ASQUITH CHOOSES NEW MINISTERS, CONSULTS KING

Ex-Premier Balfour Definitely Appointed First Lord of Admiralty.

KITCHENER'S CRITICS OVERSHOOT MARK

Peerage for Asquith Hinted—T. P. O'Connor a Likely Member of New Cabinet.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, May 22.—Only one definite appointment has been made so far to the new Cabinet. Ex-Premier Arthur James Balfour becomes First Lord of the Admiralty.

Another long conference occurred at 10 Downing Street this morning, when, besides Premier Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Crewe, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Bonar Law were present. It is stated that provisionally all the principal offices were then allocated.

Immediately afterward Premier Asquith drove to Buckingham Palace and submitted his provisional list of appointments to the King, it being informally given out on his return that the names in the full Cabinet list is not expected to be published for several days. After Mr. Asquith's hour's talk with the King it was also announced that the King and Queen, who intended spending the Whitsuntide holiday, away from London, have decided to remain in town. No significance is to be inferred from this, the sole reason being that the King wants to be accessible at all times until the new Cabinet is completed. All other likely Ministers will also remain in or within a few miles of London, and another conference will probably be held to-morrow.

Official Transfers Tuesday Next.

It is expected that a Privy Council will be held on Tuesday, when the outgoing Ministers will hand over the seals of office to their successors.

The new Ministers will then have to resign and submit themselves for re-election. But no contests are contemplated. This will take only a few days, and when Parliament reassembles on June 3 the Prime Minister will ask the House to vote confidence in the new government.

The popular condemnation of Lord Northcliffe continues ever more strongly. Members of the Liverpool Exchange publicly burned copies of "The Daily Mail" and "The Times" to-day, cheering Lord Kitchener and hissing Lord Northcliffe, while practically every newspaper to-day execrates Lord Northcliffe unmercifully. In London numbers of news agents ceased to display the contents bills of the papers, to-day, while they have been delayed with cancellations of subscriptions.

National Solid for Kitchener.

Lord Kitchener's popularity is now bigger than it was ever been, and both newspaper and public are appealing to him to exercise his powers to suppress the Northcliffe newspapers. Fleet Street takes the cynical view that nothing would please Lord Northcliffe better than to see "The Times" suppressed, because he then would cease to lose money thereon, always provided that nothing untoward happened to him personally.

Thus within the interval of twenty-four hours Lord Kitchener's position, which yesterday seemed so anomalous, has to-day, through the venomous attacks of the Northcliffe papers, become infinitely stronger, so that now he seems to be the one man whom it will be impossible to force out of office. The whole country has rallied to "K. of K.," while terms of such powerful institutions as the Corn Exchange, the Baltic Trade Room and the Stock Exchange have passed resolutions indorsing him and bitterly denouncing the Northcliffe attacks, and sending copies of their resolutions not only to Lord Kitchener but to Premier Asquith and all the members of the Cabinet.

All signs now point to Lord Kitchener's remaining Secretary of State for War, taking charge of the raising and training of men, while there will be a new Cabinet office to deal with the problem of munitions. Mr. Lloyd George is still the most talked of among the possible men for the position, and he is known to be willing to take on that job, or any other post under the government where he will be of the greatest value to the country, but it is feared that his leaving the Exchequer in the middle of the war might mean a highly undesirable muddle in finance.

Asquith May Accept Peerage.

There is also some talk that Premier Asquith may accept a peerage and go to the House of Lords. He is much against this himself, but strong pressure is being brought to bear on him, and in that event Mr. Lloyd George would be leader of the House of Commons, whatever office he held.

It is settled that the Unionists will certainly have six members of the Cabinet, among whom, in addition to Mr. Balfour, will be Andrew Bonar Law, Austen Chamberlain, Lord Curzon and F. E. Smith. Walter Long will probably make the sixth, if his health permits. The Unionists want eight members and demand the Lord Chancellorship, in which, if they get it, they would place Sir Edward Carson. Labor, as has already been announced, will have its representative in Arthur Henderson, in addition to which one of the under secretaries will be chosen from that party.

There will also be one Irishman in the new Cabinet. Mr. Redmond having definitely refused, the searchers for an alternative choice have now settled on T. P. O'Connor, if he will accept, which is considered likely.

Liberals Blame Churchill.

