

OF WORLD TOLD IN BRIEF

British Right of Seizure Amer. Ship Sails for Germany With Food Cargo

LAND BEGINS PROTEST

Alleged Violation of Neutrality to Amer. of Germany—Russia expels Alien Enemies—Zeppelins Again Visit England.

Seizure by British warships of the American-owned steamer Wilhelmina, the American flag and loaded with \$200,000 worth of foodstuffs consigned to a commission firm to be shipped to an American city, passed out to sea en route to Hamburg on the first voyage of the kind since the nearly six months ago. If the Wilhelmina is seized, the W. L. Green Commission, St. Louis, charterers of the vessel, and cargo, will file a protest with the American Department declaring that the capture is an outrage, denying the right of a belligerent to confiscate it, and protesting to demand the immediate release of the ship.

It is understood that the British Government has not been consulted concerning the U. S. State Department has advised that its legal right to take such action, provided the food is not for the German Government or army.

The Government has taken steps to prevent reports that the operation of a dirigible balloon recently violated Dutch neutrality. The dirigible was also directed to bring the matter to the attention of the Government.

By the Grand Duke Nicholas, chief of the Russian army, and then controller of all ports in Russia, martial law has been declared in the important centres of Russia, Leningrad, Petrograd provinces, and six Finland provinces in the area where the Russian subject between the lines of the front, under penalty of sentence of death, under penalty of sentence of death, and already the police officers are permitted for necessary papers permit to travel.

Reports of a minor unknown vessel at 10 o'clock last night from the sea and in a southeasterly direction. The names of the ships were first heard from the evidence tends to show that they passed over the town. As they pushed searchlights.

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The Journal of Commerce

THE BUSINESS MAN'S DAILY

VOL. XIX, No. 219

MONTREAL, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1915

ONE CENT

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Capital Paid Up.....\$4,000,000
Reserve Fund.....\$4,300,000

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Irving P. Rexford, Manager

THICK FOG PREVENTS ONWARD MARCH OF FRENCH TROOPS

Paris, January 25.—The official statement follows: "In Belgium we advanced slightly to the east of St. Georges yesterday. On the rest of the front there was an artillery duel.

"From the Lys to the Oise there was intermittent cannonading.

"On the Oise front there is nothing to report except at Berry au Bac where the counter-attack by the enemy was repulsed yesterday morning, the French in spite thereof remaining in our possession.

"In Champagne we demolished numerous earthworks and German shelters.

"In the Argonne, in the forest of Gurie, a very sharp fight was stopped by the effective fire of our batteries.

"On the Meuse the destruction of bridges at St. Athelie by our artillery has been achieved.

"In Lorraine, at Ember Menil, we surprised a Bavarian detachment and took some prisoners.

"In the Vosges and in Alsace a thick fog prevails."

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GREATEST NAVAL BATTLE OF THE WAR

German Cruiser Bluecher Sunk in Running Fight—Germans Claim British Ship Sunk

KAISER'S BIRTHDAY GIFT

Germans Massing in Flanders to Inflict Serious Loss to Allies for Kaiser's Birthday—Bombardment in Flanders Heavy—South African Rebels Defeated.

(Special to Journal of Commerce.)
London, January 25.—Word of the result of the light cruisers and the destroyers of the German fleet defeated by Vice-Admiral David Beatty, is eagerly awaited here, reports from the coast, of firing at sea, indicating that the pursuing British warships overtook and engaged the enemy. The German official report of the biggest sea battle of the war in number and power of ships engaged says the Germans believe that a British battle cruiser was sunk in the engagement, but admits the loss of the German armoured cruiser Bluecher. In sinking the cruiser with the powerful guns of his flagship, the battle cruiser Lion, Vice-Admiral Beatty did not lose a man killed. Of the Bluecher crew of 885 men, 123 were saved by the British.

Despatches from the Belgian frontier declare that the Germans are massing nearly a quarter of a million men for a great attack on the British lines in Flanders, southward from Ypres, that they may achieve a definite victory of the British as a gift to the Kaiser on his birthday next Wednesday.

The railroad converging on Courtrai and Lille have been crowded with infantry and artillery, and one report says that the concentration of 200,000 men in the Courtrai region will be completed to-day.

For the last three days the German bombardment of the Allies lines from Ypres to the sea has grown in tenacity. This bombardment has been especially violent to the north of Zillebeke. North of Arras the artillery fire also has been severe, shells falling again in the ruins of the town. In the region of Albert there is no change reported, and in the Argonne about Four de Paris the fighting has stopped, the French reporting they have retained all positions with the exception of about 50 metres of one trench destroyed by bombs.

