

THE SINKING OF "DRESDEN" IS EXPLAINED

Britain Claims She Had Colors Flying and Guns Trained When Attacked.

FULL APOLOGY

Offered to Chile for Violation of the Neutrality of Her Waters.

London Cable.—The British Government has offered "a full and ample apology" to the Chilean Government for the sinking on March 14 in Chilean territorial waters of the German cruiser Dresden, the internment of which had already been ordered by the Maritime Governor of Cumberland Bay when the British squadron attacked and sank her.

This fact was made public to-night in a White Paper, giving the texts of the Chilean note protesting against the sinking of the Dresden and the British Government's reply.

The note delivered by the Chilean Minister to Great Britain says that the Dresden anchored in Cumberland Bay (Juan Fernandez Island) March 9 and asked permission to remain eight days for the purpose of repairing her engines, which were said to be out of order. The Governor refused the request, as he considered it unfounded, and ordered the captain to leave the bay within 24 hours.

As the order was not complied with the captain of the Dresden was informed that his ship was interned.

CHILE IS SURPRISED.

When the British squadron appeared on March 14, the Governor was proceeding to the cruiser Glasgow to inform the British officers of the steps he had taken, but he had to turn back, as the British ships opened fire on the Dresden, on which a flag of truce had already been hoisted, and called on her captain to surrender. The captain then gave orders to blow up the magazine of the Dresden.

"This act of hostility committed in Chilean territorial waters by a British naval squadron," says the Chilean Minister, "has painfully surprised my Government."

Continuing, the Minister says that had the officer in command of the British squadron received the Governor's order and had been informed that the Dresden was interned, he was convinced that "the British commander would not have opened fire on her and brought about a situation which constrains the Chilean Government in defence of its sovereign rights, to formulate a most energetic protest."

After referring to the hospitality shown British ships in Chilean waters and to the long friendship between the two peoples, the Minister says: "Nothing could be more painful to us than to see our extremely cordial attitude repaid by an act which bears unfortunately all the evidence of contempt for our sovereign rights, although it is probable that nothing was further from the minds of those by whom it was unthinkingly committed."

BRITAIN EXPRESSES REGRET.

The British Government, in its reply, expressed regret that a misunderstanding arose, and adds: "On the facts as stated in the communication of the Chilean Minister, the British Government is prepared to offer a full and ample apology to the Chilean Government."

It is, however, pointed out that according to the British information the Dresden "had not accepted internment and still had her colors flying and her guns trained."

The British reply continues: "If this is so, and if there were no means available for enforcing the decision of the Chilean authorities to intern the Dresden, she might obviously, had not the British ships taken action, have escaped, again to attack British commerce."

It is added: "The captain of the Glasgow probably assumed, especially in view of the past action of the Dresden, that she was defying the Chilean authorities and abusing Chilean neutrality, and was only waiting for a favorable opportunity to ally out an attack British commerce again."

In view of the time it would take to clear up the circumstances and because of the Chilean communication, the British Government do not wish to qualify the apology that they now present to the Chilean Government."

SMALL LOSSES

British Proud of Record During Pirate Campaign.

London Cable.—The British Admiralty is proud of the record of the British fleet during the past week. The Admiralty reported that more than a million tons of goods were captured, and that the total number of prizes taken was 100,000. The British fleet is reported to have captured 100,000 tons of goods and 100,000 prisoners during the past week.

NO ROAD GRANTS

Ontario Will Give None to Counties This Year.

Toronto, Cable.—Through the Provincial highway legislation of the past session made provision for larger grants in connection with country road construction and maintenance, there is reason to believe it may not be considered advisable to make these operative this season. This, together with other portions of the act, comes into force by proclamation, but, with prevailing conditions, it is said to be questionable whether the Government will do anything to promote construction on an extensive basis in the way of giving immediate payments of increased grants. Arrangements which had been previously made for road-building will, however, be unaffected, and will be carried through this spring.

AFRICA HAS 16 INHABITANTS

TO THE SQUARE MILE AND NORTH AMERICA HAS ONLY ONE MORE PER MILE.

