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Trade War Minister Justifies Action In Seizing Mail Matter

Gives Associated Press Some Figures Bearing on Subject—Matter Recently Taken From Mails From Neutral Countries Cannot be Said to be Regarded as Postal Correspondence Under Hague Convention—Gives Description of Packages Taken From Liner "United States"—Question is What Would Result be if Britain Announced She Would Not Touch Goods Sent Through Post to and From Germany

London, March 11.—As regards seizures there has been some feeling in the United States that our action on detaining parcel and letter mails for examination is frivolous, that it entailed a large amount of inconvenience out of all proportion to the benefits which might accrue to our enemies from goods thus carried, said Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade, showing the Associated Press today some figures which indicated the extent of the trade carried on through the mails to and from Germany. These figures taken alone, Lord Robert added, seem to sustain the American criticism, as none of them are large in comparison with cargo seizures, but the whole problem reduces itself to the broad question as to whether Germany can import goods valuable for her war purposes and export goods increasing her foreign credits under first class and parcel postage. So it becomes a question, not so much as to what actually is shipped in this form, but what would be shipped if Great Britain announced to the world that she would not touch goods sent through the post to and from Germany. Recently we have taken from letter mail sent from Germany valuable consignments of goods which cannot be regarded as postal correspondence under the Hague Convention.

As an instance of the use of parcel post we took from the liner "United States" bound for Scandinavia the following: 1594 parcels of fur skins; 221 parcels of military boots; 418 parcels of strip tin; 80 parcels of ferro vanadium. It is unnecessary to here dilate upon the great military value of the last two items.

The Olinda cleared yesterday for Pernambuco, taking 471 qtls. codfish shipped by the Monroe Export Co. and sails first chance.

Dominion Steel Pays 3 1-2 on Preferred

Dividend Payable on April 1st.—Disbursement Calls For \$173,000

Montreal, March 11.—At a meeting of the Directors of the Dominion Steel Corporation held here, a dividend of three and a half per cent. upon preferred stock of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. was declared, payable on April 1st. The disbursement calls for \$173,000.

Setting the Example

LONDON, Mar. 10.—Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is the first member of the British Ministry to give up his motor car, and set an example for the community in the interests of economy. The Chancellor is seen daily walking to Parliament and Council meetings. No other member of the Cabinet has yet followed his example, though Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, uses the automobile sparingly.

Hun Press Is Sore With Foreign Office

LONDON, Mar. 10.—Telegraphing from Amsterdam, the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Co. says the German press devotes many leading articles to the German declaration of war on Portugal. Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed with the Foreign Office, which the newspapers claim could have detached the Lisbon Cabinet from Great Britain by tactful handling of the Portuguese situation. The German Minister at Lisbon probably will retire from the diplomatic service. The Portuguese Minister with the personnel of the Legation, will leave Berlin to-night. Germany has asked Spain to represent German interests at Lisbon. This action recalls the fact that Switzerland was asked to represent Germany at Rome, after the breach of diplomatic relations, caused by Italy's declaration of war against Austria.

German interests in the more important capitals of London, Paris and Petrograd are in the hands of the American Ambassadors there.

Barque Sunk

LONDON, Mar. 10.—The French barque Ville du Havre, 3,109 tons, has been sunk.

Smuts Clean Up Enemy In E. Africa

Forces Under General Smuts Occupy Chala, Taveta and Salaita—Many Germans With Machine Guns Surrender to General Bergener

London, March 11.—Lieutenant-General Smuts, commanding the expedition against the Germans in East Africa, reported the occupation of Taveta and also Salaita. The official statement follows:—"General Smuts reports that after the occupation of Chala yesterday, General Von Deventer's forces pushed on to Taveta, and found it partially evacuated by the enemy. Some Germans with machine guns surrendered to General Bergener. We now occupy Taveta. Simultaneously with our forward movement yesterday, General Tighe opened a bombardment of the Salaita position, which later was attacked and occupied. Operations are continuing. The scene of operations in East Africa is on the northern frontier between the German and British colonies. Taveta is on the British side of the line.

General Smuts Making Good

LONDON, Mar. 10.—Lieut. General Smuts' occupation of Taveta and also of Salaita, German East Africa, is announced.

