

REPLY FROM AUSTRIA TO UNITED STATES

Has Pleased Hun Diplomatic Circles --Berlin Newspapers Also Congratulatory.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Berlin, via London, Dec. 17.—Seldom has a diplomatic document of a war series met with such general approval in German circles as the answer of Baron Burian, Austrian minister of foreign affairs to the note from the United States regarding the Ancona case. The reply is regarded not only as a success in finding weak points in Secretary of State Lansing's logic, but as a dignified reply to the American demands for a prompt disavowal and punishment of the commander of the submarine which sank the Ancona.

The German notes on the Lusitania correspondence seem finding Germany too considerate and others insufficiently adept, but the general opinion expressed in political circles is that Baron Burian struck exactly the right note by inviting Washington to enter on an interchange of views and submit some proof for the charges, and shifted the onus of defence to the shoulders of the American government.

BERLIN PAPERS PLEASSED
Berlin, via London, Dec. 17.—The Lokal Anzeiger, the Tages Zeitung, the Kreuze Zeitung and the Zeitung Am Mittag all express thoroughgoing approval of the Austro-Hungarian reply to the American note on the Ancona. Of the out of town papers, the Cologne Gazette and the Cologne Volks Zeitung praise "the deft and polished manner in which Count Burian found weaknesses in his opponent's fence."

The Lokal Anzeiger points out that the Austrian reply has not fulfilled American expectations of prompt compliance with all the demands, but that on the contrary, the Austro-Hungarian government while entering "a dignified disclaimer against the wholly unjustified sharpness of the American demands," requests some legal foundation for the accusations against the submarine commander.

"It is the president's duty now to prove that the Ancona did not flee," it continues. "If he is unsuccessful in this, he will have no alternative in view of his earlier interpretation of international law, to abandoning satisfaction of his demands."

"The Austro-Hungarian government in any case has placed him in the unpleasant position of being forced to receive an invasion to exchange views, rather than the expected prompt reply complying with his wishes."

MRS. ASQUITH

Wife of the Premier Takes Action Against Paper.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
London, Dec. 17.—Mrs. Herbert H. Asquith, wife of the premier, appeared as a plaintiff in chancery court today, demanding an order to restrain The Globe from the publication of alleged libels. Mrs. Asquith's attorney said: "For a whole fortnight before the issue of this writ, Mrs. Asquith had been deliberately pursued in the defendant's newspaper with accusations of disloyalty and of association with German prisoners at Demington Hall. She had been described as a traitor and a disgrace to her sex, and attacked in both opprobrious terms. The attacks were systematically and malevolently maintained and were only suspended after the writ had been issued. The attorney opposed the Globe's request for a postponement, urging the court not to deprive the plaintiff of this opportunity to clear herself publicly."

The persecution of Mrs. Asquith has been going on nearly a whole year, he said. "It began last spring in another newspaper, which the defendant would say was of a lower class than The Globe. That paper had to apologize publicly and, at Mrs. Asquith's request pay £100 to the Red Cross fund. The same people who disseminated these libels through the Globe, sent sheaves of anonymous letters to the plaintiff and imputations against her were made in social circles. The matter has now come to a head in a form where the defendants can be brought to account and made to give their reasons for the accusations."

Lord Kitchener to Wed 'Tis Said

New York, Dec. 17.—The World this morning prints a report from London saying the announcement of the engagement of Earl Kitchener of Khartoum to the Dowager Countess of Minto is expected in the near future.

The countess is a widow. Her husband, Earl Minto, died in 1914. He was a member of the Indian, succeeding Lord Curzon, who resigned because of the home government supported Kitchener in a dispute, and was Governor-General of Canada for six years.

The countess is a cousin of Earl Grey. She was noted for her beauty. She is the mother of five children.

Gen. Hughes is in New York to welcome two daughters returning from England.

PURELY CANADIAN

This is the Intention Regarding Fourth Division From Dominion.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—If a fourth Canadian division is placed in the field by Canada, as is not unlikely, it will be purely Canadian. The same may be said of the third division, which is now being organized to take its place on the firing line beside the Canadian army corps already there, and consisting of the first and second divisions.

It has been the practice in the past, of course, to have Canadian units comprise the Dominion's army in the field, but some of the smaller units have been supplied from the Imperial forces. On the other hand the Princess Patricia Regiment, raised in Canada, was for a time brigaded with a British division. Now all branches of the Canadian divisions, no matter how many in number, will be altogether Canadian, according to the statement of the Minister of Militia last night.

General Hughes also commented on the fact that urban recruiting has slightly fallen off lately. He pointed out that under the system of rural and county recruiting now in force men from the country districts formerly credited to the cities are now credited to the centres from which they come. This explains the situation which has led the Toronto authorities to arrange a census of men of military age in that city.