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SPIES' WORK

Tried to Burn Down the Portsmouth Dockyards.

London, Cable.—There was a rumor in London the night of January 31 that a serious fire had broken out in the big Government dockyards at Portsmouth; but the censor eliminated all mention of the matter from press despatches.

It now appears that the fire was of serious character, and came near wiping out the docks and other valuable properties at Portsmouth. The real extent of the damage is still unknown, but it is the common belief in official circles that the fire was the work of incendiaries, presumably German spies.

To-day a carefully worded notice was issued by the dockyard authorities, offering a reward of \$500 "for the discovery of the incendiaries responsible for the fire at the building slip sheds the night of January 31."

MILITARY CROSS FOR COLQUHOUN

Hamilton Boy With Princess Pats Wins Honors.

Major Gault Gets Distinguished Service Order.

London Cable.—The Official Gazette announces that Major A. H. Gault, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, has been decorated with the Distinguished Service Order, and that Lieut. W. G. Colquhoun and Lieut. Papineau, of the same infantry, have been decorated with the Military Cross. The decorations are for conspicuous bravery.

Lieut. Papineau was in charge of the first party of the detachment led by Lieut. Crabbe at St. Eloi, which exploit was mentioned in Sir John French's despatch published yesterday. The two other parties were led by Sergeant Patterson and Company Sergeant-Major Lloyd.

According to the official report, Major Gault is honored "for conspicuous gallantry at St. Eloi on Feb. 27 in reconnoitering quite close to the enemy's position and obtaining information of great value for the attack carried out the next day. On Feb. 28 Major Gault assisted in the rescue of wounded under most difficult circumstances while exposed to heavy fire."

Lieut. Colquhoun is decorated "for conspicuous gallantry and resource on numerous occasions, especially at St. Eloi on Jan. 26, when he rescued, with the assistance of one man, a mortally wounded officer after three others had failed in the attempt, being under very heavy close range fire the whole time. Again on February 27 at St. Eloi rendered valuable assistance on reconnoitering duty under very difficult and dangerous circumstances."

Lieut. Papineau is rewarded "for conspicuous gallantry at St. Eloi on Feb. 28, when in a charge of bomb throwers during our attack on the enemy's trenches he shot two of the enemy himself and then ran along a German sap, throwing bombs therein."

WAS A SUB.

Crew of Katwyk Prove She Was Pirate's Victim.

The Hague, via London, Cable.—A submarine sank the Dutch steamer Katwyk, which went down yesterday near the North Hinder lightship, according to a report of the examination of the vessel's captain and crew, published by the Department of Marine. The report says:

"The captain cast anchor in twenty fathoms of water, seven miles west of the North Hinder lightship. The anchor light immediately was lighted, as well as two electric lamps, illuminating the flags fore and aft, fifteen and ten feet in length, respectively. Between the flags in big letters were the words 'Katwyk, Rotterdam.'"

"The second mate and two sailors were busy with the lamps. Besides the lookout standing on the bridge, nobody else was on deck. Suddenly a heavy shock was felt, and the mate observed a column of water on the port side. The lamps were thrown out and fire started immediately."

"The captain and crew hastened on deck and took to the boats, remaining near the sinking vessel for some time. Suddenly they observed a submarine emerging, showing no number, and with none of the crew visible. The Katwyk's captain shouted a request that the submarine tow the boats to the lightship, but no attention was paid to him, and the submarine disappeared in the darkness. The Katwyk disappeared beneath the water in twenty minutes, and the boats were rowed to the lightship."

K. OF K'S. ARMY

100,000 Soldiers On the Move to Salisbury Plain.

London, Cable.—Kitchener's army—horse, foot and artillery—is on the move once more to the great camping ground at Salisbury Plain, where some more than 100,000 soldiers will be camped. The winter is over, and the winter quarters are being dismantled, and all along the main lines of the army the main lines of troops can be seen on the march.

