

FROZEN RIVER BECOMES VICIOUS

ENGLAND AND GERMANY MAKE REPLY TO AMERICA

Great Britain Answers Note of Protest Against Seizure of Mail Between Here and Neutral Countries.

SEVERAL DISPUTES TO BE SETTLED

Lusitania Case is Still Being Argued, Neither Side Having Come to Full and Satisfactory Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—England has made a tentative reply to the American note protesting against seizure of mail between America and neutral countries. The state department plans to make the American note and the reply public Friday.

American protest is understood to have been based on the contention that Great Britain has no jurisdiction over first class mail bound for neutral countries which has been involuntarily brought into the hands of the British court. Under international law England has a right to censor all mail which is routed through a British port, but may not censor mail bound directly to a neutral port, but forced while enroute to enter a British port.

It is understood that Great Britain rejected the demand that she cease further interruption of American mails, justifying her position both on the grounds of military necessity and that the mails have been used to get contraband into Germany. The Swedish minister discussed the mail situation with Secretary Lansing today. Sweden has made repeated protests to Great Britain and has seized British mails in transit as a reprisal. The Swedish minister was given a copy of the communication between the United States and Great Britain on the mail question.

A Contest of Diction.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Negotiations between the United States and Germany for settlement of the Lusitania's sinking had developed today into a contest of diction. It had reached the stage of a diplomatic duel, a battle over words, between the Berlin foreign office and the state department, with Ambassador Bernstorff and Secretary Lansing the fighters.

The two governments today were squarely opposed on a vital point in the negotiations, admission by Germany of illegally and wrongfully sinking the Lusitania. The United States, it was understood has flatly rejected as unsatisfactory the evasive phraseology of settlement terms thus far suggested by Ambassador Bernstorff.

Today the German envoy hoped to find concessions upon which Germany may agree. To be satisfactory to the administration they must go much farther than those so far advanced.

Ambassador Bernstorff had another appointment with Secretary Lansing this morning to submit confidentially new tentative phrasing.

Though Ambassador Bernstorff, like Secretary Lansing, had refused since yesterday's meeting to discuss the matters, others in close touch with Germany's position were insistent that the final adjustment is at hand, and

that it will be satisfactory to the United States government.

"No matter what the United States demands, the matter will soon be adjusted," said one diplomat.

At the embassy it was predicted that all matters would be cleared up by the end of next week. This was taken to indicate that the embassy expects to obtain from Berlin ratification of concession to the demand for complete disavowal of the sinking.

A Message to Berlin.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Secretary of State Lansing today delivered to Count Von Bernstorff for transmission to Berlin, the final proposals of the United States for settlement of the Lusitania case. Ambassador Bernstorff was summoned to the state department shortly before noon. Lansing submitted the written proposals setting forth in unequivocal terms the position of the United States government that Germany must admit the illegality of the sinking of the Lusitania with the loss of more than 100 American lives.

Arrangements were made that Ambassador Bernstorff should cable this communication to his government immediately. Nothing further will be done until Berlin is heard from.

The German ambassador carried no communication with him when he went into Secretary Lansing's office. He had in his hand a card on which were written a few notes, presumably suggestions to incorporate into the memorandum to be sent to Berlin.

After his conference with Secretary Lansing, the ambassador dictated a message to a state department stenographer. It was presumed this was the code message to Berlin containing the United States government's proposals. Count Von Bernstorff was closeted with the secretary for about thirty-five minutes.

Settled in a Few Days.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Secretary Lansing and Ambassador Bernstorff conferred again today on the Lusitania matter and again refused to discuss the result of their talk. Whether any progress was made toward adjusting the radical differences between the viewpoints of the two countries is made known yesterday by allusion from the Danes. If Denmark entered the war and was occupied by German troops this source of supply for the British Isles would be cut off.

It is generally understood that a tacit agreement exists by which Denmark divides her food stuffs between the German and the English without objection by either. In view of this fact, it is cited here that no Danish ship carrying food supplies to England has ever been torpedoed. Swedish ships have been blown up and so have Danish ships with cargoes other than food.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Jan. 26.—The British government has virtually decided to stand pat on its present trade regulations and will make no announcement of a blockade of the German coast in parliament this afternoon, the majority of well informed parliamentary writers agree. Only a few papers clung to the belief that the cabinet will announce a radical change of policy. The news known about Germany by the press regulations may be tightened in some respects, but it was the general relief of the newspapers that the cabinet has decided against any revolutionary change in policy. The storm of protest raised in the United States and in Sweden, some of the papers broadly hinted, has cooled the ardor of advocates of the blockade if it has not had its effect upon the government. The newspapers gave prominent display to the warlike utterances of the Swedish premier in his Riksdag speech yesterday and the Daily Telegraph and the Daily News cautioned the government against any action likely to involve Great Britain with neutrals.