JOHN BULL

Contributed \$20,000,000 to the French War Loan.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Paris, Dec. 17.—In the course of his demand to-day in the Chamber of Deputies, that the chamber grant three months credit on budget account, Alexandre Ribot, French minister of finance, stated that the subscription to the recent French national loan from London alone was 600,000,000 francs (\$120,000,000). The minister said that the calculation concerning the results of the loan was far from being ready and that therefore he would quote no total figure. He stated he could say, however, that the country had answered the call, and that never had there been a similar number of subscribers. He declared that the loan had been made by French savings, that speculation played no part in it and that the subscriptions to it were sincere and genuine.

At another point in his speech, M. Ribot stated that while the war expenditure at the beginning of the conflict was 1,500,000,000 francs (\$300,000,000) per month it was now 2,100,000,000 francs.

RUBBERS! RUBBERS!
We have rubbers to fit every kind of a shoe made for men, women and children. Coles Shoe Co., 122 Colborne St.

FORD SHIP

Released After Search at Kirkwall.

London, Dec. 17.—After being detained at Kirkwall for over twenty-four hours, Henry Ford's peace ship, the Oscar II, was released last night, and according to word received here, started on her way to Christiania. The detention, it is said, was due to the fact that part of the cargo carried by the Oscar II was contraband, and that the whole cargo will have to go into the Prize Court before any of it can be released. Exactly what the character of the contraband is the officials will not divulge. Among the cargo, it is stated, is a shipment of prunes, but these are not on the contraband list. The authorities would have been privileged on finding contraband in the cargo to have it unloaded at Kirkwall in which event the peace pilgrims would have been kept aboard for several days while the unloading was in progress.

It was, however, decided not to detain the ship, but allow it to proceed to Christiania where the cargo will be unloaded and brought back on another vessel. This makes it possible for the Fordites to get to work in their scheme to end the war before Christmas. Had the authorities chosen to hold the ship at Kirkwall, Henry Ford's dream of a strike in the trenches before Christmas would have ended right there.



P.T.E. ACKLER. Recently wounded at the front.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT
See the beautiful neckwear at Broadbent's. Just opened up, from London, England.

SEPARATE PEACE

This Movement Said to be Growing in Constantinople.

Athens, Dec. 17.—London Times dispatch—Reports are in circulation here that there is a general movement on foot in Constantinople in favor of a separate peace.

Practically the whole of Greek Eastern Macedonia has been abandoned by Greek troops, causing much satisfaction and relief in allied circles.

It is anticipated that energetic measures will be adopted immediately to expel the spies infesting Saloniki.

M. Parsaroff, the Bulgarian minister states the pursuit of the allies into Greek territory will be undertaken by Austro-German troops.

LEAVE SALONIKI
It is stated that many families of the upper classes are leaving Saloniki for other parts of Greece and abroad. Local steamship companies have doubled the cost of passage.

Advices from Gievgeji state that the government's residence, railway station and public buildings as well as many monuments of historic interest have been destroyed by the bombardment and fire.

Some thousands of the inhabitants of the town are making their way about to Saloniki.

MARCONI

Has Made His Debut as a Senator.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Rome, Dec. 17.—Guglielmo Marconi made his debut as a senator to-day, speaking on the statement made Dec. 1 by Foreign Minister Conino, relative to Italy's policy. Senator Marconi said that of all the belligerent countries he had visited Italy is the one where the greatest liberty is enjoyed.

The speaker expressed the hope that the adherence of Italy to the London convention would bring about closer co-operation among the allies and a great reciprocal confidence aiming at the defeat of the mutual enemy. He said he thought that the Italians, British, French and Russians fought with equal valor, but all needed perfect reciprocal assistance in the matter of supplies and in the commercial fields. He hinted at the possibility that the Entente governments might requisition all the craft in their mercantile marines with a view of securing lower freight rates for the transportation of the most needed necessities.

Senator Marconi concluded by saying that in all the belligerent countries there exist two large categories of individuals those only aiming to win or to die and those who think they only live for gain. The latter class, he declared, must be transformed into a great disciplined army.

TWO AMERICANS WERE SHOT IN AUSTRIA

THE CANADIANS Drove Home a Successful Charge With the Bayonet.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—The Evening Telegram last night had the following from its London correspondent: "A battalion of Canadians lately greatly distinguished themselves. Ordered to drive the Germans from a strong position at all costs, they charged across the 100 yards gap separating the trenches and forced the enemy at the point of the bayonet, inflicting heavy losses. The Canadian casualties were comparatively slight. The Germans retreated well to the rear."

"The captured enemy position was very strong, and several concrete machine gun emplacements were found. The positions were firmly held by the Canadians."



RECRUITING RALLIES

For the Brant Battalion Will be Held Throughout the County as Follows:
AT KEG'S LANE, School House, Friday, Dec. 17.
Meetings will be held each evening at 8 o'clock. Women are specially invited to attend these meetings.