The struggle in the region of Uffholtz and of Hartmannswillkopf, in Alsace, remains undecided. The latest official report said that the French had established themselves under the barbed wire defences of the German entrenchments, but that no further news of the fighting had been received.

Twelve hundred South African rebels, under Lieut.-Colonel Maritz and Kemp have been repulsed in an attack on Upington, Beuchuanaland, it was officially reported, from Pretoria.

North of the Vistula the advancing Russian forces are in contact with the enemy from the Vistula to the village of Bodanow. Important skirmishes have taken place all along this front. New German troops are moving down from the north to stem the Russian advance, but the Russians have a large force in reserve, sufficient, it is believed, to meet any augmentations of the enemy's force. The Russians have with this new army an unusual number of cavalry, which appears to be playing a more important part in the operations than it has heretofore in the war.

South of the Vistula the Germans again have attempted to crumple up the Russian lines in the regions of Borjomi and Goumine. Here they delivered an attack in force, which, by the sacrifice of a large number of men, carried them to the first trenches of the Russians. Sapping operations followed, but these were frustrated by the Russians, and then under the withering fire playing upon them from the Russian trenches the enemy was forced to fall back.

GERMANS STILL HOLD POSITIONS ON RIGHT BANK OF THE PILICA

Berlin, via Amsterdam, January 25.—With Russian offensive in Northern Poland completely halted, interest shifted to-day to Southern Poland, where the arrival of large reinforcements has permitted the Russians to regain some of the ground lost in the last two weeks.

It is admitted here that the German troops who captured Opoczno and Klecze have evacuated both these towns and have followed back toward the Pilica River.

The Germans still hold their positions on the right bank of the Pilica but they are being fiercely attacked by Russians between Opoczno and Tomaszok.

Sunday morning the Russians, according to an official despatch from Breslau, captured the village of Winczynow, but this was re-taken six hours later by the Germans.

GERMANS REPULSE RUSSIAN ATTACKS WITH HEAVY LOSSES

Berlin, January 25.—The official statement says: "In the western theatre of the war artillery battles occurred yesterday in the region of Nieuport and Ypres.

"Southwest of Berry au Bac we lost a trench which we captured a few days ago. North of Chalons there were only artillery duels yesterday, but two artillery engagements occurred north of Chalons to-day and are continuing.

"In the Argonne forest, north of Verdun and north of Toul, there is great activity.

"All attacks at Hartmannswillkopf have been repulsed.

"Battles in the forest north of Senheim resulted in heavy French losses. At least 400 mountain chasers were found dead. The number of prisoners is increasing.

"In the eastern theatre artillery duels are continuing on the front and east and north of Gumbinnen. Our fire forced the enemy to evacuate two positions southeast of Gumbinnen.

"The Russian attacks northeast of Gumbinnen were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.



ADMIRAL SIR DAVID BEATTY, Who commanded the British Squadron in the North Sea Fight.

NEED NOT ANSWER.

Washington, January 25.—The United States Supreme Court to-day decided that George Burdick, city editor, and Wm. L. Curtin, reporter, both of the New York Tribune, who declined to tell the Federal Judge in New York the source of their information for newspaper articles regarding a customs fraud, need not answer the Federal prosecutors' questions.

NO IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

Washington, January 25.—The Supreme Court did not hand down any important decisions.

Men in the Day's News

Mr. J. C. Forbes, the well known artist, who celebrated his sixty-ninth birthday on Saturday, was born at Toronto, educated at Upper Canada College and studied art in London and Paris. He is regarded as one of the outstanding Canadian artists, among his works being "Toronto Bay," "Beware," "The Loss of the Hibernia" and "Christ and Haradibus." He has also painted most of the public men of the day.

Mr. H. E. Stephenson, one of the aldermanic candidates for re-election in Montreal West, is a member of the firm of A. McKim Limited, advertising agents. Mr. Stephenson is an Ontario boy, having been born near Brockville some thirty odd years ago. He is regarded as one of the greatest authorities on advertising in Canada. Mr. Stephenson works about seventeen and a half out of the twenty-four hours, then manages to squeeze in some time in connection with his municipal duties, takes an occasional hand at bowling and curling, and in his spare time manages to do a lot of reading. He is an enthusiastic believer in the future of Montreal West.

