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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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## ASQUITH AND LLOYD GEORGE CONFER WITH WORKERS DEPUTATION

### Premier Appeal to Delegation Was Along Lines of Immediate Action Necessary to Secure Efficiency in Military and Financial Stability—Urged the Immediate Adoption of Lloyd George's Scheme of Labor Dilution—Press Bureau Says Government Have Agreed to all Demands of Trade Unionists

LONDON, Jan. 3.—An account of the conference held on Friday evening between Premier Asquith, David Lloyd-George, Minister of Munitions, and a deputation from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, which is most influential trade union body, as it includes most trades concerned with the manufacture of munitions was issued to-night by the Press Bureau, and shows that the Government have decided to acquiesce to all demands of trade unionists in return for their consent of the immediate introduction of Lloyd-George's scheme for labor dilution.

The Press Bureau's account is made up for the most part of excerpts from Asquith's remarks to the deputation at a conference which lasted for three hours; but includes also the statement that the deputation agreed before the conference closed to accept, on behalf of the membership of their society, the scheme of dilution and co-operate actively therein. A bill covering union demands is to be pushed through Parliament as soon as possible. The demands mainly concern matters of pay and conditions of labor for unskilled workmen and women introduced under the dilution scheme. The Government has already agreed to restore the status quo after the war.

Premier Asquith's appeal to the delegation was along the familiar lines from point of view of the States. He said, the great point I want to impress on you, is the importance of putting this dilution scheme into effect at once.

It is an urgent matter as most needs of war are important, also the output of munitions should as far as possible be domestic, not foreign, be-

cause the financial problem before us is a very serious obligation as we must pay, either in exports or gold to America and other countries like her, for the munitions which we are getting there. Thus your immediate consent to the dilution scheme means an enormous gain in military efficiency and financial stability. No doubt it is difficult to persuade men who regard priorities and privileges of skilled labor as almost gospel to forego for a time these privileges and admit unskilled men into a class of work which skilled workmen have been in the habit of doing. There have been natural fears that when the war ends it will be impossible to re-establish old conditions and that all the elaborate safeguards, built up by generations of trade unionists, will have been undermined. The only way that these suspicions can be eradicated is by the unions exerting all their force to influence their members.

### OBJECT TO ALLIES ACTON IN SALONIKA

PARIS, Jan. 2.—Representatives of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria, have made collective representations to the Greek Government relative to the arrest of their Consuls at Salonika by the Allies, according to a Havas despatch from Athens. They were informed by Premier Skoufoulis that he had already protested to the British and French Governments.

### STEAMER BURNED

PARIS, Jan. 2.—An official Montenegrin statement issued yesterday from Cetinje says:— "During the bombardment of Dusan yesterday by an Austrian squadron the steamer Michael, carrying more than five hundred tons of provisions for Montenegro was burned, and her cargo destroyed. The steamer Michael referred to probably is a French vessel of 1772 tons gross, built at Sunderland, 1881.

## RUSSIA TO BREAK BACKBONE OF CENTRAL POWERS IN BALKANS

### London, Observers See in New Russian Move in Bessarabia one of the Most Ambitious Strategic Plans Since the Beginning of War—Russia and Allies to Meet in Balkans and Secure Complete Mastery of That Peninsula—Greece Makes More Diplomatic Protests—Roumania's Attitude Growing in Importance

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Russia's campaign in Bessarabia continues the most important visible war activity. From Pripet to the Roumanian frontier, over a front of at least three hundred miles huge Russian forces with a great appearance of confidence are hurling sledge-hammer blows at the opposing force which, according to all accounts, totals at least a million and half men.

Petrograd still claims considerable success in the early stages of the campaign. Despatches emphasize the excellent equipment, supplies and munitions, which Russia laid up for this purpose during the period of comparative passivity. Some London observers are speculating on the meaning of the Bessarabia move and hail it as one of the most ambitious strategic plans since the beginning of hostilities. They predict it will prove a colossal success, to break the back-bone of the Germanic allies on the whole line across the Balkans. Thus one critic writes, the plan is that Russia and other allies, moving from different points south of the Balkans, and sea ships sunk by submarines, during the month of December with the loss of 67 lives, while eight more were subdued and the vital of Austria, sunk by mines with the loss of thirty-Hungary menaced. So long as Rus-

ssia keeps up her present activity just north of the Roumanian border, the attitude of Roumania will continue to grow in importance. There have been many assertions in the Entente capitals that Roumania was about to enter the war on the side of the Allies, but nothing to support this has yet been heard from credible Roumanian sources. Meanwhile in the south Balkan peninsula the Allies continue their expectant attitude toward threatened attack, although Greece seems mainly occupied in making various diplomatic protests, having followed up the protest to the Entente allies against the arrest of Consuls by an equally strong protest to the Central Powers against airships flying across Greek territory. In the raid which killed a Greek shepherd and a few sheep.