Entire Region of Verdun Still Continues to Be the Scene of Intense Operations

Huns Launch Heavy Attacks Against French West of Douaumont Embracing Village of Vaux—At Both Places Their Efforts to Advance Broke Down Under Heavy Fire of the French—Petrograd Reports Heavy German Losses in Region of Upper Stripa on Russian Front—Italians and Austrians Still Battle Despite Bad Weather

LONDON, Mar. 11.—By throwing large masses of infantry against the French in Corbeaux Wood, north-west of Verdun, the Germans, after several attacks, which they are declared by Paris to have suffered large casualties, have retaken part of the wood from which the French previously ejected them. The entire region about Verdun continues to be the scene of intense operations. West of Douaumont sector and embracing the village of Vaux have been points against which the Germans have launched vicious infantry attacks, but at both places their efforts to advance broke down under the heavy fire of the French. Berlin, however, counters this assertion by announcing the taking of a ridge west of Douaumont by the Germans and says also that the Germans have succeeded in pushing forward their line through the wooded sector south-east of Damloup, which lies a short distance east of Fort Vaux. It is admitted in the German official communication that the French have succeeded in gaining a firm footing in Fort Vaux. Paris had previously categorically denied that the Germans had captured either the fort or the village of Vaux. East south-east of Verdun, over a front of about seven and a half miles, the Germans have been directing a heavy bombardment of the towns of Eix, Moulainville, Villers Sous, Bouchamp and Bonzee, with French guns answering them energetically. In the Artois region the French have occupied a crater of a mine exploded by the Germans. In Lorraine, they have damaged with their gun-fire, German or-

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, March 11.—The War Office to-night made public the following official statement concerning the fighting in Mesopotamia:

"General Lake reports that General Aylmer who was operating on March 8th. from seven to eight miles from the right bank of the Tigris River, in consequence of lack of water, has been obliged to fall back on the river after having removed all his wounded.

Capture of Trebizond Imminent

WASHINGTON, Mar. 10.—Russian troops have landed on the Black Sea coast of Asiatic Turkey, and the occupation of Trebizond is imminent, according to a despatch received today from the American Embassy at Constantinople.

The State Department also was advised that the American Consul at Trebizond had taken over the archives of the German Consulate there, the German Consul having left.

Portugal Accepts Germany's Decision

PARIS, Mar. 10.—The Portuguese Legation announces that a state of war exists between the Portuguese Republic and the German Empire from six o'clock last night.

Don't brood over the past nor dream of the future, but seize the instant and get your lesson from the hour.

Huns Fail To Capture Douaumont

Germans Reoccupy Part of Corbeaux Wood, But Losses Said to be Beyond All Proportions For Objective Sought

Paris, March 11.—German infantry attacks, launched with huge effectiveness, but with losses described as beyond all proportions for the objective they sought, have reoccupied part of Corbeaux Wood, west of the Meuse and northwest of Verdun.

According to French official communication issued to-night German attacks west of the village of Douaumont and against the village of Vaux were put down by the French.

What's Winston Churchill's Game?

LONDON, Mar. 10.—The Weekly Nation believes that Col. Churchill, formerly First Lord of the Admiralty, intends to resign his commission in the Army and return to Parliament.

Neutral Sunk

LONDON, Mar. 10.—The Norwegian barque Silius, from New York, February 4th, bound for Havre, has been sunk. Three members of the crew were lost.

Wilson After Villa's Scalp Dead or Alive

WASHINGTON, Mar. 10.—President Wilson to-day ordered American troops over the Mexican border to capture or kill the Villa bandits who, yesterday, raided Columbus, N.M. In its present stage the President's order does not mean armed intervention in Mexico, but provides for a punitive expedition to deal with the lawless forces over which the Carranza Government has no control.

Entente Powers Will Not Accept U. S. Proposals

WASHINGTON, Mar. 11.—Entente Allies have agreed to inform the United States that they cannot accept the proposal in Secretary of State Lansing's recent circular memorandum that a modus vivendi be entered into for the disarmament of belligerent-owned merchant ships. Conferences between the Allies on this subject has been ended, and formal reports to the American suggestion are expected in the near future.

Why Germany Declared War On Portugal

Was Afraid Other Countries would Do as Portugal did—Says British Diplomat in Touch With the Situation.

