

SWEDISH GOV'T MAKES PROTEST TO GERMANY

ALAND ISLANDS OCCUPIED AS BASE BY THE TEUTONS

Latter Will Take Charge of Finland to "Restore Order"—Sweden Makes Protest—British Carry Out Successful Raids in France—Australians Do Good Work and British Advance Further in Palestine.

Christiania, Mar. 4.—(British Admiralty, per Wireless Press)—The Aland Islands were occupied at noon Saturday by the Germans, according to a telegram received here.

To Police Finland.

Washington, Mar. 4.—Germany's occupation of the Aland Islands is only a preliminary to the total occupation of Finland. Official despatches to the Swedish legation today say Germany has announced that the Stockholm foreign office has intention to occupy Finland and that Sweden has protested. Germany advised Sweden, the despatches say, that it was necessary, temporarily, to occupy Finland to restore order, but gave assurances that she had no intention to take permanent possession of the territory. Sweden protested also against the Aland Islands being placed in the war zone.

Base of Supplies.

The occupation of the Aland Islands, the despatches say, is to make them a base for supplying the German occupation of Finland. There are 500 Swedish troops on the islands for police purposes. Their commander was notified by the German commander of his intentions, and while so far there has been no clash reported, the Swedish troops have not been withdrawn, and the feeling is described here as being very tense.

British Statement.

London, Mar. 4.—Successful raids

UNITED STATES FIRE
LOSSES \$230,000,000
IN THE YEAR 1917

Losses Larger Than in Any
Previous Year in Nation's
History if San Francisco
Earthquake Be Excepted.

Trenton, N. J., Mar. 4.—Losses from fire aggregated \$230,000,000 in 1917, and were larger than in any previous year except one, 1906, in the nation's history, according to a communication received today by the New Jersey state council of defence from the council of national defence. The San Francisco earthquake and conflagration occurred in 1906. The rapidity with which fire losses are mounting is emphasized by the statement that the 1917 damage exceeded by \$50,000,000 that of the previous year, when the losses alone totalled \$30,000,000 more than in 1915.

The communication asserts that a particularly serious feature of the situation is a recent great increase of fire of incendiary origin in places where they were effective in discouraging industry, such as factories, warehouses, lumber yards and docks.

TRAIN BLOCKED

Frederickton, Mar. 4.—The heavy storm of yesterday struck the Valley line very hard, blocking the road near Centerville. There was no train up on the line today.

SUFFERED
WITH NERVES
COULD NOT KEEP QUIET.

MASSACHUSETTS TAX
LAW IS UPHELD

Paper Trust and Locomotive
Co. of America Lose Their
Appeals.

Washington, March 4.—The Massachusetts law of 1914, levying an excess tax on the par value of capital stocks exceeding \$10,000,000, was declared void today by the Supreme Court. The law was attacked by the International Paper Company and the Locomotive Company of America, in separate appeals.

Quebec, Mar. 4.—The Hon. Albert Seignin was tendered his resignation as Minister of Inland Revenue in the Borden cabinet. This is official.

GERMANS GET CONTROL OF PLATINUM

Russia Principal Supply of
World—Shift Will Mean
Serious Situation in Other
Countries.

Washington, Mar. 4.—Germany is taking advantage of the peace negotiations with Russia to buy up every available ounce of platinum, according to advices received today by the American government. Officials said today that undoubtedly the Germans were badly in need of the platinum, but their intent was doubtless also to keep the United States and other allies from obtaining the important metal.

The Germans were said to be paying any prices asked without haggling.

Competition for platinum among the nations of the world has become one of the keenest commercial struggles of the war. Officials say it is one which affects the war programme most vitally, for without it munitions and many kinds of delicate electrical instruments cannot be made. Tanks are impossible without platinum for contact points of magnets and signal instruments are dumb without the metal.

Supplies of platinum in the United States amount to between 25,000 and 30,000 ounces, most of which will be taken over by the government under the considering orders issued last week. While that amount seems sufficient for present needs, the country is short of iridium, a constituent metal of platinum, which iridium is used to harden. There is not an ounce of iridium for sale in America today. Last sales of iridium were made at \$185 an ounce and of platinum at \$90.

Will Stop Import.

With Russia, the world's principal platinum market closed by German control, the use of platinum for jewelry is expected to come after present stocks in the hands of manufacturing jewellers are exhausted. Those stocks have not been taken over, one reason being that approximately eight thousand men in New York and Newark alone depend on platinum work entirely for livelihood.

The possibility of increasing American production of platinum is being studied in the emergency. Heretofore Nevada, California, Utah and Oregon have turned out about 750 ounces a year, which geologists believe can be increased to 3,000 ounces.

THREE TORPEDOES FIRED AT AURANIA

Canadian Soldier Tells of
Beaching of Big 13,400 Ton
Steamer on Tory Island.

An Atlantic Port, Mar. 4.—Three torpedoes were used on the 13,400 ton Cunard line steamship Aurania, when she was attacked by U-boats off the British coast early in February and so badly damaged that she broke up and sank after being beached on Tory Island, according to James Randall of Charlottetown, Mass., a soldier in the Canadian army, who was aboard the vessel and arrived here on another British steamship today.

