report apparently refers to later events than those recorded in Berlin, for Paris tells of the recapture of a trench which the German communications mentions as having been captured by the Germans. The French are investing Steinbach, in Upper Alsace.

News from Germany is coming in very slowly, as cable communication between England and Holland is disrupted by the storm and the telegraph wires between Holland and Germany have been wrecked in many places.

With the close of the holidays the recruiting boom has recommenced in England, large numbers enlisting daily.

KAISER CONFERS WITH NAVY HEADS.

Prince Henry Called from Kiel, Probably to Take Command of Battleship Fleet

SINKING OF FRENCH SUBMARINE CONFIRMED

Headless Bodies of Children Found in Hartlepool Streets and Family of Seven, Blown to Bits, All Buried in One Coffin—Civilians Arm Themselves and Announce They Will Look After Themselves in Case of Invasion.

London, Dec. 29, 10:40 p. m.—A Berlin dispatch received by the Exchange Telegraph Company, by way of the Hague, says that the German emperor summoned Prince Henry of Prussia to his headquarters to confer with him and Admiral Von Tirpitz, minister of marine, on the British raid on Cuxhaven.

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AGENTS WANTED

RELIABLE representation of the tremendous fruit trees throughout the present. We wish to employ four good men to represent and generate agents in the fruit-growing New Brunswick offers opportunities for men of energy a permanent position to the right men.

THERE is a town in New Brunswick. Agents now in every district. Pay weekly. Pelham Nursery Co., Toronto, Ont.

TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED—A second teacher, (Female), poor. Write stating salary. Wm. Howlett, secretary, 1101 St. John St., Toronto, Ont.

WANTED—A second female teacher for No. 2 Parish of Aberdeen. Apply, stating salary, to Mrs. J. B. Carleton county, N. B.

WANTED—Female class, for District of St. John's, St. John's, N. B. Apply, stating salary, to Hy. Mowatt, 2002-1-2.

TEACHER WANTED—female teacher for parish of Carleton, N. B. Apply, stating salary, to Hy. Mowatt, 2002-1-2.

WANTED—First or second teacher for District of Grand Manan (N. B.). Cheney, White Head, G. B.

I wish to announce public for generous patronage to announce new term Monday, Jan 11

BIRTH

LIBERTY—In this district to Mr. and Mrs. James Street.

MARRIAGE

SMALL THORPE—on Tuesday by Rev. Thompson Small to Mrs. Thorpe, both of Macleod.

DEATH

FINLEY—At Asper December 25, Barbara, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Brown, of 11 Thompson St., aged 15 years and eleven months.

McKINNON—At Kennedy street, on the 25th inst., Mrs. McKinnon, aged 74 years, wife of James McKinnon.

DUNN—At North Dec. 25, James J. Dunn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chapman—Sudden (Mass.), on the 26th inst. by Mr. W. Chapman, the Baptist church.

LEONARD—Sudden the 27th inst., Catherine of William Leonard, husband, one daughter and one sister.

The Sower (N. Y.) There goeth a sower with both hands full of seed. Whence his wanderer By hill or valley, by Little he reck where Little he cares where And some bloom out And some in the dunes. And to some the mo And to some the winds blow; And some are caught in the blast; And seaward some go.

Little he reck and Little he reck where Little he cares where For the barren seed For the wasted seed For the drowned out That sink to the low. Or with the drifting Littlest ever to Lord of the vineyard Gardener, take a leaf of thy careless servant Wasting forever

Auctioneer—"Here have a masterpiece of famous painter." Art Patron—"It is for 12." Auctioneer—"My dear sir, the picture that much."