

BRITISH PROTEST SAILING OF APPAM

Notice Served That Recruiting of Crew Would Violate International Law.

CASE OF ALABAMA CITED

Precedent Held Established by Refusal of Entry Into Port of Confederate Prizes, Which Killed Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—In the name of the British owners of the steamship Appam, Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British Ambassador, today lodged with the State Department a formal request that the ship be turned over to the British Consul under the terms of the Harpe convention.

Notice also was served that it would be in violation of international law if the United States permitted the German prize commander of the Appam either to increase the efficiency of that ship, add to her offensive power or recruit her crew.

Alabama Cited as Precedent.

On the Alabama case as a precedent, the British contention is that any change which would result in the removal of the Appam which would even in a limited degree give her offensive power and enable her to prey on British commerce would be a violation of the Harpe convention.

Although the British government did not formally recall the Harpe treaty, it remains the constant of neutrals in maritime warfare, it is held that most of that convention and especially the article under which the release of the Appam is demanded is only a crystallization of principles of international law in existence before the convention.

Principle Observed in 1861.

In evidence of its observance of the principle of denial to belligerents of the right of sequestrating prizes in neutral ports, the British government points to the Queen's Order of June 1, 1861, issued at the outbreak of the Civil War, when Confederate prizes were being seized in the Caribbean.

The British contention also is that the old Neutrality treaty of 1818 is obsolete. Nevertheless, there was no indication today that the State Department would alter its view that the Prussian treaty guarantees the prize in Germany and Secretary Lansing declared the only point to be cleared up was how long an interpretation of the treaty would permit the Appam to remain in an American port.

GERMANS JOIN IN STATEMENT

Status of 13 Who Helped Prize Crew to Be Determined.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 4.—Thirteen of the 28 Germans who aided Lieutenant Meyer's German prize crew in bringing the captured British liner Appam across the Atlantic and into Hampton Roads presented a written statement to Collector Hamilton today, outlining their wishes as to what disposition should be made of them and asking for a ruling by American officials.

The statement was held as confidential by the collector, and will be forwarded to Washington. It is understood, however, that the State Department is now considering whether their service with the prize crew was voluntary, a point which may have an important bearing on the decisions of officials.

The seven Germans who did not join in the statement made to Mr. Hamilton were military prisoners aboard the Appam, and the other 13 were civilian prisoners on their way to detention camps. Three of the 13 are women.

Officially announced today that the Appam's first-class mail would be landed at Newport News and transferred to the steamer for New York. No decision has been reached regarding the parcel post matter aboard.

BRYCE AGAINST REPRISAL

Ex-Ambassador Says Britain Must Stand for Justice and Right.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Viscount Bryce, ex-Ambassador to the United States, speaking at Bedford College, London, tonight condemned the policy of reprisals against Germany, which, since the last Zeppelin raid has gained many advocates.

"We stand in this war for justice and right," Viscount Bryce said. "We stand for humanity and from that position we must not depart. I do not myself believe for a moment we shall gain anything by departing from it."

"If it came to us to retaliate against reprisals, the enemy would always win. I see no reason to think that recourse to inhuman practices that are shocking to philosophy and morals, which the enemy has adopted, would have the slightest effect on him or promote in any way our military success."

KAISER ON WESTERN LINE

Zeppelin Raid Planned in Presence of Emperor Himself.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A report from Berlin via Copenhagen says that Emperor William has been on the western front for some time and was in the neighborhood of the Belgian frontier when the attacks on Loos took place.

The amazing growth of the German merchant marine was due, he said, to the activities of the German Marine League, which now has 400 branches throughout the Fatherland, and has brought home the importance of adequate shipping to the humiliated German workmen.

Fort Rock Hay in Demand.

FORT ROCK, Or., Feb. 4.—(Special.)—Fort Rock Valley is coming to the front this winter with its many tons of hay. Although this is a dry-farming section, good crops were raised last year.

Washington, Feb. 4.—President Wilson returned from his speaking trip for preparedness today so well pleased with its result that he probably will make another soon, unless the last-

PEASANTS CAUGHT IN THE MAELSTROM OF THE EASTERN WAR ZONE.



