

STERN WARNING GIVEN ENGLAND

Meddling With American Ship- ping Must Cease.

Definite Statement Asked as to Intentions of Future Conduct —Delay Is Forbidden.

Washington, D. C. — The United States government dispatched Tuesday a long note to Great Britain, insisting on early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet. It gave warning that public criticism was general over unwarranted interference with the legitimate foreign trade of the United States.

The document, constituting the strongest representation on this subject made by the United States to any of the belligerents since the outbreak of the war, was cabled to Ambassador Page to be formally presented to Sir Edward Grey, British foreign secretary.

Its preparation was begun a month ago by Solicitor General Johnson, Counselor Lansing and Secretary Bryan and finally had the personal attention of President Wilson, who revised its phraseology with minute care.

As the detailed point of view of the United States in numerous specific cases of detentions and seizures of cargoes had been set forth in a series of emphatic protests, most of which have gone unheeded, this communication was couched in general terms, covering the entire subject of the relations between the United States and Great Britain as affected by the latter's naval policy, considered highly objectionable by this government.

Since France has adopted practically the same decrees on contraband as has Great Britain, the note is virtually a statement intended for all the members of the triple entente.

The note declares at the outset that the representations are made in a friendly spirit, but that the United States considers it best to speak in terms of frankness, lest silence be construed as an acquiescence in a policy which infringed the rights of American citizens under the laws of nations.

The document points out that complaints on every side and public criticism in the United States hold the British policy as directly responsible for the depression in many American industries, a situation the seriousness of which must be apparent to Great Britain.

Reimbursement alone for cargoes unlawfully detained or seized, it states, does not remedy the evil, as the chief difficulty is the moral effect of British practice on American exporters, who are restrained by it from taking risks or hazards which in no case ought to surround legitimate trade between the United States and other neutral countries.

Feeling has been aroused on the subject to such an extent, the communication adds, that the American government feels compelled to ask for definite information as to Great Britain's attitude, in order that it may take such measures as will protect American citizens in their rights.

AMERICAN CONSULS TO BEL- GIUM MUST SUIT GERMANS

Washington, D. C. — United States consuls in Belgium must be acceptable to the German military authorities, and the withdrawal of some now there, for the present at least, is desired by the Berlin government. This was made known in a formal notification to the State department Tuesday.

Secretary Bryan declined to make public the text of the German communication or to comment on it until he had had full opportunity to consider it. The understanding in official circles is that the notice is similar to the one sent Argentina, and other neutral countries.

It is said that while the German government does not insist that consuls in Belgium take out new exequaturs from German officers, it announces that such consuls must exercise their functions only by permission from the military in control of the territory in which the consulates are situated.

The United States has consular representatives in Brussels, Antwerp, Liege and Ghent.

Exiles on Way to Cuba.

Panama—Ten persons deported from Costa Rica as the result of the discovery of an alleged plot to assassinate President Alfredo Gonzales, and start a revolution in the republic, passed through Colon on board the steamer Calamares, bound for Cuba. The alleged conspirators are said to be members of the Conservative party in Nicaragua, who were attempting to foment trouble in Costa Rica.

Hobson's "Dry" Resolution Meets Defeat in House

Washington, D. C. — The Hobson resolution to submit a constitutional amendment for national prohibition to the state legislatures was defeated in the house Wednesday night, 197 members voting for and 189 against it. An affirmative vote of two-thirds was required to adopt the resolution.

Party lines were wiped out in the struggle. Democratic Leader Underwood and Republican Leader Mann fought shoulder to shoulder at the head of the forces opposing the resolution. When the vote came, of the 197 standing for the resolution, 114 were Democrats, 68 Republicans and 11 were Progressives and four were Independent Republicans.

Immediately after announcement of the vote, the house adjourned, the crowds which had packed the galleries throughout the prolonged debate dispersing with mingled expressions of regret and jubilation.

Prohibition leaders declared that the majority for the resolution had fulfilled their expectations, as they had not hoped for a two-thirds vote at this time. Whether a similar resolution pending in the senate submitted by Senator Sheppard, of Texas, would reach a vote in the senate at this session was not certain. Administration leaders were inclined to believe, however, that it would not, in view of the action of the house.

Notwithstanding repeated public assertions that many members of the house would try to dodge a record vote on the issue, the rollcall disclosed a heavy attendance, larger than the average throughout the session.