There is a most strange situation in regard to Mr. Churchill. Since he has been forced out of the Admiralty he wants to leave the government and join his regiment in France, and in this he has the hearty good wishes of the fourteen members of the Liberal Cabinet who blame him for the crisis and who want to see him well out of the government. On the other hand, the Unionists who have so bitterly attacked Mr. Churchill since he deserted their party are now seeking to force him to remain in the Cabinet. The result may be that while his friends want to get rid of him his political opponents may compel him to stay in the Cabinet and take the portfolio of India or the Colonies.

It is agreed in all Liberal circles, however, that Mr. Churchill's political career is momentarily finished. Every one expects an announcement early next week that he has gone to the front as major of the 18th Hussars.

He had a long interview with Premier Asquith this afternoon, and it is generally supposed that the final severance then occurred. Later he bade farewell at the Admiralty to the heads of the various departments.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the entire crisis has been the way in which the ordinary Liberal members of the Commons were determined to jettison Mr. Churchill. The fact that leaving at this stage will almost endanger his entire career weighs with them not the slightest. They have one set reply to any expostulation:

"He nearly smashed the party before on 'the Ulster plot.' This time he has smashed the government. We are finished with him for good. He can go and form a party of his own along with F. E. Smith, if he likes."

Winston Churchill has sent the following message on the situation to "Reynolds's Newspaper":

"Any public man who at this moment nourishes any thought except that of waging war against the enemy by the most effective means should never be forgiven by his fellow-countrymen." The newspaper receiving the message predicts that Mr. Churchill will be a member of the coalition Cabinet.

Rostand Lampoons Grief of Bernstorff Over Lusitania

French Poet in Alexandrine Verse Pictures German Ambassador's Visit of Condolence to President Wilson After Loss of American Lives.

By C. INMAN BARNARD.

[Paris Correspondent of The Tribune.]

Paris, May 22.—Edmond Rostand, in an epic poem of twenty-three Alexandrine verses—the same metre he used in "Cyrano de Bergerac" describes Ambassador Bernstorff's recent visit to President Wilson to express regrets for the Lusitania victims. It is entitled "Les Condoléances." It fills two columns of the front page of "Le Figaro." Briefly summarized, it runs as follows:

For his mourning call at the White House Bernstorff arrays himself in black. Shortly after the last vestige of the Lusitania is swallowed by the waves the ambassador appears before President Wilson, who stands erect, while behind him are the spirits of Lincoln, symbolic of virtue, and of Washington, personifying glory. But these phantoms are invisible to Bernstorff, who if he could see them might perhaps have retraced his steps. But Bernstorff, with an unassuming gesture, declines to be seated, and, with a perfumed handkerchief in his fingers, as if ready to intercept a stray tear, and with a subdued, discreet cough and sympathetic sigh, the soft-toned ambassador says:

"I come in behalf of his majesty, my imperial master, William, to express his sorrowful concern that he deigns to share with you on the occasion of your mishap. I do not at this painful moment insist upon details, but please note that I came promptly. I shall be brief and retire speedily, fully aware that you must feel that I ought to have paid you this visit. It goes without saying that we are sorry for the fate of the women and children, but you should see the telegrams that von Tirpitz receives. It is a grand success for our navy, and, as I remarked to Dernburg, Berlin hoists her flags, celebrating our victory. You must allow me to conceal a tear.

"I assure you that Germany's future, though it may not be on the seas, is surely under the sea. All who, heedless of our warnings, persist in navigating the ocean become our aggressors. You cannot reproach me with want of tact. You have only to examine this magnificent tear of rock crystal that now falls from my eye. But also bear in mind that when your people whistle 'Tipperary' and when Roosevelt plays with his rifle we cry out to you 'Hold, enough!' Why do your princes of gold take part in these reckless adventures? For instance, a Vanderbilt, for having given to a woman his lifebelt, met his death. But all were duly warned, and the victims got only what they deserved. Do not allow this to occur again. By the way, just let me know when the funerals will take place. The disaster has caused a boom on the Berlin Stock Exchange, and I want to order some beautiful flowers and wreaths for the victims."

As Bernstorff, having accomplished, at the Kaiser's bidding, his errand of condolence, withdraws toward the door, President Wilson, firm and determined, conscious of hand grasps of the spectres of Washington and Lincoln, gazes at the suave ambassador and says: "We shall see about that by and by."

The verses of Rostand will be recited at Odéon to-morrow by Mlle. Methivier and also at the Sorbonne by a leading actress of the Théâtre Francais. They have the ring and swing and the malicious irony of Rostand at his best.