HOMELESS RUSSIANS ON ROAD. The plight of the native Russian peasant population cannot be fully described. Driven from their dingy homes by the devastation employed by the Russian army in retreat, these peasants, for the major part women, old men and children, fled for safety and possible relief from starvation to the rear of the German lines.

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DOOMED CHEAT FES

200 Montenegrins Kill Each Other as Ship Sinks.

ATHENS, Feb. 2, via London, Feb. 4.—A description of the thrilling experiences connected with the sinking of the Italian steamship Brindisi, which recently struck a mine in the Adriatic, is given by Marie Lemos, of Chicago, one of the Red Cross nurses who survived.

"The steamship, with her decks covered with dead, sank with hideous rapidity. I was shot into the water, which was full of struggling youths, trying to keep afloat, but disappearing one by one within sight of land. I managed to scramble back aboard the steamer, where I found some 200 Montenegrins who were unable to swim."

"These men said they would not die by the enemy's hand. They sang their national anthem and then one squad shot the others and finally killed themselves. While the men were singing an Austrian aeroplane swooped down and shot down the town, killing 13 of those who had just been saved."

"King Kinzid and Democratic. King Nicholas of Montenegro fettered us to Serbia in his boat. He is a kindly and democratic old man, who seems to understand."

"From Beirut we walked five days through the desert, along the hunger-weakened Serbians died one after another."

"Reaching Durazzo seven pursuing Austrian aeroplanes bombarded the town where the remnants of the Serbian army were so crowded that they were unable to escape the missiles. Many were killed and others wounded."

"From Durazzo we accompanied the Serbs to Aylona and Corfu and thence to Athens."

"One of our aeroplanes was hit in the motor twice and forced to land on the sea. The commander of the aerial squadron, Naval Lieutenant Konyov, went down on the water to assist the aviators in the damaged machine. Although the sea was rough, the Lieutenant succeeded in taking both officers from the stricken aeroplane. This was done in the face of a violent fire from the batteries at Sasso and while destroyers were approaching at full speed."

"The aeroplanes then rose from the water with the rescued officers and returned safely after a flight of 124 miles to the Gulf of Cattaro."

"That is the unanimous sentiment of the country, irrespective of party, and discussions therefore among Spaniards who may hold divergent views regarding the war are of a purely theoretical interest. All of us here suffer at least morally from this great war."

"The name Texas is borne by several steamers. It is thought here that the vessel referred to in the dispatches is the Swedish steamer which left Newport News for Christiania on January 27."

"The Senate today passed a bill by Senator Robinson, Democrat of Arkansas, appropriating \$100,000 for the relief of flood sufferers in the Mississippi Valley and authorizing the Secretary of War to lend tents for the homeless. It then went to the House."

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5 BODIES IN RUNS OF FIRE AT OTTAWA

Member of Parliament Listed Among Dead, Now Known to Number Seven.

POLICE REJECT PLOT IDEA

Fire Chief, However, Quoted as Saying Blaze Was Incendiary—New and More Imposing Structure Will Be Built.

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—The list of those who lost their lives in the fire which destroyed the Canadian Parliament building was fixed tonight at seven. Five of the bodies still lie beneath the ruins.

While firemen spent the day pouring water upon the smoldering debris, Dominion Government officials were making plans to erect a new and more imposing structure on the site of the building wrecked by last night's fire.

Meanwhile Parliament will sit in the auditorium of the Royal Victoria Museum until the new custom's house can be made ready for occupancy.

Police and Firemen Disagree. Although the police frown on the theory that a plot was responsible for the destruction of the building or that the fire was started by a bomb, Fire Chief Graham is quoted as having said the "fire was set."

Government officials assert they believe the flames were not of incendiary origin, but they nevertheless are conducting a rigid investigation in an effort to determine whether there is any basis for a suspicion. Coroner Craig, of Ottawa, will hold an inquest on February 17 into the deaths of Messrs. Brax and Morin, whose bodies are the only ones thus far recovered.

Search for Bodies Goes On. A cordon of police stood guard all day around the ruins of the building and held back the thousands who visited the scene. None was permitted to enter any part of those sections of the building which remain standing.