"The firebrands of the press have demanded that we brush neutrals out of our path with a strong hand, but what would be the position of the entente allies if the vast resources of the United States ceased to be at their command?" demanded the News.

"There is reason to believe that the foreign secretary will announce this afternoon that the government has reached no important decision with reference to the foundations of our policy," said the Telegraph.

"This country may be content with the present measures, which if apparently slow, are sure, and which hitherto have been adopted without any severance of friendly relations with the neutral powers. We have had experience of the past consequences of imperious and overbearing conduct."

Formal debate on the blockade issue was expected to open with the introduction of a resolution endorsing such a drastic step by Arthur Shirley Benn, a conservative. Sir Edward Grey was counted upon to answer for the government with a sweeping denial of the charge that the present "blockade" had been ineffective.

Bitter debate was expected, the blockade advocates again assailing the government with charges of unwillingness to take strong, aggressive action.

NORSEMAN NOT SUNK.
LONDON, Jan. 26.—The Dominion liner Norseman, reported in yesterday's Liverpool dispatches to have been sunk, did not go to the bottom, but was beached, it was learned today. There were no casualties among the crew.

The Norseman formerly in service between Liverpool and Portland, Maine, and Canadian ports, made her last voyage from America late in November, carrying a war cargo to Liverpool. She was then commandeered by the British admiralty.

SUPPORT GOVERNMENT.
BRISTOL, Eng., Jan. 26.—By a big majority, representatives of more than 2,000,000 English laboring men today adopted a resolution pledging their support to the British government. The resolution was passed amid cheers shortly after the three day session of the labor conference opened.

With the same majority, the delegates adopted a resolution condemning German atrocities in France and Belgium. The resolution of support refrained from mentioning conscription which is practically certain to meet with strong denunciation in resolutions to be presented late today.

Wm. Crawford Anderson, labor member of parliament, who presided, sounded the keynote of attack on conscription when he declared compulsory service not only doomed to certain failure, but certain to cause bitterness among the workers.

"It is impossible for democracy and

UPPER RIVER IS VERY DANGEROUS

High Water and Ice Gorges on Mississippi Threaten to Do Very Much Damage.

NEW HIGH MARK TODAY

River Men Predict Trouble When the Ice Jam Breaks and Ice Field Runs Out.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] DAVENPORT, Iowa, Jan. 26.—Scores are homeless, much property has been damaged and heavier damages are expected from ice gorges and high water, the result of the worst flood the upper Mississippi valley has suffered for years.

Although the water fell two-tenths of a foot here during the early part of last night, a new high level was reached this morning when the early morning rains soaked the ground and filled small tributaries. From all river points in Iowa and Illinois come reports of high waters and half a dozen ice gorges have been reported.

Scores of house boat residents and poor people living along the levee here have been driven from their homes, cellars in the business district are flooded and fields and roads west of here are under three feet of water.

The big ice gorge five miles down the river is still holding and river men predict heavy damage when the ice goes out.

Used Dynamite on Gorge.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ROCKFORD, Ill., Jan. 26.—Dynamiters shot charge after charge in the ice jams of the Rock river today to save the new \$250,000 Illinois Central bridge from destruction. The ice north of the river began to break at 6:30 a. m. today. The river has risen four feet, flooding hundreds of acres of low lands.

Used Dynamite on Gorge.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.] AMSTERDAM, Jan. 26.—The serious state of affairs at Athens was emphasized today by a Budapest dispatch to the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger reporting that M. Gounaris probably will succeed M. Skouliadis as prime minister.

The present premier recently offered his resignation on account of advanced age, but was induced to reconsider it. The approaching crisis in Greek affairs is said to have convinced Constantine that he must have an energetic man like Gounaris, the neutral party leader, at the helm.

Bringing Out Americans.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—A special train left Chihuahua yesterday to bring employees of the Quoyro Development company and other Americans who have taken refuge with them, from Minaca, the agent of the company reported, according to dispatches to the state department today.