SUE J. H. HAMMOND FOR $1,500,000

Two Men Charge Engineer with Illegal Financial Manipulations.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Baltimore, May 22.—John Hays Hammond, the mining engineer and financier, is the defendant in two suits for an aggregate, with interest, of more than $1,500,000 damages, instituted today in the Superior Court here. Without interest or the costs of the case the claims are respective for $960,000 and $477,500, a total of $1,437,000.

One suit was brought by Willard D. Doremus and the other by Addison G. Dubois, both of Washington. Each alleged that by the financial manipulations of Mr. Hammond he was frozen out of the General Cotton Securities Company of Delaware and deprived of interest in that company equal in value to the amount of claim for damages.

The declarations were filed and summonses placed in the hands of a deputy sheriff to catch Hammond as he went through the Union Station on a train from Washington to New York. The notice was served on Hammond on the train.

Doremus says that in November, 1910, he lost certificates for 5,000 shares of preferred and 4,600 shares of common stock of the General Cotton Securities Company, valued at $960,000. Hammond is charged with finding the certificates and refusing to return them. In the other suit Dubois alleges the loss of certificates for 2,500 shares of preferred and 2,275 shares of common stock in the same manner.

John Hays Hammond, at his home, 903 Park Avenue, last night characterized the suit brought against him by Willard D. Doremus and Addison G. Du Bois as "a hold-up game."

"I have not a single share of the stock they are suing me for," he said. "They were all turned over to J. P. Miller four years ago, after we gave up our option, and I have had nothing to do with the company since. There is nothing to the suit. It was all thrashed out before in the courts and it was practically thrown out.

"But as long as there are enterprising lawyers, there is no law to prevent them especially if their clients are easy—from starting such suits. It seems peculiar that the papers were served on me as I was returning from Washington yesterday, after I had been there a week. But I am going back to-morrow night, and may have something more to say about the case then."

BOLTS HIT POLES AND CAUSE PANIC

Pedestrians Flee as Lightning Strikes in Brooklyn—Hospital Damaged.

During the thunder shower that broke yesterday afternoon bolts of lightning played around flagpoles in Brooklyn, causing terror among pedestrians in the streets.

One bolt struck a fifty-foot pole on the Hilton Building, at Fulton and Smith Streets, hurling the gilt dome to the street. Men and women passengers, frightened by the crackle and flash of lightning, rushed out of a car standing at Smith Street waiting to cross Fulton.

A sixty-foot granite spire on the Memorial Presbyterian Church, at Seventh Avenue and St. John's Place, was also struck.

From the roof of 126 Nassau Street, occupied by the Cary Manufacturing Company, the lightning plucked a sixty-foot flagpole and splintered it into a thousand pieces. Delicate gyroscopic aeroplane equilibrators on the top floor were not injured.

A panic was averted in St. Rose's Free Home for Incurable Cancer, 71 Jackson Street, Manhattan, by Sister Rose and the nurses after the building had been struck. They assured the patients that only a small corner of the roof had been damaged.

SAYS FRANK CASE IS GEORGIA'S ALONE

Governor-Elect Harris Says He Would Consider Plea for Clemency Only on That Basis.

Macon, Ga., May 22.—Governor-elect Harris, in a statement here to-night, declared that only Georgia's interests would be considered if the question of granting clemency to Leo M. Frank was brought before him. The statement of the Governor-elect, who will take the oath of office June 26, was as follows:

"You can just say for Nat Harris that if the matter of dealing executive clemency to the condemned man is to be considered by him the entire outside world will not be taken into consideration one bit. It is entirely a Georgia matter, and if I am to consider the case I shall consider it altogether from a Georgia basis, with the interests of Georgia and the interests of Georgia persons at heart."

Coalition England's Only Safeguard, Says J. L. Garvin

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, May 23.—J. L. Garvin, writing in "The Observer," says:

"To suppose that Lord Fisher's coup alone could cause this transformation is futile. This constructive revolution is the cumulative result of very different factors, some of recent date, some far older. Ever since the Constitutional Conference of 1910 it has been clear to some thinkers on both sides who have never quite lost touch with each other (except at two moments when domestic strife became envenomed and desperate) that in certain emergencies of the future a coalition would be the only constitutional safeguard left to this country. When there was peril of a European war in 1911 and 1912, it was apparent to men of thought and foresight that the great tempest, if it ever burst, would bend and break party government.