The entire brigade of 10,000 men is marching cross-country from Whitley, making it a day, under active service conditions. Following six months of hard training, this is an easy rest and less than a dozen men daily have fallen out of the ranks. The brigade is preceded by a group of buglers, whose most popular air by general agreement is "Way Down Upon the Swanne River."

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

John Bunny, Movies Comedian, is at Death's Door in Brooklyn, N. Y.

WELLAND OPEN

Wm. G. C. Gladstone, Grandson of Great Statesman, Killed in Battle.

Mr. Patrick Burns, the oldest coal dealer in Toronto, died.

Capt. Darling, of the 48th Highlanders, Toronto, is seriously ill in England.

The Toronto Royal Grenadiers will continue their drill, despite the stopping of pay.

Col. J. G. Langton will again be the nomination of the Toronto Board of Control for Fire Commissioner.

The Welland Canal is open for traffic. All bridge and lock tenders are on duty but no boats have arrived yet.

Fred Coulter aged 28 years a roomer at 70 Beverley street Toronto committed suicide by inhaling illuminating gas.

Two new wings of the Bramford General Hospital costing in all \$185,000 were formally opened by Mayor Spence Thursday afternoon.

The soldiers' votes bill was passed, after important amendments had been made by the Senate and after some modification accepted by the Government.

Supreme Court Justice Newburger at New York decided to consider the motion of lawyers for Harry K. Thaw that he be granted a jury trial to determine his sanity.

John Bunny comedian of the screen was thought to be at death's door in Brooklyn Thursday of a complication of kidney and heart ailments. He has been ill for three weeks at his home in Brooklyn.

Miss Florence Chandler daughter of E. A. Chandler of Stratford received word to report to Ottawa at once for overseas service as nurse. This makes the fourth Stratford nurse to be accepted for duty at the front.

William G. C. Gladstone grandson of the great Liberal statesman has been killed in action in France. Particulars of his death are lacking. Mr. Gladstone was 29 years old. He was a Liberal member of the House of Commons.

The coastwise schooner Jewel from Lunenburg with general cargo was seized by the naval authorities and towed to the dockyard. It is presumed that she failed to comply with the strict letter of the law governing vessels entering Halifax harbor.

Pte. Harry Nichols a member of the 39th Battalion C.E.F. mobilized in Belleville died there at a nearly hour Thursday morning a victim of spinal meningitis. This is the third fatal case since mobilization there.

JITNEY BLAMED

For Great Reduction in Winnipeg Rail Business.

Winnipeg Despatch.—The war, present financial conditions in Winnipeg, and the jitney opposition were responsible for the request of the Winnipeg Street Railway for permission to cut down by twenty cars their service in Winnipeg, according to the statement of the railway's Council to the public utilities commissioner. Nearly six hundred thousand fewer passengers were carried by the railway last month than for March a year ago. For the first twelve days of April this year there were four hundred thousand fewer passengers than in the corresponding period last year, and the receipts were \$15,000 less.

Referring to the jitney business, Edward Anderson, on behalf of the railway, said the promoters of the railway had been promised the sole franchise for carrying the passengers. Today this was a losing venture and the city street railway looked to the city to protect them. Were no protection offered the English capitalists who had invested their money, capital was likely to flight shy of this city in future.

Council for the city did not object to the reduction in the number of cars, providing it did not establish a precedent. Judgment is expected to-day.

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DRUGS SCARCE

Blockade of Germany Hits Trade in Britain.

London Cable.—The blockade of Germany by the allies will prevent England and France from getting German drugs through the medium of the United States, according to the Lancet. Already phenacetin and acetanilide are four times their former price, and phenazone has doubled. While cocaine is more than double its pre-war quotation, this cannot be considered abnormal, in view of the enormous demand. It is difficult at this time to supply the medical departments of the allied armies with morphine and cocaine, especially as the supply of Turkish opium has been cut off. However, a good supply of opium is obtainable from Persia and India. Stocks of atropine are low and the price correspondingly high. Chloral hydrates and the bromides have doubled in price since the war.

