



BRITAIN'S REPLY FRIENDLY, IS BELIEF

Outline of Answer Is Sent to France.

ITALY REACHES AGREEMENT

Understanding With Allies on Contraband Noted.

GERMANS FILE PROTEST

Congressmen Told "Only England and Her Friends Can Benefit by Our Unholy Commerce in War Materials."

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The British government's reply to the American note concerning contraband probably will be sent before the end of this week.

It is thought the answer will be friendly. An outline of the reply has been submitted to France, which is greatly interested because of the activity of French ships in searching Mediterranean cargoes.

A statement probably will be issued shortly, showing that Italy has arrived at an understanding with England and the other allies concerning contraband satisfactory to all the countries affected.

Few Cargoes Stopped. It can be stated authoritatively that only five cargoes destined for Italy have been stopped at Gibraltar since November 15. Two of these were released within three days and the others as soon as the alleged contraband could be removed.

Since December 4 no cargoes destined for Italy have been intercepted by the allies.

Rubber cargoes destined for American firms and held in English ports probably will be released soon or purchased by Great Britain, which needs rubber for manufacture of tires, bed blankets and boots.

Negotiations in Progress

Constant negotiations are in progress between the allies and the neutral countries situated near Germany looking to a tightening of the export regulations which will prevent American shipments from reaching Germany and Austria through neighboring countries other than Italy.

A loosening of the regulations applying to American cargoes, it is said by British officials, will depend largely on the assurances received from neutral countries that they will not assist in supplying Germany, Turkey and Austria with munitions of war.

ANSWER SAID TO BE FRIENDLY

British Ambassador Calls at State Department for Conference.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, called at the State Department today for the first time since the American note of protest on shipping was sent to Great Britain. He conferred with Counselor Robert Lansing.

Though he had received no instructions as yet concerning the answer which is to be made to the American note, the British Ambassador indicated that it would be of most friendly character. It is understood that Sir Cecil regards the American note as moderate in tone, compared to the usually peremptory and mandatory tenor of notes of this kind passing between neutrals and belligerents in times of war.

That Sir Edward Grey, in his talks to Ambassador Page, similarly showed that England received the American note in a most amicable spirit and intended to ameliorate the shipping situation so far as was possible to do so, was learned today from high officials here.

Another development which is regarded as affording a solution of one of the points under dispute between Great Britain and the United States is the decision of the Washington Administration to certify American cargoes as to the exact contents before leaving. Secretaries Bryan and Redfield and Acting Secretary Peters, of the Treasury Department, conferred today on the formulation of a circular to be issued tomorrow urging co-operation between American exporters, shippers and the Government in regard to the manifests of neutral ships used to carry American cargoes.

GERMANS FILE COMPLAINT

President of Alliance Asks Congress to Guard Neutral Trade.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—"Forbid exportation of all munitions of war that are contraband and you will remove the excuse for the British conduct which called forth the note of protest recently sent to London," said Theodore Sutro, of New York, addressing the

SENATE QUESTIONS PRESIDENT'S POWER

FIGHT OVER FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS COMES TO HEAD.

Missouri and North Dakota Cases Arise to Block Wilson, Who Would Override Upper House.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Differences between President Wilson and some members of the Senate over Federal appointments resulted tonight in the Senate judiciary committee ordering an inquiry into the authority of the President to make a recess appointment to fill a vacancy created during a session of Congress. Senators Culberson, Reed, Walsh, Brandegee and Borah were named as a sub-committee to conduct the investigation.

This action followed the decision of the committee to recommend rejection of the appointment of Edwin G. Bland, of Kansas City, to be United States marshal for the Western Missouri district. Bland was given a recess appointment to the marshalship, which was vacant before Congress adjourned last October. After the appointment of her husband to the office had been sent in and Senator Reed has been fighting its confirmation ever since.