The second torpedo was fired while the boats were being launched, and the third after the ship had been deserted. He was in the captain's lifeboat and the submarine which fired the last torpedo came to the surface so close that a British sailor "took a swipe" at the periscope with an oar, he said.

The American was shot in the eye during the attack and is in a hospital at Port Limon, the passengers said. Everyone crouched between the seats of the coaches when the first shot was fired and this prevented greater loss of life from the 500 or 600 bullets discharged into the train.

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Massachusetts excise taxes imposed under a previous law upon a number of corporations were upheld in a law suit today by the supreme court applying the state's foreign corporation excise law as to whether the business was local or interstate.

SEIGNIN RESIGNS

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WASHINGTON TRIP WAS A SUCCESS

Sir Robert Borden Likely to
Issue Full Statement Soon
—The Financial Problem
Thoroughly Discussed.

Ottawa, Mar. 4.—Sir Robert Borden has not, since his return from Washington, issued any statement in regard to conferences at the American capital, but it is understood, he is likely to do so at an early date. Prior to his departure from Washington, Sir Robert expressed himself as being able to state that his visit to the United States capital had been crowned with success, a common agreement having been arrived at on matters of vital importance to the prosecution of the war. He indicated that the keynote of these conferences was absolute unanimity on all matters of policy and that the Anglo-Saxon enemies of Germany will act henceforth, not as individual units, but as one machine, closely knit together, not only in military ways, but from an economic and financial standpoint as well.

Well Satisfied.

It is understood that Sir Robert and his colleagues, Hon. A. K. MacLean, have returned well satisfied with the work done in Washington by the Canadian war commission recently established there, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lloyd Harris. Two members of the Canadian war trade board, P. P. Holmes and J. H. Gundy, accompanied the premier to Washington and had frequent conferences with Mr. Haruch, chairman of the war industries board, and with Vance C. McCormick, of the war trade board. It is believed their conferences were eminently satisfactory.

Sir Robert, with Mr. MacLean and Sir Williams Taylor of the Bank of Montreal, had several conferences with Secretary McAdoo in regard to financial matters. The conclusions arrived at will doubtless be covered in any statement which may be made.

Bassett's Counter Thrust Sale goes well with this and other 14-16-18 Charlotte street. Remember no branches.

BAD EGGS TAKEN IN COSTA RICA

Were Members of Revolution-
ary Party Led by Pro-Ger-
man Newspaper Editor.

Panama, Mar. 4.—Ninety-six revolutionists in the Atlantic coast of Costa Rica were arrested by the Costa Rican government in suppressing the revolution led by Rogelio Fernandez Guell, a pro-German newspaper editor, according to advices received by the confidential agent here of the government of President Thierro of Costa Rica. The persons arrested comprised all the revolutionists in this region, it was stated, including all the leaders with the exception of Guell himself.

It was officially announced by the government of Costa Rica on March 2 that the Guell revolution had been completely suppressed.

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A MOVIE ACTOR DROWNED WHILE PLAYING PART

Col. Johann W. Colenbrander,
Widely Known South African
Warrior, Victim of Real
Tragedy of the Screen.

New York, Mar. 4.—Word of the death by drowning near Johannesburg, South Africa of Col. Johann W. Colenbrander, widely known for his leadership of various commands in campaigns against the African natives and Boers, was received here today. He was over sixty years of age. The veteran warrior, whose body was literally covered with scars of spear wounds received in encounters in the African jungle, was playing a part in a moving picture production when he fell from his horse while fording a river. He was drowned before rescuers could reach him.

For his services in organizing and heading "Kitchener's fighting scouts" and "Colenbrander's boys" in African outbreaks, Col. Colenbrander was made a Commander of the Bath in 1902. He visited America in 1908 and in 1911. Col. Colenbrander, who was of Dutch parentage, was reputed to be familiar with every African native dialect in use south of the equator.

LYNCH THE HUNS, SAYS FOOD MAN

"We Will Not Be a Strictly
Free People Until Ten
Thousand German Propo-
gandists in This State Have
Been Hanged to Telegraph
Poles."

Philadelphia, Pa., Mar. 4.—"We will not be strictly free people until ten thousand German propagandists in this state have been hanged to telegraph poles and shot full of holes."

This statement was made today by Howard Heinz, federal food administrator for Pennsylvania, at a luncheon of food officials.

Mr. Heinz has just returned from a state-wide speaking tour. He reports that the activities of the German agents have been making serious inroads on food conservation.

The German agents have been spreading stories that the Allies are eating white bread and that there is a surplus of wheat in Argentina.

"With our present tonnage we cannot completely get the wheat from Argentina to our Allies because of the long haul. It will be next year before we can even catch up with the present sinkings of the U-boats."

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WAR'S OUTCOME UP TO WILSON

Frankfurter Zeitung Says to
Allies, Take Belgium If You
Can.

Amsterdam, Mar. 4.—The Frankfurter Zeitung, commenting on the recent speech of A. J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary, says:

"The decision as to whether the war, with all its horrors, shall continue or preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of peace shall begin, depends today more on President Wilson than on the governments of the European Entente."

