Page presented to the British Foreign Office on June 3 and to which the present note is a reply follows:

"The American Ambassador presents his compliments to his Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to acquaint him that he is in receipt of a communication from the Consul-General in London, in which he requests that he may be informed regarding the amount of raw cocoa and preparations of cocoa exported from Great Britain to Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Italy during the four months ended April 30, 1915, as compared with the same period of 1914 and 1913. Mr. Page ventures to hope that should no inconvenience be found in so doing Sir Edward Grey may be so good as to cause him to be furnished with the desired information in this connection."

BRITISH REPLY A FLAT DENIAL OF TRADE HOLDUP

This is the British note, which takes up Ambassador Page's memorandum and presents the trade statistics:

FOREIGN OFFICE, Aug. 13, 1915.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to refer to the memorandum which you were good enough to communicate on the 3d June last, in which you informed me of the desire of the United States Consul-General in London to be furnished with figures showing the amount of raw cocoa and preparations of raw cocoa exported from Great Britain to Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Italy during the four months ended April 30, 1915, as compared with the same period in 1914 and 1913. Your Excellency will remember that I had the honor to communicate to you tabular statement of these figures on the 16th ultimo.

His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington reported on the 22d July that the acting Counsellor of the State Department had referred in conversation to the unfavorable impression created at Washington by reports as to the increase in British exports to northern European neutral ports since the outbreak of war received from Mr. Consul-General Skinner, these reports having given figures showing increases in the British exports of some commodities to those countries.

I am therefore communicating to Sir C. Spring-Rice statistics showing what the exports of the United Kingdom were in comparison with those of the United States during the first five months of this year, in order that this impression may be removed as soon as possible; but as I hear that statements, no doubt inspired by German agents, are being circulated in America to the effect that his Majesty's Government are trying to stop the legitimate trade of the United States with neutral countries in order to capture the trade for the British Empire and are therefore allowing goods to be exported from the United Kingdom which they have not allowed to be imported into the same countries from the United States, I think it well to inform your Excellency immediately of the true state of the case, and with this view to invite attention to the following data and figures:

The increased reexport of cotton from the United Kingdom to Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands during the months of January to May, 1915, as compared with the same period in 1914, amounted to 503,995 centals of 100 pounds.

Jump in Cotton Exports.

The United States exported to the four countries mentioned during this period in 1915 as much as 3,353,638 centals, as compared with 204,177 centals during January to May, 1914, an increase of 3,149,461 centals, or six times the increase in the export of cotton from the United Kingdom.

The above figures for the United Kingdom are taken from the official customs returns; those for the United States have been carefully compiled by the War Trade Department from the manifests of those vessels which actually arrived with cargo from the United States in Scandinavian and Dutch ports during the five months, February to June, 1915, as compared with five-twelfths of the total recorded exports from the United States to those countries in the year ended June 30, 1914.

It has been necessary to adopt this method, as the *Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce*, issued by the United States Government, gives very few details with regard to American trade with those countries. It is evident that some shipments must have taken place from the United States to Scandinavia and the Netherlands, which could not come within the scope of even the most circumstantial compilation of statistics drawn up from the manifests of examined ships alone, and I would therefore lay particular stress on the fact that the figures thus obtained by the War Trade Department are necessarily understatements of the total amounts actually shipped.

But even from the figures thus obtained it is possible to show conclusively how much greater the increases in the American exports to Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands have been than those of Great Britain during the first five months of this year, not only in the case of cotton but in that of almost every other important commodity.

Rubber Exportation.

Reexports of rubber from the United Kingdom to Scandinavia and the Netherlands declined from 17,727 centals of 100 pounds in January-May, 1914, to 16,693 centals in January-May, 1915; on the other hand exports of rubber from the United States to the same destinations increased from 1,579 centals to 5,040 centals. Larger reexports of rubber to the United States from this country have indeed taken place, but all other reexports of rubber have declined during this period, as the following figures show:

UNITED KINGDOM—REEXPORTS OF RUBBER

Centals of 100 pounds.

	Jan.-May, 1914.	Jan.-May, 1915.	Inc. in 1915 over '14.
To all destinations	533,864	667,509	†133,645
Of which to United States	248,435	418,619	†170,184

*Or 20.5 per cent. †Or 68.6 per cent.

It will therefore be seen that this country has actually been supplying more rubber to the United States at the expense of other neutrals, while American exporters have taken advantage of this to ship increased quantities of rubber to Scandinavia and the Netherlands.

In the case of lubricating oils the increase of United Kingdom exports to Scandinavia and Holland was 703,270 gallons; the increase of the United States exports during the same five months was 3,857,593 gallons, being five times as great as the British increase.