Soon after the meeting of the Judiciary committee the Senate in executive session unanimously rejected the nomination of Mrs. Marjorie J. Bloom to be postmaster at Devils Lake, N. D. Three months ago the Senate refused to confirm the same nomination and after Congress adjourned the President made a recess appointment. Last month he again sent in Mrs. Bloom's nomination. He had nominated her in the first place after the appointment of her husband to the office had been rejected by the Senate following an investigation of charges.

NEW YORK IS WEALTHIEST

Report of Controller Says Land Is Worth \$1,447,547,869.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The wealthiest land-owner in the limits of the municipal jurisdiction, according to a report of Controller Prendergast, is the City of New York. The assessed valuation of the city's holdings is \$1,447,547,869, of which \$1,429,491,360 is within the city limits.

Compared with the figures of 1913, the value of the properties shows an increase of \$71,104,589. The increase in land values reflects the large figure of \$41,639,978, while in the value of buildings and other improvements, it totals \$29,464,612.

TURKS ARE RAIDING PERSIA

Defending Force Defeated by Ottomans After Russian Victory.

PETROGRAD (via London), Jan. 4.—Turkish troops whose defeat by Russian forces was announced December 22, when they attempted to invade Persia from Persian territory, are now reported to be ravaging the region south of Lake Urmiah, in Northwestern Persia. Hastily assembled levies of Persian troops sent against the invaders were defeated.

A protest was made some time ago to Turkey by the Persian government. It is said no reply has been received.

ARIZONA DRY LAW TEST ON

Convicted Man to Try Validity in Habeas Corpus Proceedings.

TUCSON, Ariz., Jan. 4.—Louis Ghera, a saloonkeeper, arrested January 1 by pre-arrangement to test the Arizona prohibition law, was found guilty today in the Superior Court and given a sentence of 90 days or a fine of \$100. Ghera refused to plead prior to judgment in order to give basis for habeas corpus proceedings which will be instituted on Wednesday for the purpose of bringing the validity of the law to a legal test.

SUBMARINE IS CONQUEROR

German Craft Reports Sinking British Battleship Formidable.

BERLIN, Jan. 4, via wireless to Sayville, L. I.—An official announcement made public through the official press bureau today says: "A German submarine boat reported by wireless to the Admiralty in Berlin that it has torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel off Plymouth the British battleship Formidable.

AMERICAN IS REAL SANTA

Presents to Russian Children Whose Fathers Are at War Total \$500.

PETROGRAD, Russia, Jan. 4.—A member of the American colony of Moscow has contributed \$500 presents for Russian children whose fathers are at the front. The gifts consist of gloves, shoes, caps and other articles of clothing and their distribution is to be completed before the Russian Christmas.

George T. Marye, Jr., the American Ambassador, and Mrs. Marye are passing the holidays at Moscow.

FRENCH ORDER WAGONS

Portable Kitchen Vehicles Must Be Ready in Three Months.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 4.—Work on 8000 portable kitchen wagons for the French army was begun here today. The value of the order is placed at \$250,000. The French government specified that the wagons be ready in three months.

MUTUAL PLAN FOR DEFENSE IS SOUGHT

Executives and Congressmen to Meet.

BALANCING OF BILLS IS HOPE

House Sub-Committee Decides on Recommendations.

NAVAL RESERVE FAVORED

Chief of Operations Also Advocated. Co-ordination Between Department, Atlantic Fleet and Legislators Questioned.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Co-operation between the executive and legislative branches of the Government in appeals for the National defense is the object of a conference arranged today between Secretaries Garrison and Daniels, of the War and Navy Departments, and the chairmen of the Senate and House committees on military and naval affairs.

The conference will be held tomorrow night at the home of Secretary Garrison, who suggested the idea. Besides the four chairmen of the Congressional committees, other Democratic leaders have been invited.

General Policy Is Intent.