"In this respect Mr. Lloyd George more than any other man in politics had the discernment of genius and glimpses of second sight. He looked at the matter from the point of view of democracy, for he knows the conditions under which democracies have so often perished since Athens went down under the iron stroke of Sparta. Mr. Churchill was led to the same perceptions from a different point of view, and in some ways he surpassed his colleagues in his clear prevision of the administrative realities of the war.

"Mr. Balfour after his resignation of the Conservative leadership was lifted above party altogether and saw the future plainly. He was able in his apparent retirement to master the Anglo-Saxon problem as a whole more thoroughly than any other man. He perhaps alone of British statesmen read clearly the ominous indications of the new German strategical railways reaching out to the west and realized what the Belgian question might mean, giving his whole mind to the matter and remaining a member of the Committee of Imperial Defence.

"Mr. Balfour by insensible degrees and almost unconsciously to himself and others became a greater power in the State than he has been since he was Prime Minister. All this was created even before the war in a quiet, gradual, very British manner in that certain atmosphere of precaution which the German people could not be expected to understand. When the war broke out the question of whether a national ministry should be formed was raised in circumstances that cannot yet be related. If certain ministerial resignations had then occurred a coalition Cabinet would have been formed in the first week of last August."

Mr. Garvin, referring to the attack on Lord Kitchener, says: "There is no minister whose ruin might not be accomplished if there is to be impunity for such methods as have been used against Mr. Churchill with temporary success and have then been attempted against Lord Kitchener, only to meet with the overwhelming ignominy of failure. We must stamp on this thing even if a dictatorship has to be set up to do it. We must crush the organization of anarchy and vendetta. It is quite certain that if needed a dictatorship would be employed. The country expects the coalition to be stronger and more decisive than the administration which has so suddenly disappeared. Above all things, the country demands that the new government shall govern. Under present conditions the ministry of the day possesses unlimited power. Everything will be forgiven except a weak use of these powers. The problem is, therefore, simple, and the members of the coalition can solve it if they have courage enough. They must either defend each other or be overthrown one by one. If they have not courage enough, the coalition will perish in derision and other means will then be adopted to win and end the war. We shall soon see. Our enemies in the last ten days have been foolishly encouraged, but our allies and neutrals happily know already that Great Britain is only finding herself. In a week from now she will prove to the world that she is only rising to the full height of her power and determination."

SUSPEND TRADE PARLEYS WITH BRITISH ENVOYS

U. S. Officials Object to Statement That They Waived Rights.

U. S. WON'T ASSENT TO COUNCIL ORDER

Contends for Right to Trade with Germany in Non-Contraband Goods.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, May 22.—Negotiations which have been going on between the foreign trade advisers of the State Department and the British Embassy for the relief of American shippers were abruptly suspended to-day, and will not again be continued until an official announcement is made by the British government that these negotiations will be looked upon as entirely informal and unofficial and in no way binding upon the United States.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, called at the State Department this afternoon and discussed the subject with Secretary Bryan. It is understood that he will take the subject up with his government immediately.

The suspension of the negotiations was brought about by a statement issued by Sir Richard Crawford, the commercial attaché of the British Embassy, relative to shipments of goods from Germany to this country which were purchased before March 1 last. The implication in this statement as read here is the same as that contained in Paragraph 4 of the British memorandum published yesterday morning. It implied a virtual assent to the British Order in Council, which this government has consistently refused to give. As a result it was decided today that no more of these informal conferences will be held until a definite understanding has been reached as to their nature.

In announcing the suspension of the negotiations the State Department issued the following official statement:

"In view of the differences which have arisen in the informal and unofficial conferences between Sir Richard Crawford, the commercial adviser of the British Embassy, and Robert F. Rose and W. B. Fleming, the trade advisers of the Department of State, who have been, in a personal capacity, representing the importers of the United States, Mr. Rose and Mr. Fleming have decided that they cannot continue these conferences until certain of the difficulties have been removed, and they have, therefore, made a full report of what has taken place to the Department of State, and will await its action."

Great Britain's effort to commit the United States to the arrangements in a formal fashion is the cause of the present difficulty. It is felt by the State Department that Great Britain's intention was to place the United States government in the position of accepting certain of the principles enunciated in the Order in Council of March 11, which was issued by the British government in retaliation for the German war zone decree of February 4.