The increase in the reexports of unmanufactured tobacco from the United Kingdom to the same countries and over the same period was 2,937,244 pounds; the corresponding United States increase was 6,081,848 pounds. The British increase is mainly due to the diversion of tobacco grown in the British dominions from continental to United Kingdom ports.

The reexports of manufactured tobacco from the United Kingdom have actually declined, while exports of this commodity from the United States to Scandinavia and the Netherlands have hitherto been relatively insignificant. It is therefore altogether improbable that the United States can have lost trade in tobacco in consequence of the measures taken by his Majesty's Government.

United Kingdom reexports of cocoa have risen from 2,976,154 pounds in January-May, 1914, to 14,504,013 pounds in January-May, 1915, an increase in round numbers of 11,500,000. Exports from the United States for the same months have risen from 12,300 pounds in 1914 to 16,016,000 pounds in 1915, an increase of 16,000,000. These figures speak for themselves.

In the first five months of 1914 the United Kingdom reexports of coffee to the same countries amounted to 80,407 hundredweight and the exports from the United States to 7,376 hundredweight. In the corresponding five months of 1915 the United Kingdom reexports were 263,488 hundredweight, while the imports from the United States were 285,760 hundredweight, showing that the United States exports, which were formerly much less, are now greater than those of the United Kingdom.

In the case of rice the increased reexport from the United Kingdom, which amounted to 193,458 hundredweight for the period under review, was entirely due to the diversion to the United Kingdom ports of the large trade in Indian rice formerly carried on through Hamburg and other Continental ports. The exports from the United States have increased from 262 hundredweight in January-May, 1914, to 27,800 hundredweight in January-May, 1915, an increase of 27,538 hundredweight.

The United Kingdom increase in the export of wheat flour to Scandinavia and the Netherlands during January-May, 1915, compared with 1914, was 47,045 hundredweight; the United States increase was 2,555,593 hundredweight for the same period.

For the same period the United Kingdom increase in the export of barley to Scandinavia and the Netherlands was 249,512 hundredweight; the United States increase 2,016,892 hundredweight.

I could point to many other instances of similar proportionate increases in the exports of the United States to Scandinavia and the Netherlands as compared with exports to the same countries from the United Kingdom during the last five months. In respect to the great majority of articles for which figures of United States trade can be given the increases in this trade are greater, and in some cases very considerably greater, than the increases in the United Kingdom trade.

In many cases increases in United Kingdom reexports are due to the fact that the products of British India and colonial products which formerly went direct to continental ports, such as Hamburg, Rotterdam, or Copenhagen, are now sent to the United Kingdom and thence distributed to old customers in Scandinavia and the Netherlands. Among such may be mentioned pepper, cinnamon and other spices (largely the product of the British East Indies), Indian tea, palm kernels (mainly from British West Africa) and copra (mainly from the Straits Settlements and Australia). The direct trade of the British overseas dominions with the port of Hamburg alone is very great in normal times.

British Reexports Decline.

In many other instances our reexport trade for the first five months of this year shows a large decline. The following statement gives a few examples of such decrease in reexports from the United Kingdom to all destinations:

	1915. (Five months.)	1914.
Tallow, unrefined, cwt.	190,179	278,926
Quicksilver, pounds	208,075	784,650
Machinery:		
Agricultural, tons	163	8,296
Sewing machines, number	853	6,683
Cotton waste, pounds	205,960	169,235
Carpet and carpet rugs, square yards	58,161	184,105
Silk: thrown, pounds	656	16,582
Beef, chilled, cwt.	3,062	274,151
Meat, preserved, cwt.	19,531	61,000
Butter, cwt.	19,253	66,843
Bananas, bunches	127,217	258,312
Hemp, tons	19,299	25,473
Palm oil, cwt.	177,579	382,512
Gas oil, gallons	9,800	241,724
Fuel oil, gallons	169,884	515,170

Everything in the statistics I have quoted tends to show that the mercantile community of the United States has made profits proportionately equal to or greater than those of the mercantile community of Great Britain in respect to all those demands which have inevitably arisen in Scandinavia and the Netherlands as a consequence of the closing of German ports.

The total volume of the trade of the United States with these countries has increased 300 per cent, as your Excellency will see from the accompanying table, taken from the United States official *Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce*, which shows the comparative value of the total exports of the United States to Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands during the first five months of 1914 and 1915. The value of the total increase in those exports during this period amounted to $145,658,000.