It is generally expected that an effort will be made to balance the various appropriations in conformity with a general policy for the promotion of the National defense, plans for which probably will be submitted to President Wilson for final approval. The various bills for the increase of the Regular Army will be one of the principal topics for discussion.

While this conference was being planned the House military committee today heard Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, advocate his proposal for a commission of five men to investigate the military preparedness of the country and the naval sub-committee second up its work on the naval appropriation bill, which is to be submitted to the full committee Wednesday.

Chief of Operations Proposed.

The subcommittee incorporated in the naval bill a provision creating the office of chief of operations, under the Secretary of the Navy, with a four-year tenure of office and to be held by a Rear-Admiral. His functions would be to supervise all naval preparations for war emergencies. The subcommittee also provided for an increase of 41 commissioned officers in the marine corps and the promotion of 110 non-commissioned officers.

The Administration provision to create a naval reserve, designed to produce ultimately a reserve of 25,000 former men of the Navy, was adopted with amendment.

Co-ordination Is Questioned.

Lack of co-ordination between the Navy Department, the Atlantic Fleet

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GIFTS FLOOD TO TROOPS

French Transportation Taxed and 1,400,000 Gallons of Wine Given.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—So many presents for the soldiers at the front are being received that the transportation department of the army is being virtually overwhelmed for the time being. Gifts of private persons include 1,400,000 gallons of wine from the department of Herault alone, while the Angou region gave 138,000 gallons.

The prefect of the department of Herault, in advising Jouis J. Malvy, Minister of the Interior, of the present, added that another gift of 1,400,000 gallons of wine probably would be made.

GREEKS IN CANADA CALLED

Mobilization Order Says Reservists Must Be Ready for Duty March 1.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 4.—Instructions have been received that all Greek reservists now in Canada must report at once to the colors. The mobilization order states they must be ready to take up their duties with their regiments March 1.

SHIPPING BILL IS RUSHED TO FRONT

Democrats Warned of Bitter Fight

REPUBLICAN FIGHT BITTER

Lodge Styles Measure Subsidy Worst Kind.

COMPLICATION IS FEARED

Plan Proposed Would Not Relieve Shipping Conditions, Assert Republican Leaders in Upper House, Who Plan Attack.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Government purchase of ships as proposed in the Administration bill to create a shipping board, finance a \$10,000,000 shipping corporation and expend not to exceed \$30,000,000 for the purchase or chartering of ocean carriers became today the foremost issue before Congress.

By a vote of 45 to 30 the Senate made the ship purchase bill the unfinished business, to be supplanted only by appropriation bills. This action, on motion of Senator Fletcher, acting chairman of the commerce committee, precipitated a showing on the part of the opposition Senators which gave certain indication that there were breakers ahead for the proposed legislation.

Charging that an effort was being made to rush the bill with undue haste, Republican Senators, among them Senators Gellinger, Lodge and Root, served notice that the measure would be fought to the last ditch.

Dangers Pointed Out.

Minority members of the commerce committee filed a report written by Senator Burton and endorsed by Senators Nelson, Perkins, Smith of Michigan and Oliver, asserting that the plan proposed would not relieve shipping conditions because it would be impossible for the Government to get ships enough to do any good. It pointed also to dangers of international complications, declaring that "every craft set afloat by the Government would add one more risk of our being drawn into the present war."

Senator Fletcher, who has charge of the bill, and who recently conferred with President Wilson concerning it, urged the measure in a lengthy speech. He declared the war had produced "a ship famine" and that the interests of all people in the United States demanded that the Government take immediate action to supply ships to carry American products demanded in the markets of Europe and South America.

He gave as an instance the fact that cotton sold at 19 cents a pound in Germany when it was bringing 7 cents in the United States. Germany would consume 500,000,000 pounds of cotton if she could get it, he said, and the South had 15 times that amount to sell.

America Had Six Ships as War Opened.

