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## War News.

Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M.

**OFFICIAL.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.  
The Governor, Newfoundland, reports an enemy barricade seized south of Messines, with trifling loss; hostile artillery active near Ypres, and Barcelly aerodrome successfully raided.  
Elsewhere in France is the usual artillery activity. The German aviation shed near Mulhouse was bombed by French aviators.  
Egypt reports twelve hundred hostile Arabs defeated with heavy loss on the western frontier, by a force under Colonel Gordon.  
In Mesopotamia a heavy Turkish attack was repulsed on December 13th.  
On other fronts nothing special.

**PROTECTION FROM AIR RAIDS.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.  
Public anxiety as to the defence of London against air raids again became evident at the opening of the Commons session yesterday. The Admiralty representative was bombarded by a series of questions, part of them concerning the present position of Rear Admiral Sir Percy Scott, former commander of the aerial defence of London. The opening question was "Can the Admiralty, with a view of reassuring public opinion, state whether the provisions for the anti-air craft defence of London and the Eastern counties have been proved to be satisfactory?" Thos. J. MacNamara, Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, replied that he could add nothing to the statements already made. In answer to a question regarding the status of Rear Admiral Scott, MacNamara said that he was still in charge of the gunnery agencies of London, but that the transfer of the guns to the War Office was expected shortly and Sir Percy's duties would then be a question for examination. Replying to another question MacNamara said he could not make any further statement regarding impending changes in the personnel of the anti-air craft service. He also declined to answer a question as to whether there had been seven or eight abortive Zeppelin raids since October 13th.

**WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LAND.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.  
The Times says it understands that none of Ford's peace party will be allowed to land at Kirkwall, at which port the steamer Oscar 2nd arrived on Wednesday.

**THE MACEDONIAN SITUATION.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.  
A Reuter despatch from the British Headquarters in Macedonia, says: "The situation here threatens to enter on a period of comparative stagnation pending clearer relations of Austrian, German and Bulgarian intentions with regard to the invasion of Greek territory. Now that the Allies have completely evacuated Serbian soil the question of subsequent developments must for the time being lie with the enemy. A Bulgarian officer captured the other day said that Bulgaria had completed the tasks she had set for herself and no one in Bulgaria wished to fight the Allies. This sentiment has been universally expressed by prisoners and deserters."

**WILL TAKE REFUGE IN ITALY.**  
PARIS, Dec. 16.  
It is reported from Rome that King Peter of Serbia, driven from his country by the Teutonic invasion, will take refuge in Italy. A Rome despatch to the Matin says that the King has accepted Italy's offer of the palace at Caserta, near Naples, which is now being prepared for his use.

**ENTENTE POWERS QUESTIONED.**  
ROME, Dec. 16.  
Newspapers ask if, after the lesson of the Balkans, the Entente Powers are going to allow themselves to be taken by surprise in Egypt.

**DESTROYER AND TRANSPORT REPORTED SUNK.**  
ROME, via Paris, Dec. 16.  
The semi-official note, which announced last night that an Italian destroyer and the Italian transport Umberto had been sunk by mines, in the Adriatic Sea, also deals with recent Austrian naval claims. The note says that the news from Austrian sources relative to recent events in the Adriatic either is partly untrue, or tends to exaggerate the importance of incidents, which are inevitable when the complex task of the Italian navy is taken into consideration. The only action the Austrians were able to accomplish, continues the statement, was an attack by a strong group of destroyers on a few small merchant ships.

**ITALIANS IN ALBANIA.**  
ROME, Dec. 16.  
The statements denying, as exaggerated, Austrian reports concerning the sinking of Italian steamers in the Adriatic, has been received with satisfaction, being the first authoritative announcement of an Italian expedition to Albania, without suffering any loss in crossing the Adriatic, which is considered by naval experts as a brilliant achievement for the Italian fleet, as crossing the Adriatic is more difficult and gives a hostile fleet a more favorable opportunity than would the crossing of the English Channel or the Mediterranean.