The sinking of the steamship Persia with the death of the American Consular officer, brings up in European capitals the familiar query, as to what the United States will do now. Despatches from an English correspondent picture the sinking as a particularly aggravated case, owing to the fact that the ship was not only hit without warning or opportunity for the passengers to escape, but was also hit in the most vital part, so that the ship sank almost immediately. The beginning of hostilities. They predict it will prove a colossal success, to break the back-bone of the Germanic allies on the whole line across the Balkans. Thus one critic writes, the plan is that Russia and other allies, moving from different points south of the Balkans, and sea ships sunk by submarines, during the month of December with the loss of 67 lives, while eight more were subdued and the vital of Austria, sunk by mines with the loss of thirty-Hungary menaced. So long as Rus-

On the heights of the Meuse there was efficient cannonading of enemy shelters and blockhouses, at Chevaliers wood, and in the Vosges. After active artillery preparation the enemy launched against our positions in Hirschtal district, an infantry attack, which was completely repulsed. On the 30th, after a bombardment executed by our heavy artillery, the fire from the Turkish batteries on the Asiatic coast sensibly decreased. Several enemy guns were damaged and a munition depot exploded.

### MONTENEGRO

PARIS, Jan. 2.—An official Montenegrin communication reports success over the Austrians who are said to have sustained heavy losses. The statement follows:— "On the northern front on December 30th, there were engagements with artillery. "On the eastern front in the vicinity of Rozai, we attacked the enemy who was compelled to retire. We occupied Volka. Towards Rogova we repulsed the enemy, inflicting heavy losses, and capturing horses and munitions. "The Austrians occupied Bogicevito, near Plava, where we had only a small detachment."

### KING PETER HAS REACHED SALONIKA

LONDON, Jan. 3.—King Peter of Serbia, who reached Italy last week from Albania, is said by Reuter's correspondent to have arrived at Salonika by a French battleship, accompanied by several Serbian Ministers and officers.

## OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Headquarters in France report enemy mining activity near Loos with some few casualties and slight damage to our trenches. Elsewhere in France enemy infantry was completely repulsed. German works were wrecked north of the Aisne.

Further details of naval fighting near Durazzo show that the French submarine Monge was sunk. The crew were mostly saved. An enemy transport was sunk and an enemy hydroplane destroyed. At Kutelemara the casualties at Christmas were about 70 killed and 300 wounded. The Peninsular and Oriental steamer Persia has been sunk by a submarine in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is believed with serious loss of life.—BONAR LAW.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The War Office reports that General 'Dobell' has occupied Jaunde, the seat of the Government in the Cameroons. The German Governor and the bulk of the enemy's forces are retreating to the south.

### BONAR LAW

LONDON, Jan. 1 (official).—The enemy has been active in mining about the quarries north of Loos. Last night five mines were exploded, thereby causing a few casualties and slight damage to our troops. No attack was made. The damage is being repaired. There has been artillery activity on both sides at Hulluch, Givenchy, Wytschaet and St. Julien, and increased hostile shelling about Armentieres. Our heavy howitzers have caused considerable damage at various points.

LONDON (official).—The enemy this morning sprang a mine in front of our trenches east of Cuinchy, but did not occupy the crater. During the afternoon we exploded three mines near La Poisselle, our artillery and trench mortars co-operating. Our artillery also bombarded hostile trenches north of Elies and east of Ypres. To the former bombardment the enemy replied vigorously but without doing any damage. Elsewhere there has been normal activity only.

### FRENCH

PARIS via St. Pierre, Jan. 2.—In Belgium our batteries successfully shelled the first and second lines of the enemy trenches, also the railroad opposite Boesinghe. In Roye district a lucky shot from our artillery seriously damaged a material depot at Vorspilliers to the north of the Aisne. We demolished a German work to the west of Souper.

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### HOSTILE AIRSHIPS RAIDS SALONIKI

LONDON, Jan. 2.—A Salonika despatch says:— "The Taube aeroplane which flew over Salonika at Midday was driven off by gun fire. Air raids this week constitute the first overt acts of the enemy since Dec. 12th, when the Entente Allies recrossed the frontier. Bombs were dropped this morning on the British line encampments but they no damage. The Greek camp just outside the town was apparently mistaken for the Entente Allied quarter. The bomb dropped near the divisional headquarters killing one shepherd and some sheep."

### CHURCH BURNT AT LOW POINT, C.B.

SYDNEY, N.S.—The Parish Church at Low Point was destroyed by fire this afternoon. The building was valued at twenty thousand dollars. Insurance was nine thousand dollars.