On the final vote 386 votes were recorded. To have carried the resolution would have required 258 affirmative votes. It thus failed by 61 votes.

It was at the conclusion of one of the most stirring contests of recent days in congress, and following votes on several amendments that the final vote was reached. Representative Hobson had closed the general debate, participated in by all the house leaders, many of whom were repeatedly cheered by men and women in the crowded galleries. Speaker Clark repeatedly admonished the spectators to maintain order.

Although advocates of the Hobson resolution freely predicted that it would receive a majority vote, many of them, including Mr. Hobson, had conceded at the start that the resolution would not receive the two-thirds vote necessary for its adoption.

Before the final roll call, Representative Hobson presented an amendment, which was adopted, giving to "the congress and states concurrently" the power to enforce the prohibition by needful legislation.

An amendment offered by Representative Adamson to give the states absolute control of prohibition under the proposed prohibition amendment was voted down on a rising vote, 179 to 32.

Louisiana Germans Plot to Destroy French Ship

New Orleans — The arrest here Wednesday night of four Germans is believed by the police to have frustrated a plot to blow up the French steamship Rochambeau. The police confiscated a box containing 75 pounds of dynamite set by clockwork to explode six and one-half days hence. The prisoners, two of whom are said by the authorities to have confessed, said they understood the Rochambeau was to sail from New York Saturday. Shipping records, however, show that she left New York December 13, and the police believed the alleged conspirators miscalculated the date of her departure. Two of those arrested confessed, according to the police.

The plan, it was said, was to ship the bomb by express consigned to the Rochambeau at New York. It was intended that the vessel would be blown up after she got to sea.

Worry over the prospective loss of innocent lives is believed responsible for discovery of the plot. One of those arrested, Peter Langlaan, when questioned by detectives who have been at work on the case for ten days, is said to have told them that while he was willing to blow up a French or English ship he was not willing to see persons not directly connected with the war die.

On information given by Langlaan, the police arrested Frank Helon, alias Hans Heller, and held him on a charge of preparing explosives for shipment in violation of the Federal statute.

Filibuster Is Destroyed.

Brownsville, Tex. — A filibustering party from Texas was "met and completely destroyed" by Carranza troops opposite Zapata, Tex., near here, December 20, according to a message received by the Carranza commander at Matamoros, Mexico. The message said a dozen horses, 50 rifles and 2000 rounds of ammunition were captured.

BRITISH LOSE 1 IN AIR BATTLE

Daring Attack on German Port Unprecedented.

Attempt to "Dig Out" Warships of Teutons Results in Battle of Ultra Modern Forces.

London — Assisted by light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, seven British naval airmen, piloting seaplanes, made a daring attack Christmas day on the German naval base of Cuxhaven, at the mouth of the Elbe.

Six of the airmen returned safely, but the seventh, Commander Hewlett, it is feared, has been lost, as his machine was found off Heligoland, wrecked.

What damage was done by the bombs thrown by the attacking party could not be ascertained, but the German report of the affair says that the raid was fruitless.

The enterprise of the British navy in thus attempting to "dig out" the German fleet brought about a battle in which the most modern of war machines, the British squadron, including the light cruisers Arethusa and Undaunted, which have been engaged in previous exploits on the German coast, were attacked by Zeppelins, seaplanes and submarines.

By rapid maneuvers the ships were able to avoid the submarines, while the Zeppelins found the fire of the cruisers too dangerous for them to keep up the fight. German seaplanes dropped bombs, which, according to the British account, fell harmlessly into the sea. The Germans, however, reported they hit two destroyers and their convoy, the latter being set afire.

The British ships remained in the vicinity for three hours without being attacked by any surface warships and picked up the seven pilots and their planes.

The others were picked up by submarines, but their machines were sunk. Commander Hewlett, it is thought, was drowned.

Bomb Is Exploded by Fanatic in Hindu Temple

San Francisco — In the midst of the mystic services of an Oriental cult, a stranger identified only by the name of Vevara, Sunday entered the crowded little auditorium of the Hindu temple here and at the very feet of the officiating Hindu swami exploded a bomb, which literally tore the bomb-thrower to pieces, probably fatally wounded Swami Trigunatita, the leader, and threw scores of worshippers, mostly women, into a panic.