Great Britain sought to supervise the shipments of goods purchased in Germany prior to March 1, 1915, which she had announced would not be subjected to the same prohibition from overseas shipment as goods purchased subsequent to that date. The State Department adheres to the position that to accept the restrictions would be tantamount to accepting the Order in Council as a principle of international law, and that acquiescence would withdraw from the position that the British had no right to interfere with non-contraband trade between Germany and the United States.

Senator Smith Surprised.

As chairman of the Congressional committee selected last October to give attention to the subject of cotton exports, Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, issued a statement to-night, in reply to the memorandum of the British Foreign Office published Thursday. He declares that the British communication "surprised all familiar with the facts and astonished students of international law."

"At the last session of Congress," he adds, "there was a strong sentiment in favor of stopping the exportation of munitions of war to the Allies. Unless this Order in Council is modified when Congress meets the exportation of munitions of war will be stopped, and the action by Congress may go much further."

KIND, HE'S CALLED RIPPER.

Man who Tries to Reward Child Has to Run for Life.

Because a man asked seven-year-old Minnie Krueger to read the names on the door bells of her home, 300 East Ninety-first Street, for him yesterday and then tried to force her to accept a cent for her service, the cry of "ripper" was raised and the stranger had to run for it to escape Minnie's irate father.

When the man offered her the cent Minnie refused it and backed into the hallway. He presented it to her again, and when she still refused to accept it, caught hold of her and tried to press the coin into her hand. Then Minnie screamed. Tenants took up the cry and Minnie's father rushed at the man, who was still standing, bewildered, in the vestibule. The stranger turned and ran for his life. Mr. Krueger caught up with him at Ninetieth Street and First Avenue, but the man shook him off and escaped.

BRONX BOY LOST IN GALE AT SEA

Wanderlust Leads Lad to Death Off Costa Rican Coast While on Way to Japan.

Jack Kelly Thulman, nineteen-year-old son of John A. Thulman, of 2493 Valentine Avenue, The Bronx, and a former student of architecture at Columbia University, is reported to have been lost at sea off the Costa Rican coast on February 9, when a four-masted bark in which he was travelling to Japan struck a fierce storm.

Letters and cables received by the father from Kobe, Japan, indicate that his son was washed overboard.

Afflicted by wanderlust, Thulman and his chum, Ralph Williams, decided to see something of the world.

The boys were on the first ship to pass through the Panama Canal. Letters were received from Thulman from Colon. They left Panama on February 5, on the bark John Ena, and made for Kobe. Nothing has been heard from either boy since.

PUTS YEAR'S WAR COST AT $17,400,000,000

Paris, May 22.—Captain Edmond Thery, widely known as an economist, estimates that the total military expenditures for the first year of the war will be 50,000,000,000 francs ($10,000,000,000) for the seven allies and 37,000,000,000 francs ($7,400,000,000) for Germany, Austria and Turkey. This makes an average of 7,250,000,000 francs ($1,440,000,000) a month, 242,000,000 francs ($48,400,000) a day and 10,000,000 francs ($2,000,000) an hour.

He believes the economic powers of Great Britain, France and Russia can support the strain much more easily than their opponents.

TRY TO GET FOOD TO MEXICO CITY

Relief Committees To Be Aided by Representations from U. S. Officials.

Washington, May 22.—Efforts to reopen railroad communication between Vera Cruz and Mexico City, with a view to relieving the food famine which is causing demonstrations in the capital, were renewed to-day by the State Department. Consul Silliman, at Vera Cruz, and the Brazilian Minister at the capital were requested to urge the Carranza and Villa officials to permit food shipments over the line. The International Relief Committee in Mexico City, it was stated, could handle the situation adequately if the transportaion problem could be settled.

The Vera Cruz line is reported to be in operation to Pachuca.

Mexico City continues to suffer from shortage of food, especially corn. State Department dispatches to-day said that when an attempt was made yesterday to distribute corn to eight thousand people there was not a sufficient supply, and about two hundred and fifty people fainted during the crush.

The Villa agency here gave out tonight the following telegram from Chihuahua:

"Convention forces inflicted a disastrous defeat upon the Carranzistas at Celaya, capturing the town and causing overwhelming losses to the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners. Our cavalry pursues with great vigor the remnants of Obregon's scattered army, which is fleeing to the south, where it will be met by General Zapata's troops."

NINE OVERCOME BY GAS

Seven Women Dragged from Basement—Three Seriously Ill.