A message from Consul General Silliman at Queretaro said Carranza is making every effort to comply with the demands of this government for the capture and punishment of the murderers of the Watson party.

terminated on at Mobile will be used as a basis for negotiations in other districts.

The convention listened today to many short speeches by miners from widely separated districts on the subject of suspension April 1. David Fowler of Scranton, Pa., representing he said, fifty thousand anthracite miners, said his district does not want a strike.

The vote was considered substantial proof that the union miners desire industrial peace. It was taken, following many brief speeches by miners representing widely scattered districts in which the non-suspension policy of President White was unvaryingly endorsed.

An aye and no vote was first taken, but a division was demanded. The rising vote showed the non-suspension

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] AMSTERDAM, Jan. 26.—Allied monitors drew close in to the Belgian coast and shelled German positions at Westende, according to advices received here this afternoon. At the same time Anglo-French pilots bombed German works near Knoke and Heyst.

The shell fire of the monitors at Westende was particularly effective, according to reports reaching here. Numerous wounded Germans have arrived at Bruges and Ghent as the result of the raid.

It is believed here that the attack on Westende and the air raids on other Belgian districts held by the Germans were in retaliation for the German air attacks on Dunkirk and English towns on the channel.

ITALY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ROME, Jan. 26.—Austrian troops have occupied the Albanian seaport of San Giovanni Di Medua and are pressing southward toward Durazzo, according to dispatches received here.

They plan to form a junction with the Bulgarians in the regions of El Basean. Part of the Montenegrin and Albanian forces defending Scutari, were captured when the Austrians took the city. The Serbs escaped and are retreating southward.

Italian troops are known to have been landed near Durazzo several months ago. No reports of their withdrawal have been received, though the message from Rome makes no reference to their presence at Durazzo.

It is possible that a battle is imminent in which Italian troops will be engaged for the first time in the Balkan peninsula.

TURKEY
[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ZURICH, Jan. 26.—The distinguished Turkish diplomat Refaat Pasha, Neby Bey and Ettemme Bey, have arrived in Switzerland to prepare a scheme of Turkish peace proposals, the newspaper La Suisse declared today. Financial troubles, it was stated, have made Turkey desirous of peace.

CEASED ATTACKS.
CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Berlin wireless) Jan. 26.—British troops attempting to relieve the beleaguered garrison at Kut-el-Amara, have ceased their attacks "after appalling losses" near Felarte, said an official statement from the Turkish war office today.

policy winning by practically a unanimous vote.

This vote is taken as indicating a powerful influence by President White. When the convention adjourned yesterday, strong opposition to the non-suspension policy was apparent, but over night the White forces won many votes.

Those favoring strikes wished them as a club to hold over the operators. Those opposed to suspension declared such action would open markets to non-union coal. It is now assured, delegates said, that wage scale negotiations will go on under peaceful conditions at least until the miners are certain that the operators will not grant their demands. The miners appeared confident a satisfactory agreement will be reached. Negotiations will begin in Mobile, Ala., probably February 1.

HALF A DOZEN LIVES LOST IN BIG BLAZE

Three Men Leaped From Fifth Floor of Burning Building When Flames Drove Them Frantic.

THREE BODIES FOUND IN THE ASHES

Others had Narrow Escapes From Death and Several are Missing and May be Victims.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 26.—Three persons were killed jumping from the fifth floor and three others were burned to death today in a fire that gutted the Walker building here.

Seven men are missing. Of the twenty-one known to have been in the big warehouse at the time, eight narrowly escaped with their lives. Firemen found three bodies on the fifth floor, burned almost to a crisp.

The fire spread so rapidly on that floor, near where it seems to have originated, that three men, with

smoke and flames at their heels were forced to jump from windows in the presence of scores of hapless spectators below.

Six men in the basement when the fire started saved themselves. Two men on the third floor, hearing the cries of fire above, fled to safety by the elevator, cutting off this means of escape to the men trapped on the upper floors.

The fire originated in some hemp on the fourth floor. The flames gave the firemen a stubborn fight. It may be several hours before a search can be made for the missing men.

Advocated Preparedness.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Yardow views were expressed in the house today regarding the probable effect of Republican Leader Mann's speech advocating preparedness. Leading republicans declared that while Mann generally reflected the republican viewpoint, he spoke for himself alone and gave his personal views for personal reasons, without attempting to guide the republican members.