Scores of workmen were employed in searching the debris for the bodies of the five men who lost their lives. David Ewart, consulting architect of the public works department, estimated the property loss at \$2,000,000.

When Parliament met today, Speaker Selwyn was absent, his robes of office, which were destroyed in last night's fire.

Premier Borden read messages of condolence from King George of Great Britain, from the Duke of Connaught, the Governor-General and from the provinces of the country. He announced there would be a searching investigation into the cause of the fire and that the business of the session would be continued without interruption.

Lawyer Urges That Work Go On. Sir W. W. Ridd, opposition leader, in the expression of determination to continue the work of the Parliament and added:

"What we gain upon the ruins upon the hill, while we still trust that it may be the result of accident, we are reminded of the ruins of Louvain and the ruins of Rheims, not caused by the enemy, but by a cruel foe. If there is anything which the present calamity should impress on us it is the duty of going on with our work and doing everything possible to bring the murderers to justice."

The business which the fire interrupted last night was completed and the House adjourned to meet at the usual hour on Monday.

SUSPECT TAKEN FROM TRAIN. Prisoner Says He Is Belgian and Played Before Governor.

WINDSOR, Ont., Feb. 4.—Declaring that he is suspected of being implicated in the destruction of the Parliament building at Ottawa, the provincial authorities today arrested Charles Strony, aged 28, who says he is a Canadian musician. Acting on instructions received from Colonel J. S. Sherwood, chief of Dominion police, Ottawa two hours after the fire started. Strony characterized the charge as ridiculous. He said he had played a musical engagement before the Duke of Connaught and his staff Thursday and was on his way to Chicago.

According to the message received from Colonel Sherwood, Strony left Ottawa two hours after the fire started. He will be held pending further instructions from Ottawa.

Senator Denounces Ottawa Act. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Senator Thomas, Democrat, introduced a resolution today denouncing the fire in the House of Parliament at Ottawa as an act of "deliberately planned incendiarism" and an "unpardonable crime against civilization." Senator Gallinger, Republican, objected to its consideration, saying he knew of no evidence of incendiarism.

STEAMER ON FIRE AT SEA. Texas, Thought to Be Swedish, Reports Plight by Radio.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 4.—A fire in the hold of the steamer Texas, about 50 miles southeast of St. John's, N. F., was reported in two radio messages received by the Canadian marine department tonight.

The first message, which came from the British steamer Howthorn, bound from Norfolk for Dublin, said merely that the Texas was on fire, while a later message, sent by the steamer Siberia, New York for London, said that the fire was under control and that the Texas was proceeding with hatches battened.

The name Texas is borne by several steamers. It is thought here that the vessel referred to in the dispatches is the Swedish steamer which left Newport News for Christiania on January 27.

Senate Votes Flood Relief. WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Senate today passed a bill by Senator Robinson, Democrat of Arkansas, appropriating \$100,000 for the relief of flood sufferers in the Mississippi Valley and authorizing the Secretary of War to lend tents for the homeless. It then went to the House.

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MRS. MOHR WEEPS

Argument Against Murdered Physician's Widow Closed.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 4.—Attorney-General Rice completed his closing argument before the prosecution late today in the trial of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr and two negroes, Cecil Brown and Henry Spellman, charged with her husband's murder. Justice Stearns will deliver his charge tomorrow, and the jurors will begin their deliberations about noon.

The prosecuting attorney's argument occupied the entire afternoon. Throughout the long session Mrs. Mohr sat immovably beside her counsel, with the exception of once, when she wept as the prosecutor asserted there was no evidence to show that "she ever looked on the face of her dead husband."

"The defendants, Brown and Spellman, were out of a job, and an offer of \$200 to do a job of this kind was an immense fortune for Brown, and \$1000, to Spellman, was a fortune for him."

"We find out that Mrs. Mohr was suing her husband for divorce and that she knew Miss Berger was going down to Newport that night with him. Who had the motive? Then who did the actual shooting?"

"Mrs. Mohr admitted she had talked a settlement on a basis of an absolute divorce for the Newport home and \$75,000. The feeling was so bitter that

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