The London United Tramways Co. has decided to employ a number of women as conductors, preference to be given to the relatives of men already in their service or who are at the front.

They Were Accused of Receiving a Letter Hostile to Austrians—No Other Cause.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
New York, Dec. 17.—A cable from London this morning to The Herald says—
The Daily Telegraph correspondents at Milan telegraph—
"Glean revelations are made concerning the reign of terror in Gorizia. Two Americans, members of a shareholders banking firm, which stopped the payment of bills, were summoned before the Austrian authorities and were ordered to resume payment. They declined and were accused of receiving a letter from America hostile to the Austrians. They denied this. Then they were taken before a court martial and condemned to death. They were executed as spies and all their valuables and bank deposits were confiscated. It is understood Washington has the facts in this latest outrage."

NO COMMENT.
New York, Dec. 17.—A Washington despatch to the Herald says—
Officials here this morning would not comment on the reported shooting by Austria of two American bankers as spies. It is evident from every word and action of the State Department officials, however, that the situation with relation to Austria is one of extreme seriousness.

A QUIBBLE.
New York, Dec. 17.—That Austria's reply to the American note is a quibble and that Washington will not permit the delay in the settlement of the Ancona case which Vienna obviously seeks, is the verdict of American newspapers generally.

The World says—
It is reasonable to assume that Austria no longer desires to maintain diplomatic relations with the United States. That assumption could be mistaken only in the event that Vienna yielded without quibbling to the American demands, and the brief press summaries of the Austrian reply which have been cabled to the United States indicate that the Austrian answer is little more than a succession of quibbles.

RECEIVED AT WASHINGTON
Washington, Dec. 17.—Austria's reply to the Ancona note was received at the State Department during the night and early to-day was being decided to be laid before President Wilson and Secretary Lansing.

Thirty Thousand Italians Have Reached Avlona

Paris, Dec. 17.—The Milan correspondent of The Journal says it is estimated there are 30,000 Italian troops at Avlona, Albania.

While the Avlona position is partly favorable for an offensive movement, he says, the expedition may be regarded as the starting point of operations on a large scale.

HEADQUARTERS TRANSFERRED.
Paris, Dec. 17.—A Havas despatch from Athens says that following the withdrawal of troops from the district between Saloniki and the Serbian border, the headquarters of the Greek army has been transferred to Kozhani, 55 miles southeast of Monastir. The third Greek corps has been ordered to Caterini and the fifth corps to Nigrita. One regiment of engineers and one of artillery remain in Saloniki.

A CAPTURE.
Paris, Dec. 17.—The Saloniki correspondent of The Havas Agency sends the following under date of December 15:

"In the course of the fighting during the Franco-British retirement from Gievgeji (Serbia) towards Saloniki, the Bulgarians captured two French machine guns and two batteries of British artillery, as well as 200 British prisoners."

PRISONERS ARRIVE.
Marseilles, France, Dec. 17.—Seven hundred and fifty Bulgarian, German and Austro-Hungarian officers, taken prisoner by the Serbs and forty thousand soldiers captured in Serbia, arrived here during the night on their way to a concentration camp.

INDESCRIBABLE.
Paris, Dec. 17.—The arrival at Athens yesterday of A. Nikolitch, president of the Serbian national assembly; M. Trifunovich, former premier; several former cabinet members and a number of members of the Serbian assembly is reported by the Havas correspondent at the Greek capital. The Serbians report that the sufferings of their people during the retreat of the army before the invaders were indescribable.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Will Restrict Export of Cod Liver Oil

By Special Wire to the Courier.
St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 17.—Restrictions by the Newfoundland Government on the export of cod liver oil from this colony were announced today. Because information had been received that a large quantity of oil had found its way to Germany, where the glycerine contained in it would be utilized in the manufacture of explosives, the government cancelled all the licenses under which traders formerly exported the product.

Hereafter oil may be sent to the United States only if consigned to the British consul-generals at New York or Boston or to a few firms which have been endorsed by the consulates.