Although there is greater unanimity among the republicans than the house democrats on preparedness, leaders admit many republicans do not share Mann's views regarding the necessity of a large standing army. Sentiment for building up the militia rather than greatly increasing the regular army or creating the continental reserves is widespread on the republican side.

With the responsibility resting upon the democrats to provide the revenues, the republicans have fewer national defense "insurgents," but minor members as well as the democrats profess to regard the question as largely non-partisan and one of personal responsibility, without following party leaders.

Czar is Decorated.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.] AMSTERDAM, Jan. 26.—Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria recently appointed a field marshal in the German army by the kaiser, has also been awarded a field marshal's baton by Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, Vienna report today. Count Lonyay carried the baton to Sofia and with it a message of greetings from Franz Josef.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

LITTLE DENMARK WILL KEEP OUT OF THE WAR

Sweden Might be Drawn in, But Danes Have No Such Desire

[By Charles P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.] LONDON, Jan. 26.—War rumblings may disturb Sweden at present, but Denmark pretty certainly is going to keep out of the war. She wants to keep out and both Germany and England want the same thing. This much is gleaned from conversations with officials in Copenhagen and well informed persons here today. If Denmark fights at all, it must be with the allies. She lost Schleswig-Holstein to Germany fifty-two years ago and has hated the Germans ever since.

But Germany could cross the imaginary line separating the two countries and overrun Denmark within a short time. Hence Denmark cannot

afford to fight.

On the other hand Germany is not anxious to invade Denmark. The Germans receive considerable quantities of supplies through Denmark's neutral ports, despite the British blockade. They realize that England would blockade the seaports if occupied by Germans. Furthermore, Germany does not want to increase troubles by conquering and making it necessary to defend Denmark's long shore line against possible landing by allied England gets large stores of food stuff from the Danes. If Denmark entered the war and was occupied by German troops this source of supply for the British Isles would be cut off.

It is generally understood that a tacit agreement exists by which Denmark divides her food stuffs between the German and the English without objection by either. In view of this fact, it is cited here that no Danish ship carrying food supplies to England has ever been torpedoed. Swedish ships have been blown up and so have Danish ships with cargoes other than food.

Miners Vote Against Strike by Overwhelming Majority

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[United Press Leased Wire Service.] INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 26.—Delegates representing 400,000 union coal miners, decided today by an overwhelming vote not to suspend work April 1 in case new wage scale agreements with the operators have not been made by that time.

The original intention was to have the Mobile conference begin February 1, but the convention will hold the miner delegates here past that date.

President White said that with the scale and legislation committee yet to report and partial reports to come from other committees, the convention will continue a large part of next week.

The conference at Mobile will be able to determine a new wage scale for central competitive fields. Most of the scales expire April 1. Scales de-

WALL STREET WHISTLES AS IT GOES TO WORK

Steel Corporation Declared Dividend and Gave Everybody Confidence

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—Wall street whistled on its way to work today. Its judgment that the country is making money having been confirmed by the announcement of unprecedented earnings of the United States Steel corporation and the placing of steel common back on the old five per cent basis, the street is now expected to throw itself to another display of boom trading.

Steel common opened on the stock exchange today with the sale of 15,000 shares at prices ranging from 85 1/2 to 86. It closed yesterday at 84 1/2, after having reached 87 1/2 at one time during the afternoon.

The fact that the earnings of the steel corporation for the last quarter exceeded by nearly \$5,000,000 any other three months in the history of the concern, was pointed to today as an indication that the extent of business being done in the country has hardly been realized even by those closest to trading centers.

In answer to the argument that a violent and serious slump might be expected when hostilities are ended and the demand for munitions ceases, optimists declared that the demand for American products will continue long after the war, to assure a normal adjustment.

Those taking this view, point to the fact that even now a French commission is in this country arranging for the purchase of machinery after the war. Before the war France purchased \$160,000,000 worth of machinery from Germany annually and this vast account is now to be transferred to the United States. With this trade to start with, the optimists declare that during the rehabilitation of Europe, the demand for American machinery and other products will be almost as great as the demand for munitions during the past year.

Commenting editorially on the announcement of the steel dividend, the New York Sun (independent) today said:

"This basic industry gauges the country's economic condition. The conclusion of facts is pointedly shown in the declaration of steel dividend for the vote to disburse it is unmistakably a vote of confidence in the soundness and enduring quality of our prosperity cast by about the most representative body of

(Continued on page 2.)