Seven women and two men, dishwashers in the restaurant of J. J. Dodd, 323 Broadway, were overcome yesterday by gas from a leaky meter and were dragged unconscious from the basement where they were at work, by police and firemen. Sophie Lochacker, 318 East Tenth Street; Julia Tomocritz, 169 Avenue B, and Annie Stevosman, 65 East Fourth Street, are in a critical condition.

ALLIES ADOPT USE OF POISONOUS GAS

Berlin Says New Weapon Is Employed Around Lille and in Argonne.

London, May 22.—The Germans are delivering strong attacks on the British lines north of La Bassée, all of which have been repulsed, according to the official reports from the Allies' front, while the French have made slight gains north of Arras. The Allies, according to the Berlin report, are using poisonous gases in the fighting southwest of Lille and in the Argonne.

A dispatch from Sir John French, British commander-in-chief, says:

"There was a violent artillery engagement yesterday evening to the northeast of Festubert, and some infantry fighting. We made further progress south of Quinque Rue."

The French War Office statement says:

"The British troops have repulsed a strong attack to the north of La Bassée and have inflicted on the enemy heavy losses.

"In the sector to the north of Arras the enemy bombarded our positions violently, but our artillery replied successfully. In spite of this bombardment we took several additional houses in the northern part of Ablain and made some prisoners.

"Our troops completed yesterday evening the cleaning up of the trenches known as "The White Way," situated to the south of the Lorette heights. During the night the enemy made several counter attacks. He was repulsed, and he suffered heavy losses."

The German army headquarters report says that British and French attacks yesterday to the southwest of Neuve Chapelle and on the heights of Lorette were repulsed.

SURVIVED LUSITANIA, THIEF TELLS POLICE

Wearing Uniform Cap of Lost Liner, He Robs Hospital Box in Hotel.

Wearing a uniform cap with Lusitania stamped upon it in gold letters, a well dressed man wandered into the Claridge taproom yesterday afternoon and robbed the contribution box belonging to the Hospital for Consumptives. He told the police that he was William Charles Russel, a steward on the Lusitania, who had been picked up by the tank ship Niagara after the liner sank.

Employes of the hotel believed him to be an official of the hospital until they discovered the box had been pried open instead of unlocked. He departed with assurance, but in about an hour reappeared, sat down in the lobby of the hotel and smoked a cigar serenely.

When arrested Russell protested in an English accent against "this outrage."

SHELLING OF OSTEND PICTURED BY SVEN HEDIN

Two British Destroyers Hurled Thirty Rounds Into Belgian Port at Close Range and Steamed Off Under Fire, but Apparently Unscathed.

By SVEN HEDIN.

[From "With the German Armies in the West," published by the John Lane Company, New York.]

We walked up the Rue du Cerf. At the corne of this street and the Digue de Mer, the road fronting the sea, stands the Hôtel Littoral. The former street lies a few metres lower than the Digue de Mer, which is perched on the dune skirting the sea. The streets are paved with granite slabs. The last bit of the Rue du Cerf forms a slight rise. Up at the corner of the Hôtel Littoral a group of officers were standing in animated conversation, pointing to the west and busily using their glasses. We went up to them wondering what was up. The British squadron lay in its accustomed place to westward and west-south-westward, perhaps a little closer in than usual—about seven or eight kilometres away.

A destroyer had just detached itself from the rest and was making full speed for Ostend, parallel with the coast, as close as possible to the shore. Presently another destroyer appeared, following in the wake of the first. What could they want, those ruffians? Strong language was heard—it was a piece of consummate impudence to come steaming right under our noses like this. Evidently they were reconnoitring—but what insolence; they must have known that we had occupied Ostend! Aha! they suspect that there are submarines and destroyers in the inner harbor, and they want to see whether they can detect anything from outside!

Bold Destroyers Outside.

Well, whatever their intentions are, we may as well go upstairs and get ready for dinner. I stepped on to my balcony, feeling convinced that by this time the destroyers would have turned back or gone out to sea again. But no! They kept on the same tack as before, and at a speed which made the foam break over their bows. My neighbors, Bess, Haak and Kubler, were also out on their balconies with their glasses. "Astounding insolence," I heard them mutter. There will be something doing presently, I thought to myself, and went in to stow away my diaries, sketches and photographs in a hand-bag. Once more I cast a glance at the bold destroyers outside. Beneath my balcony I heard an officer shouting out orders in a stentorian voice to the effect that the street was to be cleared and that not a man must show himself on the front, except the sentry at the Littoral, but a moment later, he, too, was called in for Deckung.