When the war began, Senator

Monday's War Moves

UPPER ALSACE seems to be the center of the most important fighting in the western arena of the war. Engagements of a violent nature are being fought in the region of Senheim, which the French call Gerney, lying about eight miles northwest of Muelhausen.

The French forces have occupied the heights around Senheim, and in addition have driven the Germans out of Steinbach, a village further to the north. This loss Berlin admits.

At other points along the front extending to the North Sea there has been only intermittent cannonading.

Both Russians and Germans admit that no important change has taken place of late on the front along the left bank of the Vistula. In West Galicia the Russians are making steady progress, and according to their official statements have captured many Austrian prisoners.

Russian troops have crossed the crown land of Bukovina and occupied the town of Suzawa, within a short distance of the Austro-Romanian frontier.

British warships have bombarded Dar-es-Salaam, capital of German East Africa, where it is reported much damage was inflicted and all the German vessels in the harbor were disabled.

Politically, the American note still occupies a prominent position, dividing attention with speculations as to what Roumania and Italy intend to do. The answer of the British government, it is expected, will be sent to Washington late this week.

It is understood here that Great Britain has reached such a satisfactory understanding with Italy with regard to the trans-shipment of contraband that no cargoes destined for that country have been stopped since December 4.

British officials declare that the relief of the American shipping from the present regulations depends largely on the assurances of neutral states bordering on belligerent countries that they will not assist in supplying Germany, Austria or Turkey with food products and munitions of war.

The German statement makes no mention of the severe fighting in the east reported by the Russian military authorities. It says merely that the situation is unchanged and that German attacks continue.

The activities of the Turks in the Caucasus seem to be assuming an increasing importance, judging from the attention the Petrograd official communications are devoting to this region. Although not admitting that the Turks have been victorious, it is conceded that they are fighting with great valor and stubbornness in the vicinity of the fortified town of Sari Kamyah. The Turks claim to have taken this position. Russia, however, does not admit this and says the Turks have suffered enormous losses.

Comparing the Turkish and the Russian statements it would seem that the Turks are making headway, although both sides are losing heavily as their troops flounder and fight through the deep snow wad in the bitter cold of these high altitudes.

The battle of the rivers in Poland has not yet come to an end. The German declaration of having taken Borzhom, northeast of Bolnisi, a strong Russian position east of Lwow, and a step nearer Warsaw, is denied by the Russians, who say that the German assaults there have been repulsed with heavy losses and that elsewhere they have been held at bay. Petrograd professes to see the end of the battle of the Polish rivers and a concentration of German forces at some other strategic point in a renewed attempt to break through.

If it is true that the Russians have taken another pass over the Carpathian Mountains, the invasion of Hungary in real force should soon be a reality. Up to the present, detachments of Russian cavalry have crossed these mountains, but there never has been an invasion in strength.

It was a German submarine which sank the British battleship Formidable on New Year's day in the English Channel. This announcement is made from Berlin, which is so advised by a wireless from the submarine. The Formidable, according to the same authority, met with disaster off Plymouth. An Italian battleship, the shellied Durano, Albania, to check a revolutionary movement on the part of the Musulmans.

MILLIONS LEFT TO SON, 16

Temple Bowdoin, Partner of J. P. Morgan, Remembers Employees.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—By the will of Temple Bowdoin, partner of J. P. Morgan, filed for probate today, the bulk of the estate, which runs into millions, is bequeathed to the decedent's 16-year-old son, George Temple Bowdoin. Mr. Bowdoin left \$100,000 to public institutions and remembered 300 employees in his will.

The will also provides that each person in the employ of J. P. Morgan & Co. or Drexel & Co. of Philadelphia, shall receive a sum of money equal to one month's salary. Every employe in Mr. Bowdoin's personal service for a year or more is to receive a year's salary. Other employes also are remembered.

HARVESTER PLANT STARTS

Twenty-Five Hundred Employes Soon to Be Put to Work.