AIR RAIDER WAS NOT HIT

Zeppelin Attacking Wednesday Night Made Escape

Though Pursued by Squadron of Planes.

A London Cable Says—Successfully evading a squadron of ten British military aeroplanes, speeding in pursuit, the German Zeppelin which attacked towns in the industrial district about Newcastle last night dashed out over the North Sea early this morning. Though the British aeroplanes were on the wing within ten minutes after the first alarm was sounded, none of them came close enough to the Zeppelin to attack her.

The Zeppelin had a narrow escape from destruction at Cramlington when it passed over that town, says a despatch from Newcastle, but the rapidly with which it was moving saved it. Eight shells were fired at the Zeppelin from the guns at Cramlington. Although all missed, three burst very close to the airship.

It is estimated that about 65 bombs were dropped by the Zeppelin over the nine towns of Blyth, Wallsend, Cramlington, Westoe, Seaton, Burn, Hebburn, Bedlington and South Shields. Reports from the raided district up to noon stated that only four persons, three women and a man, had been injured, none seriously. Little damage is said to have been done.

The bombs dropped by the Zeppelin were mostly of an incendiary character, about five inches in diameter and about eighteen inches long. It is believed here that the purpose of the raid was to attack the Armstrong Works at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Here many British warships are constructed and the plant has been working 24 hours a day since the war began. The Zeppelin, however, failed to reach Newcastle. After passing over Seaton, a few miles from Newcastle, it turned south across the Tyne.

The fact that the airship was fired upon at Blyth and Cramlington is believed to have convinced its commander that any attempt to make a successful attack upon Newcastle would be hopeless. On its departure from England the Zeppelin headed eastward over Sunderland. No bombs were dropped there, the airship's supply probably having been exhausted.

BRITAIN'S ARMY

Government Appears Ample Satisfied With Recruiting.

A London, Cable says—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—It is impossible, even for members of Parliament, to find out how many soldiers Great Britain has in training. They have put the question in the House of Commons, and the War Office has refused to answer it, saying that the information would be so valuable to the enemy that it must remain secret.

Meanwhile the friends of conscription, which include Lord Northcliffe's papers, are preaching of the need of preparing for that form of recruiting, and in the daily papers are such appeals as that appearing to-day from the recruiting committee for Taunton, which says:

"As all efforts now made to obtain the enlistment of the many hundreds of young, eligible, single men in this town and district fail to meet with success, the Government should start without delay some compulsory system."

This the Government, still continuing its poster and newspaper advertising campaign, shows not the slightest disposition to do, apparently satisfied with the present progress, which as Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George has said, has produced the largest volunteer army the world ever saw.

A prominent official, with knowledge of the situation, is the authority for the statement that the British troops so far put into the field, including Canadian, New Zealand, Australian and Indian units—regulars, Territorials, volunteers and all—probably amount to two and a half million men. As the British, when the war started, told the French they could send but 120,000 men to help them, this seems a large army. Whether it is accurate or is deemed satisfactory by the Government cannot be said, though it is significant that the advocates of conscription seem utterly unable to convince the authorities toward any form of compulsory service.

HIGHWAYMEN

Held Up London Pursuers at Revolver Point.

London, Int. Despatch.—W. N. Manning, of the Sherlock-Manning Piano Co.; J. R. Stevenson, his chauffeur, and Jack Freeman, an employee of the firm, were held up to-night north of Dorchester by two unknown men, who had stolen Mr. Manning's car in the business district of the city during the afternoon.

The men were pursued by Manning, Stevenson and Freeman in another car, which overtook the stolen machine when a tire of the latter blew up. The pair whipped out revolvers when accosted, and with guns levelled at the trio, made their escape in the fields. The police are scouring the district for the pair. Two girls were with the miscreants in the car, and they, too, succeeded in getting away.

CARD. MERCIER

Belgian Church Head Again Offends the Germans.