E. GREY.

VALUE OF UNITED STATES EXPORTS

To	January-May, 1914.	January-May, 1915.	Inc. in 1915 over 1914.
Norway	$3,679,000	$25,478,000	$18,799,000
Sweden	5,875,000	52,217,000	46,342,000
Denmark	6,421,000	41,321,000	34,900,000
Netherlands	44,114,000	89,731,000	45,617,000
Totals	$60,089,000	$205,747,000	$145,658,000

PACKERS' CASES READY.

Formal Statement Will Be Presented to U. S. To-day.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—A formal statement of the cases of the American packers who are claimants before the British Government to the amount of $15,000,000 on account of seizures of meat cargoes by the British will be presented to the State Department to-morrow by the counsel for the packers.

This statement of their cases will include a request upon the Department to take such action as the packers think the situation regarding their interests warrants. It is designed to lay the groundwork for diplomatic action by the United States Government.

Presentation of this formal request for intervention in their behalf has been delayed by the packers because of the fact that until to-day the text of the decision of the British prize court in the cases thus far passed upon was not available in this country.

Copies of the complete decision have been received by Chandler Anderson, special counsel of the Department, who has been giving the meat cases his attention. It was thereupon decided to proceed with presentations of a formal request to the Government to take up the American meat cases with Great Britain.

The application was presented by C. J. Faulkner of the Armour Company and Henry Veeder of the Swift Company, together representing the entire group of American packers involved.

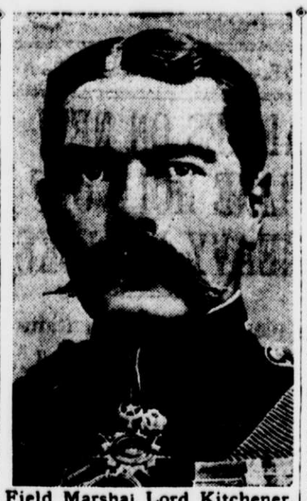
The packers hold that the decision of the British prize court in the cases thus far decided was based on municipal law; that is, the British orders in council, in contravention of international law, and that the court did not have before it sufficient evidence to warrant its decision under the rules of international law. Therefore they are prepared to ask that the United States in their behalf file objections to prize court proceedings in the additional pending cases, numbering twenty-nine, on the ground that the prize court cannot be relied on to apply the rules of international law and that this Government does not feel that its citizens should be subjected to further proceedings which it cannot regard as in accordance with established law.

Whether the State Department will consent to take this action is not yet known. It will probably not be determined for some time. It is known, however, that the Department considers that there is much reasonableness in the contention of the packers and that the situation requires that some action be taken.

KITCHENER EXPECTS FINAL VICTORY THROUGH FRENCH ARMY'S MORALE

Was Deeply Impressed by Its "High State of Efficiency."

FOUND THE TRENCHES ARE IMPREGNABLE



Field Marshal Lord Kitchener.

Visit to Front Convinced War Secretary Defeat Is Impossible.

HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR NEW TROOPS

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Lord Kitchener's review of the military situation as outlined by him before the House of Lords yesterday is hailed by the British press as the most concise and definite statement made by any member of the Government on the developments in the great war since the beginning of hostilities.

Lord Kitchener's address was a terse yet graphic soldierlike speech packed full of facts. Through it the public learned for the first time a number of facts regarding activities of the British troops in France. The War Secretary announced definitely that reenforcements to the total of eleven divisions have been sent to Sir John French and that many others are in training; that the number of heavy guns on the British front has been increased in a very large proportion and that seventeen miles have been added to the battle line held by the British in France.

Lord Kitchener admitted that recruiting is falling off and that serious measures to remedy this condition are being considered by the Government.

The War Secretary's announcement that there is abundant evidence of the process of demoralization having set in among the "German led or, rather, German driven" Turks and that the Russian army is still a powerful and undivided unit caused a profound impression.

Full Text of Speech.

Lord Kitchener's speech follows in full:

"My Lords—During the latter part of last session I did not think it was necessary for me to address your lordships, as current events were fully reported from time to time, and no defined military situation presented itself which seemed to call for special comment from me. For the last few months the front held by the Allies in the west has been practically unchanged. This does not mean that there has been any relaxation of active work on the part of the forces in the field; for the continuous local fighting that has taken place all along the line has called for the display of incessant vigilance. Meanwhile our positions have been much strengthened, not only by a careful elaboration of the system of the trench fortifications that already existed but also by a large increase in the number of heavy guns which have been placed along our lines.

"The Germans have recently on several occasions used gas and liquid fire, and have bombarded our lines with asphyxiating shells, but these forms of attack, lacking as they now do the element of surprise, have failed in their object, and lost much of their offensive value owing to the steps taken by us to counteract the effect of these pernicious methods employed by the enemy.