The stranger entered the temple while the swami was in the midst of his address on "The Divine Peace," and with loud steps that attracted the attention of all the members of the cult, walked up the center aisle until he reached the rostrum on which the swami was conducting the services.

While the eyes of all followed his actions, wondering at the meaning of his strange conduct, the man was seen to withdraw a small white package from his black fedora hat and strike it three times on the rostrum.

As his arms descended for the third time there was a fearful explosion that appeared to rock the entire building, filled the air with debris and flying glass. Blood and fragments of the body of the bomb-thrower spattered the congregation, for the moment transfixed in their seats with the horror of the action.

Italy Will Hold Albania Firmly.

Rome — It is reliably reported here that the Italian foreign office has notified the powers that Italy is determined that deliberations of the London conferences in connection with Albania shall be unconditionally respected, hence she will not tolerate the slightest attempt against the territorial integrity, independence or neutrality of Albania, will not allow a change of government, and will prevent inhabitants from participating in the war.

The present revolution, the note continues, obviously was projected to create complications; but unless these complications are avoided, Italy will exercise complete liberty of actions toward the restoration of order, despite the lack of interest of some of the signatory powers of the London conference.

Turks Send Heavy Guns.

Athens, via Rome — The Turks are transporting heavy guns from Adrianople to points on the Sea of Marmora, near the Ropshorus, especially Santo Stefano and Kadi Koi, on opposite sides of the entrance to the Bosphorus and commanding the approach to Constantinople from the Sea of Marmora. It is indispensable that the Dardanelles be defended strongly, since the forcing of the straits means the end of Turkey.

U. S. Authorities Nip Plot of Conspiring Filipinos

Manila, P. I. — Disclosures of the checking by American authorities of an uprising of Filipinos set for Thursday night were made here Sunday. Eight arrests have been reported, with more to follow. Christmas eve had been chosen by the conspirators in the belief that the army officers would be engaged in preparations for celebrating the holiday.

Warning was given that 10,000 Filipinos in Manila alone planned a concerted attack on Fort Santiago, the Cuartel Espano, the Cuartel Infante and the Medical department. Acting on this information, the military officers instituted a patrol of the streets at dusk and took other measures of defense.

It is disclosed that secret agents of the Filipino constabulary who are members of the secret societies disclosed the plans for an uprising, thus enabling the constabulary and police to disperse gatherings at Bagumbayan, Paco and Navotas, near Malabon.

The uprising was conducted mostly by followers of Artemio Ricarte, a revolutionary now in Hongkong, to which place he was banished by the officials several months ago. Its failure was due in part to poor organization and lack of good leadership.

Reports from Navotas, a town six miles north of the capital, say that simultaneously with the outbreak at Manila on Christmas eve 30 men entered the municipal building, seized three policemen on duty there and ineffectually tried to open the safe.

Later the Filipinos seized several attendants conducting midnight mass and also captured the Filipino governor, Meleandres. When reinforcements of police arrived the revolutionaries fired a volley and then retreated. Later they encountered another force of police with which they exchanged shots and in this engagement the constabulary succeeded in arresting 10 men. In all 21 Filipinos were taken prisoners at Navotas.

Diplomatic Issue Is Raised in Belgium

London — British authorities were advised Monday that Germany had announced its refusal to recognize the exequaturs of British consuls to Belgium. This is regarded as preliminary to Germany's formal taking over of the government of Belgium.

It is believed here that refusal to recognize Brand Whitlock as United States minister to Belgium would follow as a matter of course. Spain also has a minister to Belgium whose status would be questioned in the same manner.

Ambassador Page is without official information, but it is said he is keeping the State department at Washington informed as to reports reaching London concerning the situation.

Washington, D. C. — The United States government at a late hour had received no notification from Germany that American consuls, originally accredited to Belgium, would be required to obtain new exequaturs or certificates of authority. Until such a notice is communicated and its form is examined, high officials said the American government would be unable to determine a course of action.

Officials here regarded the points involved as of a delicate character and would say only that they would study various precedents before reaching a decision.

In reply to a question recently as to the status of Brand Whitlock, President Wilson replied that Mr. Whitlock would of course remain American minister to Belgium, even though he left the country indefinitely.

Mr. Whitlock is now in Brussels dealing unofficially with the German military authorities, but is accredited to the Belgian government, whose seat is at Havre, France.

Bryan to Retire?