LONDON, March 11.—Germany has declared war on Portugal, according to a British diplomat in close touch with the situation, because she feared that other countries might do what Portugal has done, as the seizure of German ships makes the submarine campaign much less effective and because it increases the available tonnage.

This official also declared that Portugal only exercised the rights of eminent domain and took the ships with a promise to make compensation, for the reason that she is in vital need of more vessels. He pointed out the fact that Italy, which is not at war with Germany, did the same thing without any serious protest from Berlin.

Failed On Account Of the Efficiency Of British Navy

Germany's Contention That We Have no Right to Interfere with Trade is Absurd says Lord Cecil—Whole Purpose of Hun Submarine Blockade Was to Prevent Trade With Britain—It Failed Owing to the Efficiency of Britain's Fleet—All Nonsense to Say Submarines Because they Are a New Departure in Warfare Are Not Subject to International Law

LONDON, Mar. 11.—"Knowing well that the Germans would starve us if they got the chance, I don't believe any intelligent German doubts for a moment we have a perfect right to put every economic pressure possible on them to bring the war to an end in the most humane way," said Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade, to-day discussing the new German submarine memorandum, and its possible consequences.

"There is really nothing new in the German submarine memorandum," said Lord Robert, "as it employs the same old evasions. They still use the reprisal argument, but they began submarine ships before the so-called blockade was adopted. With regard to the charge of mine-laying, they began to sow them indiscriminately before we put down any. We never laid a mine in the trade routes of the high seas, while the Germans even planted them in neutral waters, as is witnessed in the present case of Sweden. These things we have never done.

As far as the increase in the list of contraband goes, every belligerent in the past has exercised this right according to their needs, with due regard for existing rights. Besides not having ratified it, we are not bound by the Declaration of London. Whether Germany will increase her contraband list in violation of the Declaration, I do not know, and it does not matter.

"It is nonsense to say that submarines, being a new departure in warfare, are not subject to existing

International Law. They are merely warships, therefore, come under existing rules. We might as well say that German airships have a right to drop bombs on women and children, who always have been protected by International Law, which prohibits their murder.

"As to the right to stop food supplies, Germany set the precedent by sinking the Dutch ship Maria and the American ship William P. Frye. Blockaders always have been recognized and cannot be called inhumane, as they cause less suffering and less loss of life than the actual operations of warfare, especially bombardments.

"Germany's general contention that we have no right to interfere with trade is absurd, such interference is a natural result of the blockade. The German contention that British merchant ships are armed effectively cannot be sustained by reference to Admiralty instructions last October, as they were issued with the purpose of enabling ships to defend themselves from attack. Such armament is only for suitable defence, as is shown in the case of the steamer Clan MacTavish sunk by the German raider Moeve.

"The fact that the submarine is much more vulnerable than a merchant raider, gives it no right to sink neutrals without warning. The general assertion that the Germans interfere less with trade than the Allies is untrue. The whole purpose of their submarine blockade was to prevent trade with Great Britain. It failed on account of the efficiency of the British Navy. As yet there is no indication of any success being enjoyed by the new submarine campaign, but it is dangerous to prophesy. However, the Navy probably will be able to deal with any new manifestation of 'frightfulness.'

Burrheads—I know a man who looks so much like you that one could hardly tell you apart.

Lenders—You haven't paid him that fever I lent you three months ago, have you?

HAVE A FIT---

You must agree it's economy
It's very plain and clear
If you buy—this is no lie—
Whatever's cheap is dear!
The best you buy is cheapest—
Why?
This you must admit
That a "tailor square" gives you
the wear.
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Must be on board ship at Midnight, Sunday, March 12th.

BOWRING BROS., LTD.

"San Onofre is Towed to Halifax"

Oil Tanker Reported Last Week Off Cape Race Is Due At Halifax To-day.

Halifax, March 11.—After drifting helpless off the Newfoundland coast for more than a week, without coal, the 9,000 ton Eagle Oil Company's steamer San Onofre has been taken in tow by the steamer Ashtabula, and is expected to reach Halifax to-day.

Casualties For Feb. Number 35,198

LONDON, Mar. 10.—According to official German casualty lists which have reached London, the total German casualties for February was 35,198. This brings up the total for war, as shown in these lists, to 2,667,372.

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