Sir Clifford Sifton, who spoke to-day before the Montreal Canadian Club, was born near London, Ont., in 1861, and educated at the Dundas, Collegiate Institute and Victoria University. He studied law, and when called to the Bar, moved West and pursued his profession in Brandon. For some years he was in the Manitoba Legislature, being a member of the Cabinet. On the formation of the Laurier Government in 1896 he was called to the Dominion Government and was given the portfolio of the Interior. He left the Laurier Government about the year before its defeat and opposed his former associates on the Reciprocity question. Sir Clifford Sifton is Chairman of the Commission on Conservation and is one of the most forceful, effective speakers in the country.

Chief Justice Sir Charles Peers Davidson, who retired from the Bench on Saturday, was born at Huntingdon, Que., in January, 1841, and educated at Huntingdon Academy and McGill University. He was called to the Bar in 1864 and created a K.C. in 1876. He has taken a very prominent part not only in legal matters but in the militia, in outdoor sports and in matters having to do with Imperial affairs. He served the Victoria Rifles as a private in 1862 and passed through the various grades until he became commander of the regiment. Sir Charles served with the regiment through the Fenian Raid. He retired from active life with the best wishes of not only his associates but of business men everywhere throughout the country.

The re-entry of ex-Speaker Cannon into the politics of the United States revives innumerable stories about this well known orator who dominated the United States Congress for many years. Joseph B. Cannon, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, was defeated in the Democratic Land Slide of two years ago, but was re-elected in the Congressional Elections held some weeks ago. He is now far past the three score and ten of the Psalmist, but remains a vigorous, forceful figure in American politics.

"Uncle Joe" as he was familiarly known, is probably the most profane man in the political history of the United States. His people were Quakers and "Uncle Joe" attended that church until he fell in love and decided to marry a girl of a different religious persuasion. The head of the Quaker church told him that unless he recanted and married a girl of his own religious persuasion that he would be put out of the church. "Uncle Joe," in telling of the incident, says: "I told him to go to h— and that I would marry who I liked. They lost by it, because I was then and would have remained a damned good Quaker."

MINES STREWN ONE TO EVERY 100 YARDS

Are of Various Shapes and Sizes--In Heavy Seas are Difficult to Detect

COLORED LIKE SEA BIRDS

Very Grim and Grosseome Were the Relics of Previous Accidents Strewed up by the Sweeps in the North Sea.

A captain doing duty on one of Britain's battle-ships in the North Sea has only recently executed a very important commission for the Admiralty, details of which he sets forth in a letter written to the Editor of the Montreal Journal of Commerce. In a preliminary note, written toward the end of last year, he foretold the work. Here is the correspondence:

North Sea, 25th Dec. 1914.

I am to-morrow setting out upon a task which may be attended by some danger, it is however a job that I have for some weeks past anxiously got before the Admiral, there is a certain channel that is of importance to our navy. It is known to be strewn with mines at least one to every 100 yards. They have now consented to have it cleared and given me the honor to do it. Do it I no doubt shall, for I am trusting to Divine help and abide by His will. If I come out successful I will write you about it but should it be otherwise you will know why these letters have ceased.

But please do not let this leak out, it is no use giving any anxiety to those I have at home.

Now I promised to write about a little job we had of clearing mines from a certain channel which had been blocked by the Germans for some months past. The Admiralty, for reasons of their own, did not care to have it cleared until they had given me a mine for every 100 square yards, and many vessels had been lost there. Two Government ships and many merchantmen had been blown up.

However, to cut a long story short, the Admiralty agreed to let me take the job on. I deeply appreciated the honor and early one day we set off from port, as we passed out with six specially designed mine sweepers in our wake. The words "good luck" were flung from the Naval base. If sent the signalman brought the message to the forward bridge where I was directing the navigation of the vessel, and so we passed out into the North Sea.

I am not ashamed to say, that standing there upon the navigating bridge, I asked God's blessing upon our venture and to Him is all the honor and glory. For we have come back to port all safe and sound with but a few small damages to the ship, which can be repaired in the course of three or four days.

To commence with the weather was most awful. It rendered operations such as we had to carry out absolutely impossible. First of all, heavy gales when the ship labored most violently, then thick fogs which equally increased the risk of manoeuvring amongst a mine field.

As it must be borne in mind that these mine sweepers were the only ones of their kind in the world, (Continued on Page 5.)

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

Head Office—TORONTO

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Rest - - - - - 13,500,000

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A prominent business man in another city, in sending his cheque for a subscription to the Montreal "JOURNAL OF COMMERCE" says: "While I have not yet become a regular subscriber to the Journal of Commerce, I have had occasion to see it quite frequently, and must compliment you not only on its

MAKE-UP and APPEARANCE but also on the quality of its FINANCIAL INFORMATION

While I have many more papers that I can always read, I feel that I would like to be in regular receipt of the Journal of Commerce."