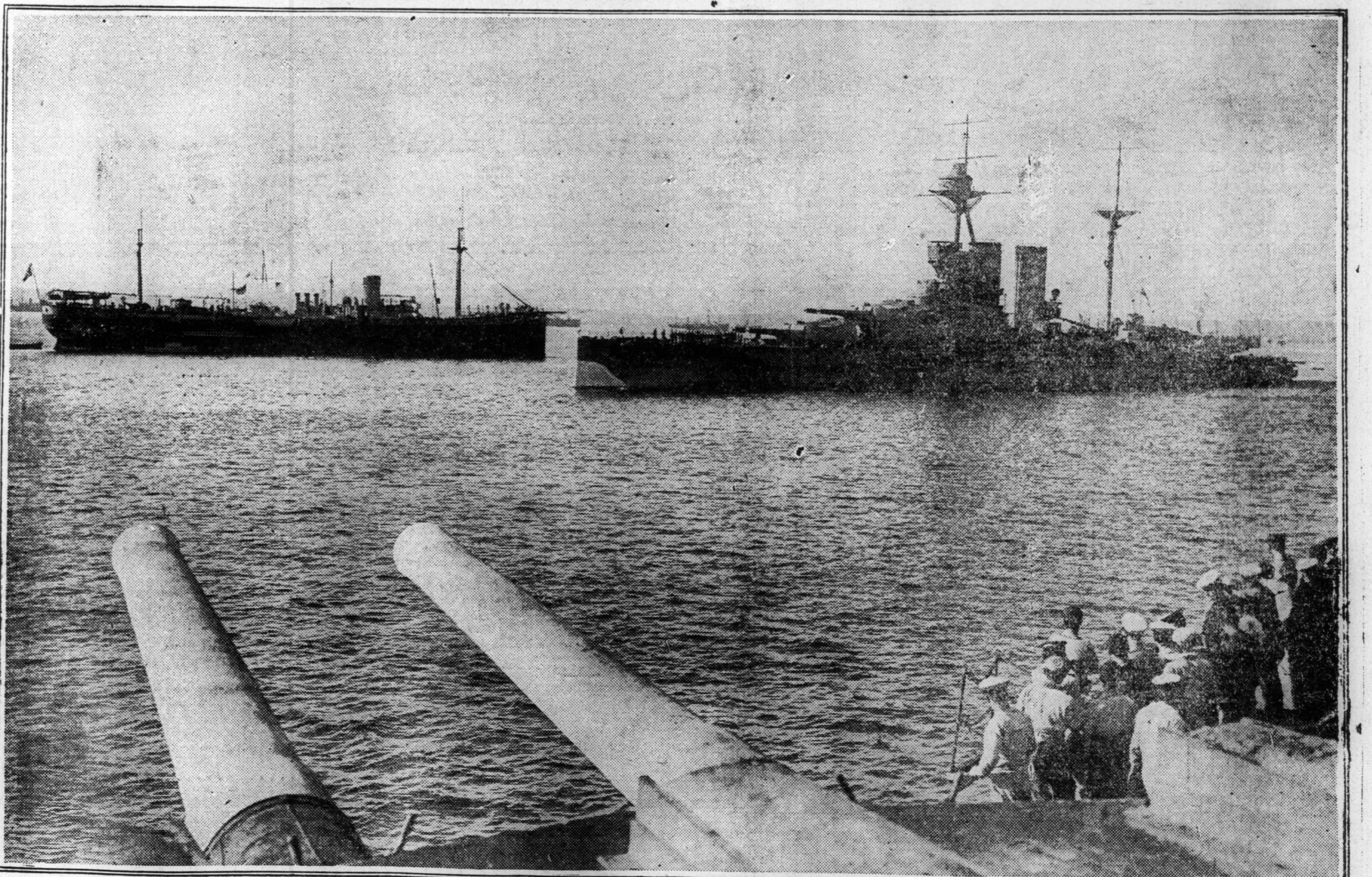
Arrangements have been made for the supervision by the consuls of any re-shipments made from the United States to the other countries.

The normal export of cod liver oil from the colony each year is about 87,500 gallons, valued at \$300,000.

A Warning.
By Special Wire to the Courier.
Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 17.—As a sequel to a fistic battle which was staged between Cully Wilson, who had the reputation of being the "Bad Man" of hockey in the east last season, and Eddie Oatman in Seattle, on Tuesday night, a warning to the players in question went out from the office of the president, Frank Patrick, yesterday that a repetition of such a scene would bring down a suspension with the possibility of more drastic penalty. "I do not propose to have rowdyism and rough work in the Pacific coast league."

An overheated stove caused the midnight burning of the home of Emmanuel Bowers of Bancroft.

THE GREAT, SUPERDREADNOUGHT, OF THE BRITISH FLEET ON DUTY IN THE AEGEAN SEA



This broadside view of the Queen Elizabeth was obtained from the top of a turret on board another British war ship. The Lizzie is seen to the right, quietly riding the waters of the Aegean in company with a number of other vessels gathered in an island harbor. She shows the now familiar characteristics of modern British battle ships. There are the two funnels coupled closely together; conning tower and bridges are piled up pagoda-like round the forward mast. The four giant bow guns are well shown, the second in such a position that they fire over the lower gun. The same arrangement can be seen at the stern in rear of the single pole mast. To the left, in striking comparison with the superdreadnought, is a French vessel of uncertain age, but one which, like all the vessels of the allied fleet, has been gallantly doing her "little bit."