"As the new armies became trained and ready to take the field considerable reenforcements have been sent out to join Sir John French's command, and your lordships will be glad to hear his opinion of these troops communicated to me. He writes:

"'The units appear to be thoroughly well officered and commanded. The equipment is in good order and efficient. Several units of artillery have been tested behind the firing line in the trenches, and I hear very good reports of them. Their shooting has been extremely good, and they are quite fit to take their place in the line.'

Eleven New Divisions.

"These new divisions have now had the opportunity of acquiring by experience of actual warfare that portion of the necessary training of a soldier which it was impossible to give them in this country, and which, once acquired, will enable them effectively to take their place in line with the rest of the British army. With these additional reenforcements, amounting to eleven divisions, Sir John French has been able to extend his lines and take over from the French approximately seventeen miles of additional front.

"Throughout the summer months the French have fully held their own along their extended line of front, and in some places, notably near Arras and in Alsace, they have made substantial progress. In the struggle around Arras in early June they captured the whole of the heights of Notre Dame de Lorette as well as a number of strongly fortified villages around this high ground, thereby securing an area of great tactical importance in view of future operations. In Alsace a number of dominating eminences have been wrested from the enemy, and have been subsequently held in face of formidable counter attacks. One particularly commanding summit, which overlooks the left bank of the Rhine in this quarter, and which had been the scene of continuous encounters for many months, has, after changing hands many times, rested finally in the possession of our allies.

"The French trenches along the entire front have been developed and strengthened, and they now everywhere present a network of almost impregnable fortifications. Of this I have been able to satisfy myself during a visit which I was lately able to pay to our allies at the invitation of Gen. Joffre, when I was profoundly impressed with the high state of efficiency and the morale exhibited by the French army. It was evident officers and men recognized that the only possible termination to the war is to inflict on the enemy a thorough defeat and that their resolution to do this was never firmer or more intense. Our allies' aircraft have been particularly active. They have carried out numerous effective raids on a large scale, penetrating far into hostile territory.

Big Guns Winning Factor.

"Turning to the eastern theatre, the enemy, taking advantage of their central position, since early in June have been employing a very large proportion of their forces in strenuous efforts to crush our Russian ally. In the prosecution of these operations, which we have all closely followed, the Germans, in addition to their great numerical superiority, developed vastly preponderating artillery, which enabled them to force the Russians from their defences. The German objective was evidently to destroy the Russian army as a force in being and thus to set free large numbers of their troops for action elsewhere, but, as in the case of many other plans arranged by the German staff during this war, there has been a signal failure to carry out the original intentions.

"In the history of this war few episodes will stand out more prominently or more creditably than the masterly manner in which the Russian forces, distributed along a line of some 750 miles, have been handled while facing the violent assaults of an enemy greatly superior, not only in numbers, but especially in guns and munitions. The success of this great rearguard action has been rendered possible by the really splendid fighting qualities of the Russian soldier, who in every case where actual contact has taken place has shown himself infinitely superior to his adversary. It is these fighting qualities of the men of the Russian army which have empowered her able generals and competent staff to carry out the immensely difficult operation of a retirement of the whole line over some 100 to 200 miles without allowing the enemy to break through at any point, or, by surrounding their forces, to bring about a tactical position which might have involved a surrender of a considerable portion of the Russian army.

"Thus we see the Russian army remaining to-day intact as a fighting force. It has doubtless suffered severely from the hard fighting to which it has been subjected during recent months, but the German forces have also had to pay a heavy toll for their advance into Russia, and who will venture to say, until the present grips are relaxed, which of the armies has suffered the more? It must not be forgotten that Russia with her vast territory has always been able ultimately to envelop and annihilate the largest invading armies. In this she is certainly no less capable to-day than she was a century ago.

Trenches Real Fortresses.

"As regards the net result all the Germans can place to their credit is that at enormous sacrifice they have captured certain fortresses. But our recent experience shows that the best fortifications and practically the only ones that can effectively resist the new machinery of war are those which can be quickly dug deep in the soil. Such trenches to-day form better defences than most of the carefully fortified places of which engineers until lately were so proud.

"The Germans appear almost to have shot their bolt. Their advance into Russia, which at one time was carried out at an average daily rate of approximately five miles, has now diminished to less than one mile a day, and we see the forces which they boastingly described as defeated and broken troops flying before them still doggedly and quickly fighting along the whole line, and in some places indeed turning on the jaded invaders of their territory and inflicting heavy losses upon them. The Russian army, far from falling out of the fighting lists, as Germany fondly hoped would be the case, is still a powerful and undefeated unit, and the determination and confidence of the troops, fortified by an increasing supply of munitions, have only risen in proportion to the strain which has been imposed upon them.