Washington, D. C. — The Christmas season political rumor is that William Jennings Bryan is to retire soon from the cabinet, and is to be succeeded as secretary of state by Senator Stone, of Missouri.

The politicians base their credence of the rumor on their belief that the Secretary of State must get out of the cabinet soon to make his race for the presidential nomination in 1916. They say his candidacy is an assured fact. Senator Stone, they say, will succeed him in the cabinet because, as chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, the Missourian has supported the foreign policies of both the President and Mr. Bryan.

Oklahoma Battle Fatal.

Cleveland, Okla. — An unknown robber was killed, Chief of Police Fenton was shot through the leg and two other citizens were wounded in a battle here following an attempt to hold up 20 men in a pool hall. Fenton was passing the place and happened to see the men inside with their hands up. The police chief stood in the front door and emptied his revolver at the robber, who returned the fire, wounding the three men.

ITALIAN FORCES TAKE AVLONA

Precautions Taken to Forestall Reign of Anarchy.

Turkish Ruler Loses Hold on Pop- ulace—Scarcity of Provision Accentuates Crisis.

Rome — Italy Saturday occupied Avlona, the Albanian seaport. It is semi-officially announced that this action implies no purpose on the part of Italy to occupy interior points, but is merely intended to prevent anarchy on the opposite coast of the Adriatic, which is but a few hours from Italian territory.

Several districts of Albania are in a state of rebellion against any authority. Essad Pasha, the Turkish ruler, apparently having lost his hold on the people.

The semi-official announcement says that the only object of occupation is to cut short constant annoyances from open or concealed enemies, besides holding up Italian interests, namely, not to allow Avlona to fall into the hands of any naval power.

It is understood that the Italian government intends to safeguard these political, commercial and ethnographical interests without arrogance, but without weakness and also without being distracted from the graver issues arising from the European conflict.

For some time the situation in Albania has again been grave. Several districts have rebelled altogether against any authority and have become prey to the worst form of anarchy. Conditions have been rendered more grave by famine. The scarcity of food has been brought about through the absolute isolation of Albania owing to the state of war existing on the Adriatic, while Albania is bounded by two belligerent countries, Serbia and Montenegro, which, together with Austria, have absorbed all available provisions which Albania had stored.

The price of food has increased 210 per cent, and in addition the quality of cereals is bad, causing serious epidemics.

Especially in the interior discontent reached such proportions that Essad Pasha lost all power. He saw his adherents gradually vanish, his troops become reduced to a few thousand. Even the people of his birthplace, Tirana, always his stronghold, rebelled, killing his friends and sacking and burning his residence. Essad, feeling unsafe at Durazzo, went to Krola (Akhissar) hoping there to rally sufficient troops to defeat his enemies.

Dozen Prisoners Walk Free at Walla Walla

Walla Walla, Wash. — A real Christmas tree with remembrances for every convict made Christmas a notable occasion at the penitentiary. The gaily decorated tree was in the chapel, where the exercises were held, and each prisoner was given a bag of peanuts and popcorn and an orange. In addition he had his fill at a chicken dinner and listened to a program of songs, recitations and talks with band music interspersed.

Convicts also received presents of reading matter, food, etc., from friends and relatives all over the state, it being probably the most elaborate Christmas ever passed at the prison.

Papers arrived for 14 prisoners and 12 of them were released. The others were in the hospital or waiting to hear from relatives who agreed to send them money. While there were a total of 35 paroles, pardons and releases, most of the men were at road camps. The list included some final releases for men on parole.

One Ostrich Meal for 1500.

Los Angeles — One baby ostrich, five months old and weighing more than 100 pounds dressed, was the piece de resistance at the Y. M. C. A. cafeteria for Christmas dinner, and 1500 persons were served.

Each of the babe's drumsticks weighed 16 pounds. In cooking the bird 125 pounds of dressing was made. This was made of 50 pounds of chestnuts, 50 pounds of butter, 25 pounds of onions, 50 pounds of bread, 25 heads of celery and one pound of mixed spices. A special oven six feet square was arranged to roast the gigantic bird.

Czar Holds 357,406 Foes.

London — According to a Petrograd dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company, the number of German prisoners registered is 1140 officers and 131,700 men; the number of Austrians registered is 3166 officers and 221,400 men. The Slav prisoners have asked for Russian naturalization so that they may be sent against the Turks.