My friends had disappeared; I looked into their rooms, they were empty. Then I took my glasses and hurried downstairs. Captain Lieutenant Bess had warned his colleagues against remaining on the balconies and he thought that I had gone down already.

In the elegant, carpeted vestibule of the hotel, where sofas, tables and chairs stood in little groups between the huge green plants, officers hurried to and fro, and it was plain that something unusual was pending. "Are they going to shoot?" I asked Bess. "Oh yes, they are going to shoot all right," he answered with stoical calm.

Swiftness and Precision Astounding.

Through the glass doors of the vestibule I could see clearly what was going on at the end of the Rue du Cerf. Admiral von Schroder was in command and I caught sight of Captain Tägert and his men of the naval brigade hurrying to bring up the two 6-cm. naval guns and their ammunition carts which we had seen a moment ago at the theatre—there was no other artillery available in the town for the moment. The street had been cleared of civilians, and there were no military visible save those required for serving and directing the little battery. I was not allowed outside, of course, but I had time nevertheless to admire the astounding swiftness and precision with which the two guns were unlimbered, loaded and the range found: "Load! Ready! Fire!"

The first shot rang out. The report re-echoed down the street and the window panes in the hotel rattled in their frames. I went into the restaurant, whence I had an uninterrupted view of the sea and the leading destroyer. A moment later came the second shot. The first shell struck the water right in front of the destroyer, but it was impossible to tell whether it did any damage. The second shell also struck quite close to the target.

There were several officers in the restaurant. I was standing with Dr. Algermissen of Colmar, Lieutenant in the First Naval Reserve. The room was very large, with eight windows looking on to the sea and two others on to the Rue du Cerf. At the former little tables stood laid, and on the east side of the room stood the large table where we used to take our meals. Along the centre line the restaurant was supported by four solid pillars. Algermissen and I were standing at the second window from the west.

Destroyers Open Fire.

Directly the German shots had been fired, the two destroyers swung round to port and at the same moment opened fire. Their guns seemed to flash out straight at us. Deckung! shouted Algermissen, and we retired immediately behind our pillar, forgetting that it would have been blown away like paper if a shell had struck it. Some of those in the room followed our example, but others contemptuously disdained even this measure of precaution, which perhaps they considered insufficient. The leading destroyer was now about 1400 metres away. Its first shell fell short and dropped into the sea just in front of the littoral.

Tall columns of white spray showed where it had struck. Immediately we turned our glasses on to the enemy vessel. There is another flash. Once more we take cover, but only for the body, not for the head, for one simply cannot take one's eyes off such a spectacle, whatever the cost! But it would be vain to attempt to describe the excitement which we felt between the spurt of flame from the gun and the impact of the shell. We felt, indeed, we were conscious, that we were the target of the sinister monster speeding towards us through the air. It was not fear, for it any one had offered to take me to a perfectly safe spot in the centre of the town I should not have stirred. It was a mixture of breathless excitement, intense interest and a fixed determination not to miss the smallest detail of what was passing. That was why we kept our glasses fixed, now on the boat, now on the point of impact. One projectile ricochetted from the surface of the water, sprang aloft and struck the roof coping, fifty-eight paces away from us, as I subsequently measured. Another described a most peculiar path—how it did it I cannot imagine—but in the end it landed on the stone promenade nearest the sea and buried itself beside the iron railing without bursting.

Saw Flash of British Guns.

There it lay for a couple of days, and the guard saw to it that nobody went up to interfere with the fearsome object. Twice we saw and heard the shells strike the water, dancing like flat stones over the surface, and finally crashing into the quay wall. First we saw the flash from the British gun, then the impact on striking the water—then came the report. A second or so later a horrible crash struck our ears, announcing that some house frontage had been hit, and followed by the clatter of bricks and stones smashing to the pavement.

The second destroyer, which I could not see from my point of vantage, was blazing away as cheerfully as the first. As we could not even see when she fired, the protection of our pillar was still more illusory. The two German guns fired five or six shots each. Whether they did any damage, I do not know. As the street sloped upward toward the front, the recoil was very severe, and the guns had to be pulled up afresh for each round. The laying of them was combined with considerable difficulty. The whole affair was over in twelve minutes. The destroyers turned almost completely round and steamed with all speed back towards the west, firing continuously. According to the German officers they fired about thirty rounds. They also used machine guns. But the distance grew, and after a while the firing ceased altogether.

Standing in Line of Fire.