"In this momentous hour of stress his Imperial Majesty the Czar has taken executive command of his armies in the field. The enthusiasm created by this step will serve to concentrate all the energies of his officers and men on driving back the invaders and preventing them from reaching any vital portion of the empire. To sum up we may fairly say that while the Germans have prevailed by sheer weight of guns and at immense cost to themselves in forcing back the Russian front, nothing but barren territory and evacuated fortresses have been gained; thus their strategy has clearly failed and victories they claim may only prove as military history has so often demonstrated to be defeats in disguise.

Italy's Successes.

"Toward the end of May Italy ranged herself alongside the Allies and commenced active hostilities. By a series of rapid and brilliant infantry operations their army advanced and occupied positions beyond their frontiers, thus obtaining control of all the principal passes in the Carnic Alps and on the Trentino frontier. The geographical and strategical advantages previously possessed by the enemy were thus neutralized and the main Italian advance on many very strong positions could be carried out on their eastern front extending along the whole valley of the Isonzo as far as the sea. The great difficulties caused by heavy floods and inundations were overcome by successful bridging operations of an extensive nature. The occupation of Monte Nero in this theatre was a most brilliant achievement, carried out by the Alpine troops with their well known skill and daring. The achievements of the Italian artillery have been truly remarkable, and the manner in which heavy pieces have been hauled into almost inaccessible positions on lofty mountain peaks and in spite of great difficulties evokes universal admiration.

"Under the inspiring leadership of their King, assisted by Gen. Cadorna, the Italian army now occupies strategic positions of first rate importance; the gallant conduct of the infantry of the line in action impressed upon their enemies the great military value of the Italian army, while the bold feats of the Alpine troops and the Bersaglieri when scaling the rugged mountain sides were a marvelous sample of successful enterprise.

"On the Gallipoli Peninsula operations were carried on during June against the Turkish position. Several Turkish trenches were captured and our own lines were appreciably advanced and our positions consolidated. Considerable reenforcements having arrived, a surprise landing on a large scale at Suvla Bay was successfully accomplished on August 6 without any serious opposition. At the same time an attack was launched by the Australian and New Zealand corps from the Anzac position and a strong offensive was delivered from Cape Helles in the direction of Krithia. In this latter action the French troops played a prominent part and showed to high advantage their usual gallantry and fine fighting qualities. The attack from Anzac, after a series of hotly contested actions, was carried to the summit of Sari Bair and Chunuk Bair, which are the dominating positions in this area.

Brought to Standstill.

"The arrival of the transports and the disembarkation of the troops in Suvla Bay was designed to enable the troops to support this attack. Unfortunately, however, the advance from Suvla was not developed quickly enough, and the movement forward was brought to a standstill after an advance of about two and a half miles. The result was that the troops from Anzac were unable to retain their position on the crest of the hills, and after being repeatedly counter attacked they were ordered to withdraw to positions lower down. These positions, however, have been effectively consolidated, and now, joining with the line occupied by the Suvla Bay force, form a connected front of more than twelve miles. From the latter position a further attack on the Turkish intrenchments was delivered on the 21st, but after several hours of sharp fighting it was not found possible to gain the summit of the hills occupied by the enemy, and the intervening space being unsuitable for defence the troops were withdrawn to their original position.

"Since then comparative quiet has prevailed and a much needed rest has been given to our troops. In the course of these operations the gallantry and resourcefulness of the Australian and New Zealand troops have frequently formed a subject for eulogy in Sir Ian Hamilton's reports. Gen. Birdwood and his staff have greatly distinguished themselves both in planning and conducting the operations of the Australian and New Zealand corps, whose activities have been marked by constant success. Their determination to overcome apparently insuperable difficulties has been no less admirable than their courage in hand to hand fighting with the enemy.

"It is not easy to appreciate at their full value the enormous difficulties which have attended the operations in the Dardanelles or the fine temper with which our troops have met them. There is now abundant evidence of a process of demoralization having set in among the German led (or rather German driven) Turks, due, no doubt, to their extremely heavy losses and to the progressive failure of their resources. It is only fair to acknowledge that—judged from a humane point of view—the methods of warfare pursued by the Turks are vastly superior to those which disgraced their German masters. Throughout the cooperation of the fleet has been intensely valuable and the concerted action between the sister services has been in every way and in the highest degree satisfactory.

Arduous Operations.