AUBURN, N. Y., Jan. 4.—The officials of the local plant of the International Harvester Company today began engaging again the employes who have been idle for many months. The company employs about 2500 persons here under normal conditions. Officials said today they expected to have the plant running at full capacity within a few weeks.

SIERKS BOASTS OF HATRED OF PENDER

Slayer of Wehrmans Tells More Details.

PLOT TO GET EVEN ADMITTED

Hammer Thrown Into Tent to Incriminate Enemy.

CONFESSION IS BELIEVED

Asylum Inmate Outlines Steps on Night of Murder, Tells of Grudge Against Neighbor Who He Hoped Would Be Hanged.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—John G. H. Sierks, the insane asylum inmate whose confession that he killed Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and her little boy near Scappoose, September 4, 1911, probably will free John Arthur Pender, convicted of the crime and sentenced to be hanged, today gave additional information which, state officials say, strengthens his story.

Without hesitation Sierks revealed his motive for wanting Pender hanged and said he would not have confessed but for the pleadings of Rev. W. G. MacLaren, chaplain of the Penitentiary, who said it would be necessary for his salvation.

"I wanted Pender hanged; I had it in for him; I wanted to get even with him," declared Sierks.

Confession Frees Mind.

Sierks was polishing the floor of the ward for the criminal insane when questioned. He had as assistants in the work numerous other inmates of the ward, and was working as industriously as any of them. Sierks smiled as he came forward at the command of the attendant.

"How do you feel today?" he was asked.

"I feel fine," he replied. "Better than I have for a long time. Did not sleep much last night. Wanted a great deal. But I feel all right today, and I am glad a load is off my mind." Asked if it was not a pretty long trip he took the night of the killing, he gave the number of miles and recited in detail how the trip was made. It was the same story as given in his confession.

Grudge Against Pender Admitted.

"I wanted to get even with Pender because he had threatened my father," said Sierks. "My father shot his dog and he said he would prosecute me. I then turned out his cattle out of the pasture." The story of the elder Sierks shooting the dog and the threats of Pender has been told frequently by persons living in the neighborhood of the families.

Asked if he threw the hammer into the broken claw into Pender's tent in the belief that it would fasten the guilt of the Wehrman crime upon him, Sierks said that was his purpose. He declared he had deliberately planned

JOHN BULL IS BEGINNING TO LOSE HIS TEMPER.



SPRINGFIELD ACTIVITIES GIVE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS.

SPRINGFIELD, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special.)—Reconstruction of the Booth-Kelly sawmill here the past year, and the resumption of operations August 1, was the biggest event of 1914 for Springfield.

The mill employs about 125 men ten hours a day, and is cutting from 100,000 to 140,000 feet of lumber a day. The mill is operated throughout by electricity, with individual motors.

A large amount of paving had been done in 1913. The past year there were two blocks of macadam street laid at a cost of \$500, a concrete bridge constructed across the mill race at Second street at a cost of \$3000, and about \$1500 was spent in minor street repairs. Two sewers, costing \$700, were laid.

A brick annex to the Commercial State Bank building was constructed during the summer for a post office. Messrs. Winsor and Perkins remodeled the old White Elephant livery barn at Fourth and Main streets, making spaces for a garage and four storage rooms. All these were completed as soon as completed.

Paul Brattain erected a fire residence in the Brattain Addition at a cost of \$2500, and John Boyle constructed a bungalow at a cost of \$1200. There were half a dozen smaller dwellings, aggregating probably \$1000.

All three of the churches underwent some changes or repairs. The Baptist Church was enlarged and rebuilt at a cost of \$2500, and a \$500 addition was made to the Christian Church.

Repairs and repainting of the Methodist Church amount to \$2500. The Hotel Springfield was remodeled and refurbished at a cost of \$1500. Repairs at the City Hall cost \$150, and there was \$400 expended for paint, sidewalks and minor repairs at the two schoolhouses.