One can hardly be in a more dangerous situation than the one we had been exposed to. We had been right in the middle of the shell fire, and yet got away unscathed. The shells had struck, some in front of us, some to the east of us, and the machine guns seemed to be trained for the lower floor of the house adjoining the littoral on the left. Several shots had made their way through its windows. We afterwards discussed this remarkable whim of fate.

"How is it that not a single shot hit our hotel?" I asked. "The British ought to have seen that the German fire was directed from our street corner, and the men serving the guns were the only human beings in sight on the whole front."

"Well, it might seem so, but with the rapid movement of the ships it must be difficult to tell where the fire comes from. Possibly they may have had their attention fixed on the harbor, in the belief that we had torpedo boats lying there. Several shots went in that direction."

"I hear," said another, "that the Majestic Hotel was struck several times, and that one or two officers there were killed. The Majestic is a large white monumental building, and the British no doubt thought they were making a good haul."

In the 1910 edition of "Baedeker" the Majestic Hotel appears under the name of Grand Hotel des Bains. Since then it has changed its name and probably its proprietor. Its handsome white frontage had been badly knocked about by the six shells which we had counted, and which had torn great gaping holes in the walls. On the pavement outside lay huge piles of stone, bricks and masonry, and we notices the fragments of one of the ornamental plaster angels with wings lifted for flight, but which nevertheless, by the irony of fate, had ended its days in millions of fragments on the stone pavement.

Restaurant Devastated.

We went into the lobby, where cupboards, tables and chairs lay in picturesque disorder. An hour ago the restaurant had been one of the most elegant in Europe. Its floor was laid with rich red Brussels carpets, the walls were decorated in white and gold and mirrors, with magnificent chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. Now the whole room was a picture of the most ghastly devastation. Two shells had entered just by the lower part of the long row of windows. Their splinters had torn gaping holes in walls and ceilings. The plaster ornaments had fallen down and now lay shivered into fragments, and the carpets had almost disappeared beneath the thick white dust. The windows had been smashed to atoms. Mirrors had cracked into all sorts of curious starry shapes and threatened to collapse altogether if touched. All the furniture lay about in little bits. The tablecloths had been torn to shreds. Yet in the corners of the room, more particularly the western corner, the tables were still standing, but glasses and crockery had, of course, been smashed. I noticed the bases of claret and champagne glasses still standing, whilst the bowls had been shivered to pieces, leaving an edge like an irregular saw blade.

When the bombardment began some fifty officers had assembled together for dinner in this room, and some of them had already begun to eat. Most of them had been seated in the western end of the room, and had thus miraculously escaped death. But at a window in the eastern corner of the room a surgeon, Dr. Lippe, had sat down with an Adjutant of the Naval Brigade, and they had already begun their meal when the bombardment commenced. A shell had burst its way through the lower half of this very window. Probably the hotel had already been struck by a couple of shells, and as the two gentlemen had perhaps felt that they were rather too exposed where they were, it seems that Dr. Lippe had got up to go away, but he got no further than the other end of the table when he was literally torn to shreds by the shell, which struck him right in the back. What was left of his body lay flung forward on the floor, the head resting on the arms in a pool of blood. All that was left of the uniform was a few ragged tatters.

A piece of one of his legs was found under a table at the other end of the room, and all the rest of him, in the form of blood-stains, organs and bowels and their contents, were spattered about the white walls and ceiling and the tablecloths. Dr. Schönfelder, who had hurried to the spot, could do nothing but order the remains of his colleague to be gathered together in a table cloth and carried to a mortuary. The Adjutant, who was badly wounded in the head, was taken to the nearest hospital. A fine-looking Landsturm soldier, who was in the restaurant together with his son, told me that all the other diners had got out of it alive, but most of them had been hurled to the ground by the air pressure, and some had been cut and bruised by the flying splinters. They were dazed for the moment, but soon recovered.

Lackawanna Railroad

CHANGE OF TIME
Effective May 23, 1915

THE BUFFALO LIMITED

Will Leave NEW YORK, 8:30 P. M.
" " HOBOKEN, 8:55 P. M.
" " NEWARK, 9:09 P. M.
" " BRICK CHURCH, 9:16 P. M.
AND
Arrive BUFFALO, 7:30 A. M.

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WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, MAY 24TH

It is our policy not to carry over stock from one season to another, therefore to effect a speedy clearance we offer same at PRICES REGARDLESS OF COST.