"In Mesopotamia the troops on the Euphrates have been reenforced. The Turks were attacked and expelled from their intrenched position barring the way to Nasirieh. A second position to which they retired was also carried. The enemy's resistance there terminated and Nasirieh was occupied by our troops. In these operations the enemy lost the whole of their artillery besides large quantities of stores, munitions and other war material. A few days later a reconnaissance showed that the Euphrates was clear of the enemy for a distance of nearly sixty miles. Since this victory there has been no further fighting on the Euphrates, Tigris or Karum rivers. Climatic conditions in this theatre of war have rendered the operations extremely arduous. The heat has been intense; swamps and marshes have rendered the country almost impassable and the highly successful issue of the expedition is due to the consummate gallantry and dogged determination of the officers and men of the force engaged.

"As I have informed your lordships, some of the new armies we have prepared and equipped for the war are already in the field and others will quickly follow them on service abroad. The response of the country to calls for recruits to form these armies has been little short of marvellous, but it must be borne in mind that the provision of men to maintain the forces in the field depends in great degree on a large and continuous supply of recruits. The provision to keep up their strength during 1916 has caused us anxious thought, which has been accentuated and rendered more pressing by the recent falling off in the numbers coming forward to enlist, although every effort has been made to obtain our requirements under the present systems.

"I am sure we all fully realize that the strength of the armies we are sending out to fight must be fully maintained to the very end. To fulfil this purpose we shall require a large addition to the numbers of recruits joining, and the problem of how to secure an adequate supply of men, and thus to insure the field force being kept up to full strength, is engaging our close attention, and will, I hope, very soon receive a practical solution. The returns of the registration act, which will be shortly available, will no doubt give us a basis on which to calculate the resources of the country and to determine the numbers that will be available for the army after providing for the necessary services of the country as well as those of our munition works.

"Whatever decision may be arrived at in the full light of the facts before us must undoubtedly be founded on the military requirements for the prosecution of the war and the protection of our shores and will be the result of an impartial inquiry as to how we can most worthily fulfil our national obligations. Although there has been a falling off in the number of recruits I do not draw from this fact any conclusion unfavorable to the resolution and spirit of the country; on the contrary, I think now—as I have always thought—that the manner in which all classes have responded to the call of patriotism is magnificent, and I do not for one instant doubt that whatever sacrifices may prove to be necessary to bring this gigantic war to a successful conclusion will be cheerfully undertaken by our people."

GERMANY REASSURES HOLLAND

Will Not Violate Neutrality of Dutch, Says Diplomat.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Oct. 1.—The *Lokalanzeiger* reproduces an interview with Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, first published in the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*, with regard to Germany's attitude toward Holland, Belgium and Poland. The Overseas News Agency, summarizing the interview, gave out the following to-day:

"Dr. Zimmermann insisted Holland had nothing to fear from Germany. He said Germany would not violate the neutrality of Holland or interfere with her political or economic independence. Germany, he said, appreciates the fact that Holland is maintaining strict neutrality.

"As to Belgium, the Under Secretary stated that its future was still unknown, but a solution of this difficult problem must be found which will render it certain that Belgium will not be utilized for the purpose of England. Germany has always desired peace, and now wishes a guarantee that there will not be in the future another war such as the present one.

"Poland's future also is unknown, Dr. Zimmermann said. He expressed the conviction that no one would be able to oppose Germany's will."

ALLIES ON NEW LINE HOLD OFF HEAVY ATTACKS

Continued from First Page.

under our trenches south of the Menin road, gaining a footing in our front line. By counter attacks made on September 30 we recovered all but a small portion of the trench lost.

To-day there has been no change in the situation on our front. For the last seven days our aircraft have been very active. Seventeen air combats are reported, in only one of which was a British machine worsted. A German machine was brought down within our lines yesterday. Attacks were made on railways in the hostile area and the main lines damaged at fifteen places, five and probably six trains were partly wrecked, the locomotive sheds at Valenciennes were fired and considerable interference was caused with the German railway organization.

DRIVE ONLY BEGUN.

King George Refers to "Outset of Common Offensive."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Oct. 1.—King George telegraphed his congratulations to-day to President Poincare and Gen. Joffre on the successes won by the French troops "at the outset of our common offensive." The wording of the despatch is taken to support the belief that the recent activity of the French and British forces is only the beginning of a great drive.

President Poincare replied in similar vein.

RESISTANCE WEAKER.

Hammering of German Lines Causes Heavy Strain on Them.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—The *Times* correspondent at British field headquarters in a despatch dated Wednesday says drenching rain and biter wind are interfering with the operations, preventing air reconnaisances, hindering artillery observation work and dampening the spirits of the men.

Referring to the work that lies ahead of the British forces the correspondent says:

"At some parts of the front we are against the German second position. In others the second has been carried and we are facing the third.

"Some people talk as if there were an endless series of these German positions stretching right away to the Rhine. That of course is unbelievable. We do not know their number, but we may be sure it is strictly limited.