**BECOMING MORE GRAVE.**  
ROME, Dec. 16.  
The Turko-German threat against Egypt is becoming more grave daily, is the belief of military men here. The construction of the railway line from Damascus to the Egyptian frontier has been pressed with extraordinary speed, it is stated, and it is expected that it will be finished by the first of February, there being only 50 miles of track to lay before the Sinai Peninsula is reached. This railway is considered by military men to permit the concentration of half a million men in one month, together with the necessary supplies and munitions at the Egyptian frontier. About 300,000 Ottoman troops, commanded and drilled by German officers, already have been concentrated between Alessandria, Aleppo and Hama. It is stated that an army of engineers are

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NEUTRAL WAR ZONE AGREED UPON BY GREECE AND BULGARIA

SOPIA, Dec. 16.  
A neutral war zone, extending two kilometers each side of the frontier, has been agreed upon between Greece and Bulgaria, according to an official announcement made here to-day. The announcement says that the Bulgarian armies by the capture of Monastir and Resna having approached the Greek frontiers, and the Bulgar Government wishing to avoid any possibility of accidents between the advanced posts and the Greek frontier guards, proposed to the Greek Government a neutral zone to be formed by the retreat of the troops on each side two kilometers from the frontier. Greece replied accepting, and the War Minister ordered the Greek authorities to co-operate with the Bulgarian officers for the formation of the neutral zone.

**He Relieved Mafeking.**  
The man who has gone to relieve Serbia is the man who relieved Mafeking.

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Coffee—that will make your household happy; your guests grateful; yourself enthusiastic.

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**GERMANY RECEIVING FOOD FROM AMERICA.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.  
Considerable quantities of food being sent to Germany by parcel post from America, and we are in communication with our Ambassador at Washington on the subject, Lord Robert Cecil informed the Commons to-day, in reply to certain questions. The Under Secretary added that other steps have been taken to deal with the matter effectively. Asked if special instructions in this connection had been given the British Navy, Lord Robert Cecil said in his opinion it would not be convenient to specify what instructions had been given.

**U.S. WILL LIKELY RECALL AUSTRIAN EMBASSY.**  
LONDON, Dec. 16.  
Messages to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam, quotes a telegram received from Vienna as saying that the feeling there is that the United States will ask for recall of the Austrian Embassy, as the Austrian note on the Ancona case was couched in such terms that such a step is considered unavoidable. It is said that the note was submitted to the German Ambassador before its presentation to the Bulgarian Ambassador, says the News Agency despatch, and that Dr. Dumba, the recalled Ambassador to the States, took a hand in drafting the document. The message adds that in to-day's editorials in Vienna newspapers, extensive excisions appear.

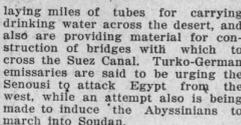
**he exhausted five camels in his feverish rush across the desert.**  
Lieut-General Mahon, who, by the way, is reputed to be Lord Kitchener's favorite officer, began his career in the 21st Hussars, and five years after joining he became a captain.

**Before the South African War Sir Bryan had served with Lord Kitchener in three campaigns for the conquest of Soudan.** He was in the Dongola Expedition in 1896 as Staff Officer of the Cavalry Brigade; went through the battles of Atbara and Khartoum in 1898; and the following year he took part in the final defeat of the Khalifa.

**It was in the operations in the Soudan in 1900 that Sir Reginald Wingate reported to Lord Kitchener of Colonel Mahon:**  
"I cannot speak in sufficiently strong terms of the excellence of the services performed by this gallant officer. I invariably placed him in general command of all the mounted troops; his personal disregard for danger, intrepid scouting, and careful handling of men, all fit him for high command; his bold and successful seizure of the position in front of Fell's camp, and his conduct of the fight before I came up, show him to be possessed of exceptional qualities as a commander."

**Sir Bryan will always be remembered, however, for his relief of Mafeking.** The column he commanded consisted of nine hundred mounted men, one hundred picked infantry, four guns and two pom-poms as well as supplies.

**He and his column marched two hundred and fifty miles at an average rate of eighteen miles a day through a difficult and badly watered country.** He entered Mafeking at 3.30 in the morning of the 17th of May, and when the news came through another word was added to the English language, "maffick" to go wild with joy.



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