## MAY SEE SEVERAL RESIGN

### Political Situation Said to be Still Tangled—Asquith Must Yet Satisfy McKenna and Runciman

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The statement that the new Compulsory Recruiting Bill will also be applied to Ireland so far rests on the authority of the Press Association which, however, is often the medium of official intimations, moreover, according to the Times Parliamentary correspondent, the political situation is still tangled and there is a possibility of other resignations besides that of Sir John A. Simon Secretary of State for Home Affairs, whose position can hardly be reconciled with the remaining Ministers.

A revised draft of the Compulsory Recruiting Bill was circulated to the members of the Government during the week end, and was discussed at Thursday's Cabinet Council. According to the Times, Premier Asquith has still to satisfy Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, regarding the total strength of the army and "the danger of the situation lies in the dangerous, but plausible compromise for the sake of retaining these two Ministers."

## HAD NO TIME TO CUT ROPES

LONDON, Jan. 3.—A despatch to the Times from Cairo says that two boatloads of people were drawn down with the steamer Persia when she sank as there was no time to cut the ropes. Four boats got away, but it was thirty hours before a trawler picked them up. Several ships passed by without assisting the refugees being afraid, presumably, of decoys. Many passengers were thrown into the water when the vessel heeled over.

## Persian Sank In Five Minutes

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Co. received the following telegram to-night from C. C. Bigham, who was among the survivors of the Persia disaster:— "A torpedo struck the ship on the port bow at 1.15 in the afternoon when about 40 miles south of the east end of the island of Crete. No warning was given, nor was any attempt made to assist. Within five minutes the ship sank. "It was impossible to lower the starboard boats owing to a heavy list. Five or six boats were lowered on the port side. I did not see this myself, as I was washed overboard when the boat capsized. "The general conduct of passengers and crew was splendid. There was no struggling and no panic. Four boats, after 30 hours at sea, were picked up by a warship."

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## OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

### FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT DECEMBER 31st, 1915.

611 Private Harry Mott Rowe, 17 1/2 Cabot Street, Gunshot wound, no date.

405 Private Frank Snelgrove, Battery Road. Admitted to Third London General Hospital, Wands worth. Frost bite.

Additional Information. 571 Private Michael J. Evans, 37 Cokstown Road. Previously reported, gun shot wound in arm, Malta. Now reported, admitted to Third London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

633 Private William Taylor, 41 Le-Marchant Road. Previously reported gunshot wound in left shoulder, Suva. Now reported, admitted to Third London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

10 L-Corp Ronald Williams, 20 Young Street. Previously reported, frost bite, serious; Suva. Now reported, admitted to Third London General Hospital, Wands worth; frost bite.

648 Private John J. Baird, 321 Water Street W. Previously reported, dysentery, Malta, Nov. 17. Now reported, admitted to Third London General Hospital, Wands worth; dysentery.

JANUARY 3rd, 1916. 1196 Private Joseph Stansford, Grates Cove, Bay de Verde. Previously reported dangerously ill with enteric; next reported progressing favourably. Now reported dangerously ill at St. Andrew's Hospital, Malta, Dec. 26.

555 Private Patrick Holden, South Side. Previously reported gunshot wound in head, admitted to Valetta Hospital, Malta, Dec. 23rd. Now reported to be dangerously ill in Malta, December 26th.

J. R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

## Says Persian Was Torpedoed Without Warning

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Reuter's correspondent at Cairo, Egypt, telegraphs that the Persia was torpedoed without warning and sank within five minutes. Washington advices to the State Department today from American Consul Garrets at Alexandria, Egypt, indicate that Robt. McNeilly, Consul at Aden, Arabia, who was on the steamer, was lost. He was last seen in the water after the vessel sank. Consul Garrets reports Charles E. Grant, Boston, another American aboard the Persia was saved.

The submarine was not seen by the survivors, according to Garrets' report, but the officers of the Persia saw the wake of the torpedo which struck the ship.

## WILL GIVE DELEGATES A FREE HAND

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Although reaffirming the principle of strong opposition to any form of compulsory military service, the executive committee of the Railway Clerks Association decided to-day to give a free hand to its delegates in the conference to be held on Thursday at which the Cabinet decision regarding conscription will be considered. The committee decided on this attitude view of the very exceptional circumstances of the hour.

## TO BE THE FINEST EFFORT OF HIS CAREER

LONDON, Jan. 3.—For the British Cabinet, Wednesday will be a red letter day, for on that day Premier Asquith will introduce conscription, and the Premier probably has never had a more difficult task than he will have in engineering this measure. His speech in presenting it to the House is expected to be one of the finest efforts of his career.

## NEWS THAT LINER WAS TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING WORRIES WASHINGTON

### THINKS HE SAW THE RIPLE OF IT

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Cairo correspondent of Reuters Telegraph Co. sends the following, concerning the sinking of the Persia:— "Nobody aboard the Persia saw the torpedo, the second officer is under the impression that he saw the ripple of it. The survivors, after thirty hours in boats, were rescued by a warship. Six officers were saved. The liner sank so quickly that there was no time to launch the boats. The other boats which were seen to be launched are missing; it is thought that there is little hope that further survivors have been rescued."