London, Cable.—Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines, has again offended German susceptibilities. A despatch from Berlin says the Tacheleche Rundschau prints a letter said to have been written by the Cardinal to Cardinal Bonette, Archbishop of Paris, showing the Germans have achieved by their extravagantly considerate treatment of him.

The letter is said to express Cardinal Mercier's admiration for France and his regret at his inability to give full vent to his feelings. According to the Tacheleche Rundschau part of the letter reads as follows:

"I cannot doubt that the day is approaching when full freedom of our movements and our words will be restored. You and we will then have the great joy to express openly all the patriotic and Christian feelings which at present are spent up in our souls. God grant that we may patiently await the hour of liberation."

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A VILLA REVERSE

His Troops Reported Heavily Defeated at Obregon.

Washington Despatch.—Confirmation was awaited here to-day of the reported defeat of the Villa forces north of Celaya by troops under Gen. Obregon. Meagre advices to the Carranza agency from Vera Cruz said that General Obregon, in reporting a decisive victory over the Villa forces, claimed to have captured 2,500 prisoners and fourteen cannon. He added that he was in pursuit of the enemy.

Unofficial advices from Vera Cruz said that General Obregon reported that five thousand Villa troops had been killed, and that 6,000 prisoners and forty field pieces had been taken. Affidavits have been received by diplomatic representatives here from the International Commission of Mexico, which, in many cases, have been confirmed by previous advices received, alleging the existence of conditions of anarchy in Mexico City, and reciting specific instances of abuse of foreigners there. These affidavits have been transmitted by the diplomats to their home Governments. Copies of the allegations corroborated by their own representatives in Mexico have been submitted by the diplomatic representatives to the State Department for its information. Word reached Secretary Bryan from Americans in Mexico City, he said, recently, that the affidavits were on their way to Washington, and that they exaggerated actual conditions in many instances.

INHUMAN WORK OF THE GERMANS

Scores of Babies Torn From Mothers and Sent to Switzerland.

Paris Cable.—William T. P. Hollingsworth, representative of the Westinghouse interests in France, has returned from Schaffhausen and Zurich, where he investigated the conditions of returning civilian prisoners on behalf of the American Clearing House for Relief.

Germany has already sent back 30,000 of these civilian prisoners, stating that between 150,000 and 200,000 are yet to be returned. Two trains are arriving in Switzerland from Germany daily, each carrying 500 of the returning prisoners. Three-fourths of these are women and girls. No boys over 13 years of age are being sent back.

The most extraordinary point in Mr. Hollingsworth's report is that the trains bring 100 babies, a week old and upward, daily. These are unclothed, but are wrapped in fragments of skirts and shawls. There is no means of tracing their identity. Mothers returning with their children say they received no medical attention at childbirth. Swiss women are supplying babies' clothing at the railway stations for the unfortunates. Many of the older children who have arrived also cannot be identified.

The Swiss began supplying money and food for the returning prisoners and babies, but their funds were insufficient to continue the work. They are now placing hot water and soap on the station platforms for the washing of clothing. The released prisoners seem cowed and unwilling to describe the treatment they received in Germany.

MOTHERS CLAIM THEY GOT NO ATTENTION AT CHILDBIRTH.

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ITALY READY

1,200,000 Picked, Equipped Men On the Border.

Frontier, via Paris cable, 10.55 a. m.—Italy to-day has 1,200,000 first line soldiers under arms. They are perfectly armed, and equipped otherwise "to the last button."

General Zupplini, the Italian Minister of War, speaking on the military situation in Italy, said that a military had been accomplished, in that a country which for about twenty years had maintained a military organization merely for the preservation of peace, had created what he termed one of the most perfect of war machines. The change was not easy, General Zupplini said, as was proved wherever the same work was attempted. Great Britain, for example, had faced the same problem, and though possessing greater forces, was even less prepared than Italy. The War Minister said that the equipment of the army with weapons was superior proportionately to that of the German army at the beginning of the war.

Eagerness of the soldiers concentrated along the frontier to join in action is so great that their officers are compelled to hold them closely in check, for fear of disturbing border incidents.

In view of the extensive preparations