The paper finds some parts of Mr. Balfour's speech deserving of consideration and regards its moderate tone as a welcome sign. It contends that the demand for the evacuation of Belgium and reparation in the case of that country should only be acceded to if the Entente is able to force Germany out of Belgium.

"Mr. Balfour should know," it adds, "that the maximum concessions of both sides can be only reached by negotiations."

Wreck in Storm.

Winnipeg, Mar. 4.—According to a statement issued by the C.P.R., here, train No. 4, from Vancouver, eastbound yesterday, at six p.m., struck the rear end of a freight train, two and a quarter miles west of Groffmont, Alta. A blizzard was raging at the time and the work of clearing the track was not completed until ten hours later, when No. 4 proceeded east. No one was injured in the collision, but a caboose and two dead-head snowplows on the rear end of the freight train, were destroyed.

It is believed that the freight train was properly protected with signals and an investigation into the cause of the collision is now being considered.

Do all your shopping at Bessen's Counter Thrust Sale, 14-16-18 Charlotte street. No branches.

THREE KILLED IN A LAUNDRY EXPLOSION

Serious Accident in French-
Canadian District of Provi-
dence.

Providence, R. I., Mar. 4.—Three persons were killed and four others injured today by an explosion of the boiler in the Mount Pleasant laundry building here.

Wm. Lamon, part owner of the laundry, Frank Cormier, and an unidentified employee, who had been engaged to begin work this morning, were killed. The injured, all employees, were burned or cut by falling timbers. The building was wrecked.

Orville Chabot, one of the proprietors, told the police he was in the boiler room early today and that everything appeared to be in proper shape. He was unable to explain the cause of the explosion.

London, Mar. 4.—(via Reuter's Ottawa agency)—Sir John Cowans, quartermaster general, opened the British official war photographs exhibition in the Grafton galleries today. There was a very large attendance. Lord Beaverbrook presided.

Sir John Cowans, in the course of his address, remarked that since photographic exhibition was never attempted on such a scale before. Their impression of that amazing collection, he said, would be ineffaceable.

Lord Beaverbrook said that the Canadians and Australians had already had their exhibitions and so successful was the Canadian exhibition in America that the British department of information was actually compelled to undertake a counter-propaganda, as the American people were beginning to believe that the whole war front must be held by Canadians. This sally was greeted by great laughter and applause.

Sir George Perley, high commissioner for Canada, welcomed the exhibition. It was high time, he declared, that a permanent record should be made of the war efforts of Great Britain.

NORWAY PROTESTS

Christiania, Mar. 4.—Norway has protested to Great Britain against the seizure by a British cruiser of the German steamer Dusseldorf. The protest says the steamer was taken in Norwegian waters and demands the release of both the vessel and her crew.

A despatch from Tromsø, February 23 said the Dusseldorf had been captured by a British auxiliary cruiser while on her way from Tromsø to Stettin.

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THOUSANDS AFFECTED BY COURT DECISION

Graphophone Trust Gets
Black Eye in Suit Against
Chicago Store—Opinion of
Vital Importance.

Washington, Mar. 4.—Decrees limiting the rights of a patentee under the patent laws to control the resale price of an article, was rendered today by the supreme court.

A patentee, the court held, cannot, in selling his article to another, reserve the right by contract to fix the price at which it is later to be resold. This interpretation of the patent laws was made by the court in answering questions certified by the lower court's injunction proceedings restraining the Boston store of Chicago from selling records in violation of a contract made with the American Graphophone Company for less than official list prices.

The opinion is of vital importance affecting not only five thousand dealers in graphophone records, bound by similar contracts, but also thousands of dealers in many other articles, the resale prices of which are fixed by the manufacturers.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM BACKACHE?

When your kidneys are weak and torpid they do not properly perform their functions; your back aches and you do not feel like doing much of anything. You are likely to be dependent and to borrow trouble, just as if you hadn't enough already. Don't be a victim any longer.

The old reliable medicine, Hood's Sarsaparilla, gives strength and tone to the kidneys and builds up the whole system.

Hood's Sarsaparilla is a peculiar combination of roots, barks and herbs. No other medicine acts like it, because no other medicine has the same formula or ingredients. Accept no substitute, but insist on having Hood's, and get it today.

PRINCE MIRKO DEAD

Amsterdam, Mar. 4.—Prince Mirko, second son of King Nicholas of Montenegro, died in a sanitarium in Vienna on Sunday of pneumonia.

Prince Mirko, who was sixty-two years old, remained in Montenegro after the royal family fled from the Austrian invaders. He attempted to enter into separate peace negotiations with Austria, but his efforts were of no avail.

Hubert Howe Bancroft, HISTORIAN, IS DEAD

Wrote Numerous Books and
Histories of Central America
and Mexico.

San Francisco, Mar. 4.—Hubert Howe Bancroft, famous American historian, is dead at Walnut Creek, twenty miles east of this city, aged eighty-five years.

Hubert Howe Bancroft was born in Granville, O., in 1832. He wrote many books on the Western States, the native races and histories of Mexico and Central America.

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