"Fortified positions on the German scale necessitate long and arduous labor. Again, after each position is taken the resisting power of the enemy grows weaker. He is losing heavily in guns and men, and though he gets all the reenforcements he asks he is suffering under the strain of the most harassing kind undergone in this war.

"The time will come when our successive attacks will lead to some sector being assaulted on both sides at once and withdrawal on a large scale may be compulsory. This is especially true of a front which has the configuration of the German front in the west.

"It is a great thing to have carried the German first position on so wide a front, but it is only the beginning. The Italians did the same thing on the Isonzo and they have been struggling for three months against the second line.

"The success of the allied offensive depends upon repeated efforts of equal strength of the first. There is no need of feverish hurry. Victory is not a question of hours or days, but of weeks.

"Human effort could make German positions no stronger than they are, but if we are able to bring the fight weagon against them they will go. What we have done with the first and second line we can do with the third and fourth.

"It means men and munitions, especially munitions. If these are forthcoming this autumn may yet see that manoeuvre battle on the grand scale for which the world has been waiting."

MINES OPENED WAY.

11,200 Pounds of Explosives Blew Up Trenches.

PARIS, Oct. 1.—Stories of eyewitnesses of the recent French advance, chiefly wounded soldiers, are coming into Paris. According to one of these men, who fought at Souchez, the attack at that place was begun by the explosion of seven mines, each containing 1,600 pounds of powder, under the German trenches. At the same instant the first wave of the French troops left their trenches and made for the German lines, the Germans in the first line trenches running before them into the woods at the rear of the position. The second line of the French advance—the men speak of these assaulting lines as "waves"—dropped bombs and fired volleys into the underground shelters of the German first line as they passed, thereby preventing a rear attack.

"The bulk of our men," the eyewitness continued, "followed the Germans, who were running like hares through the woods. They soon captured the second line of trenches in the middle of the forest and went on, some even crossing the Souchez Brook, or going up the Souchez road leading to Angres, but the Germans brought up reserves and tried to surround us."

This move by the enemy was countered by the withdrawal of the French advance to the first line of trenches captured. The Germans fortified themselves in the woods during the night, but the French artillery stopped this work at dawn. The bombardment levelled the forest into "a field of stumps emerging from a jungle of branches."

Meanwhile the German artillery was most active, but, according to the eyewitness, did little harm in spite of much ploughing up of the fields about the French and the use of both high explosive shells and shrapnel.

"This fire was borne philosophically," the eyewitness said, "for since they have had their new steel helmets our men don't fear wounds in the head.

"At 1 o'clock in the afternoon," he continued, "the guns ceased firing and we were ordered to attack again. Machine guns which the Germans had placed on their flanks were put out of action. It was difficult going in the woods. Men stumbled over branches, but on the other hand, holes torn in the ground by shells gave shelter against machine gun fire. These guns were cunningly concealed in pits covered with steel plates and they sent at us a withering fire. But our men didn't hesitate. From behind tree stumps and from the pits they kept hurling a constant stream of bombs and soon drove the Germans out of the woods, which remained in our hands."

The wounding of Brig.-Gen. Marchand in the fighting in Champagne last Saturday is described by a young colonial infantryman who was beside the General and who fell wounded himself shortly after. A colonial division, a Moroccan division, brigades of Zouaves and the Foreign Legion formed the first "wave" sent against the enemy at this point, which was between Perthes and Souain.

The order to the colonial division for the attack came at 9:30 o'clock in the morning. "At this moment," the infantryman said, "amid a hail of bullets Gen. Marchand appeared. After making us a short speech, which we didn't hear because of the roar of the guns, our chief stepped to the head of the column, cane in hand and pipe in mouth, and marched off toward the enemy like a simple officer at the head of his company. We covered 150 yards amid a hail of shot and shell and had just reached the first German trenches when the General fell. A shell splinter struck him in the abdomen and I saw the ambulance corps rush for him. Then I was hit."

Another of the soldiers wounded at Souchez said that for several days prior to the action the Germans "had been getting singularly aggressive and insolent," shouting insults and sending taunting notes wrapped around pebbles into the French line. The men received with joy the order to advance against Hill 119, at 12:45 on September 25, and made a dash for the German line which carried them past the machine gun fire of the Germans, which caught them fifty yards from the trench, and the French jumped over the first trench without stopping. The eyewitness spoke of the smallness of the French losses in this first part of the attack and said he saw no one killed. Between the first and second lines, and until the second "wave" came up to support the first, "things changed."