### WILL MAKE CHANGE WHEN WAR IS OVER

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Reuter correspondent at Bombay, who reported yesterday that the Moslem League of India had suspended its sessions after a noisy demonstration, telegraphs to-day that though the League made strong demands at its last meeting for the self-government of India under the British flag, it was held that it was not imperative to make this change until after the war, when the whole form of the government of the Empire should be reconstructed. The resolutions were adopted unanimously expressing loyalty to the Crown, and appreciation of the administration of Baron Hardinge, Viceroy of India.

### KING CONSTANTINE AGAIN ILL?

LONDON, Jan. 2.—A Reuter's despatch from Athens says that Prof. Frederick Kraus of Berlin, and Prof. Elselberg of Vienna, who attended King Constantine during his illness last spring, have returned to Athens to examine the wound left by the operation performed in June, which has not healed. The wound is giving some trouble, although his general condition is good.

### IRELAND IS NOT TO BE EXCEPTED

LONDON, Jan. 3.—According to an announcement made by the Press Association, Ireland is not to be excepted from the Compulsory Recruiting Bill.

## CONSTANTINE WOULD LIKE ALLIES TO WITHDRAW FROM SALONIKI

### ARCHDUKE FREDERICK ASSISTED AT CEREMONY

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 2.—The bridge across the river Save, near Belgrade, was opened Thursday, according to a telegram from Vienna. Direct railway communication has thus been re-established between the Central Powers, Bulgaria and Turkey. The Archduke Frederick, Commander in Chief of the Austrian Army assisted at the opening ceremony, and afterwards visited Belgrade, where the normal life of the city has been resumed, most of the inhabitants having returned. The Archduke later visited King Ferdinand of Bulgaria at Semendria.

### SAYS GREECE WILL BE ASSURED

PARIS, Jan. 2.—Neutrals will not be surprised that we are watching our own safety, says the Temps, discussing the arrest at Salonika of Consuls representing the Central Powers, and Turkey and Bulgaria. Bad faith of the Austro-Germans compels the Allies to take summary measures. This is the first instance, Greece will not be surprised, but on the contrary will be reassured by this energetic act.

Anxiety Over News of Sinking of Persia is Increased by Receipt of Consular Despatch Saying U.S. Consul R. N. McNeely is Among the Missing—Austria-Hungarian Embassy Says the Matter Will be "Satisfactorily" Adjusted and That the Captain of the Submarine if he Disobeyed Orders Will be Severely Punished

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Anxiety over the news of the sinking of the British steamship Persia was increased in official circles here to-day when a consular despatch brought the information that the ship had been torpedoed without warning and at least one American citizen, Robert N. McNeely, new Consul at Aden, was among the missing.

At the same time the officials were much gratified by the indication, emanating from Baron Eric Zweidinek, in charge of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy here, that the Vienna Government would be quick to "satisfactorily" adjust the matter should it develop that an Austrian submarine commander had disobeyed instructions regarding the torpedoing of passenger-carrying ships without warning.

"Judgment should be withheld pending the receipt of the real facts surrounding the sinking of the steamship Persia," said Baron Zweidinek. "It may have happened in many ways. In the first place it is not yet proved that a submarine sank the Persia. If it was a submarine, it must first be determined whether the circumstances were such as to warrant the action taken. I am confident, at least I hope, that the final explanation will be quite satisfactory. If the commander of the submarine 'disobeyed' his instructions I feel sure my Government will not hesitate to 'satisfactorily' adjust matters."

"From the answer made to the last Note on the Ancona case it is quite evident that the Austro-Hungarian Government will not countenance any act which is wrong. Complete confidence prevails in Austro-Hungarian circles here that if any Austrian submarine sank the Persia without warning the act would be disavowed promptly and reparation made for any Americans lost and the submarine commander severely punished."

### Tells Correspondent he Fails to See Why They Remain There—No Useful Military Purpose Can Now be Served Says 'Timeo'—Does Not Expect Any Offensive by Either Side

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Athens correspondent of the Daily Chronicle states in a despatch that the King of Greece told him that he could not understand what the Entente Allies were supposed to be gaining in remaining at Salonika. The correspondent quotes King Constantine as follows:— "I could understand their presence so long as there was a possibility of aiding Serbia, but now that the object of the mission has failed, why remain? No useful military purpose is now to be served. It is fairly obvious, that, if the Anglo-French withdraw to more profitable fields of operations, the armies of the Central Powers would withdraw also and the situation would solve itself. The King adds, says the correspondent, that he did not expect an offensive by either side and that, therefore, a Balkan stalemate might reasonably be expected."

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