Another of the wounded who took part in the fighting between Perthes and Tahure thus describes the assault:

"A seething mass of men, clothed in uniforms hardly two of which were alike, all animated by the same energy, joined in the charge. I was in a stream which passed four lines of trenches in four jumps. We ran like madmen, forward, always forward. At one moment we were confronted at a distance of not more than ten yards by a 77 millimeter gun, still firing. It was soon silenced. Then I was hit in the chest by a bullet."

NOTHING LACKING NOW.

French Statesman Says Great Drive Cannot Be Stopped.

PARIS, Oct. 1.—Senator Pichon, ex-Foreign Minister, declared to-day that the Franco-British operations of the last few days are only the beginning of the great offensive on the western front and that it will not stop until a vital result has been achieved.

"Until the present we lacked materials," Senator Pichon explained. "We had no heavy artillery. Our ammunition supplies were insufficient. We are now amply provided with everything needful. We have both big guns and plenty of shells. If from now on we are only favored by the weather I am sure things will go nicely.

"Souchez and the German positions near Vimy are now in our hands, as you see in the communiqués. We are making steady progress on every front. What may occasionally appear as a slackening of the great offensive need cause no surprise. Battles are not fought to-day as they were in the days when 100,000 men were a great army and hours or a few days sufficed to score a great victory.

"The weather is now one of the biggest factors in the battle along the German front. It may make or mar the success of important movements. On account of the increased importance of artillery a heavy rainfall and muddy roads might seriously hinder our operations.

"But one thing already has been demonstrated, that French troops, man for man, army for army, are the superior of the enemy. They have more spirit numerically. They have nothing to fear. It is because I know the spirit of the men in the trenches that I firmly believe the offensive will continue to be victorious. And another thing, Germany will be unable to send much aid to Turkey because she will need her resources nearer home."

Senator Pichon was asked what effect the Allies' drive would have on Russia.

"It undoubtedly will relieve the situation there very much," he replied. "Considerable pressure will be taken off the Russian army. On the whole our successes undoubtedly will have a great value both in a military and diplomatic way. Yes, you may say certainly that this is the beginning of the great offensive."

"WHIZ-BANG" NEW BOMB

British Territorial Describes Fight at Hooge.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—A Territorial, one of a consignment of wounded which arrived in London at midnight last night, tells of the fighting at Hooge: He has six wounds in one arm caused by a bomb of the type known to the men as "Whiz-bang." The Territorial said that all was going well at Hooge in spite of the giving up of captured trenches and added: "If there had been no such thing as machine guns we would have gone straight through the German line and now be on our way to Berlin. Those trenches which we gave up we can take again and, what is more, we can hold them when we want to do so.

After explaining that the trenches had to be given up because of the situation of adjoining parts of the line the Territorial said that the attack was a surprise to the Germans, who had brought up tremendous reenforcements, including large numbers of bomb throwers, on Saturday.

"The only orders I remember," the Territorial said, "are a preliminary 'get ready' and then the sharp command, 'Get over.' We jumped the parapet without any superfluous motions and then like a flash the whole front moved forward straight across the eighty yards which separated us from the enemy's front trenches. Then it was bayonet work, and after an incredibly short time we were fighting fiercely between the second and third lines of German trenches. Our officers led us splendidly and the men are enthusiastic over the whole job."

STRENGTHEN LINES.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Oct. 1.—Thirty-eight heavy troop trains passed through Belgium with German reenforcements for the western front last week, according to information received here.

All the railroads in Germany and Belgium have been taken over for the movement of men and guns and many heavy guns have been shipped from Lille to the railway centre of Douai, from which they may be sent on to any part of the front by the railways converging there.

Reports received here indicate that the German fortifications at Namur and Ghent are being strengthened.

WAR STOPS "HELLO" TO U. S.

Wireless Telephone Across Ocean Only Retarded, Says Expert.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—Godfrey Isaacs, managing director of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, is quoted by the *Daily News* as saying that if it had not been for the war wireless telephoning between London and New York would now be an accomplished fact.

"Our experiments have been interrupted by the war," he said, "as our stations are now used for Government work, but we have carried our experiments far enough to know undoubtedly that after the war we shall be able to talk to New York."

36 BRITISH SHIPS LOST.

September Attacks by Germans Cost 72 Lives.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—Twenty-nine British steamships and seven British sailing vessels were destroyed in the month of September, with the loss of seventy-two lives.

Of these, twenty of the steamships and all of the sailing vessels are known to have been sunk by German warships, the loss of life on these twenty-seven vessels being forty-three. The others either were sunk by German warships or were destroyed by mines.

Berlin Remodelling Railroad.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Oct. 1.—The city is building two new railroad tracks through the heart of Berlin. The great Friedrichstrasse station is being remodelled, four platforms for through trains and six for locals being constructed.

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