KINGSBURY AND W. H. HOTCHKISS ARE INDICTED

Charities Head and His Lawyer Named by Kings Co. Jury in Wire Case.

MAYOR IS CHIDED FOR PART IN THE CASE

John A. Kingsbury, Commissioner of Charities, and William H. Hotchkiss, special counsel in the charities investigation, were indicted for wire tapping by the Kings county Grand Jury yesterday. The wires tapped were those of the Rev. William B. Farrell, rector of the Church of SS. Peter and Paul; Dr. Daniel C. Potter and Dean Potter.

In a memorandum accompanying the indictments the Grand Jury sharply criticises Mayor Mitchel and Police Commissioner Woods in connection with the wire tapping disclosures. The memorandum sets forth that legal evidence to justify the indictment of these officials was wanting, but adds: "If as does appear they approved of the conduct of those who were responsible for the tapping of the wires in question for no other purpose than to furnish counsel in personal and private litigation with information and to gratify curiosity, the conduct of the Mayor and the Police Commissioner merits the most severe condemnation."

Both Plead Not Guilty.

Commissioner Kingsbury and Mr. Hotchkiss entered pleas of not guilty before County Judge Mitchell May and were released in $1,000 bail each. Both District Attorney Harry E. Lewis and Martin W. Littleton indicated a desire for an early trial. Ten days was agreed upon as the time limit for motions. Neither of the indicted men would discuss the Grand Jury's action.

"I am very sorry that the Grand Jury has seen fit to make such an accusation against these men," said Mayor Mitchel when informed of the morning's developments. "I have complete confidence in both gentlemen. What the public needs is to know the underlying facts, and I purpose to make these known at the very earliest opportunity."

Three indictments were returned against the two men. Each contains two counts and differs from the others only in the names of the persons whose wires were tapped.

The first count charges the injury of highway boundaries and property in "unlawfully and wilfully" tapping telephone wires from the three residences. This is asserted to be in violation of section 1423 of the Penal Code and a misdemeanor, punishable by one year's imprisonment, a fine of $500 or both.

Second Count Charges Felony.

The second count charges a violation of section 552 of the Penal Code in divulging the contents of telephonic and telegraphic communication. It constitutes a felony, punishable by two years imprisonment, $1,000 fine, or both.

Commissioner Kingsbury, Mr. Hotchkiss and their counsel were in court when the Grand Jury filed in behind District Attorney Lewis. The two men were arraigned at once and Mr. Littleton, waiving the reading of the charges, entered a plea of not guilty for his clients. Bail was furnished without delay.

The first count of the indictment based on the tapping of the wire from Dr. Potter's residence is as follows:

"The defendants on March 18, 1916, in the county of Kings, unlawfully tapped and made connection with the telephone line, wire, cable and instrument leading to and from the residence of D. C. Potter in said county and read in an unauthorized manner messages, communications and reports passing over it, and aided, agreed with, employed and conspired with persons to the Grand Jury unknown, unlawfully to permit, and caused to be done, the acts aforesaid."

The second count reads:

"The Grand Jury of the county of Kings, by this indictment, further accuses the defendants of the crime of divulging the contents of telegraphic and telephonic messages, committed as follows:

"The defendants, on March 18, 1916, in the county of Kings, wrongfully obtained and attempted to obtain knowledge of telephonic messages passing over the wire leading to and from the residence of D. C. Potter, in said county, by connivance with a clerk, operator, messenger and other employees of the New York Telephone Company, to the Grand Jury unknown."

The text of the memorandum in which the Grand Jury refers to the Mayor and the Police Commissioner is as follows:

"This body, mindful of its duty to find indictments only when all the evidence before it taken together is such as would, if unexplained and uncontradicted, warrant a trial jury in convicting a defendant, has found indictments charging John A. Kingsbury and William H. Hotchkiss with violations of subdivision 1 of §552 and subdivision 6 of §1423 of the Penal Law.

Mayor Sternly Criticised.

"There was no legal evidence justifying us in finding that the Mayor of the city, or the Police Commissioner aided or abetted in the crimes charged, and for that reason no indictments were found against them; but if, as does appear, they approved of the conduct of those who were responsible for the tapping of the wires in question, for no other purpose than to furnish counsel in private and personal litigation with information, and to gratify private curiosity, and not for the detection or prevention of crime, the conduct of the Mayor and the Police Commissioner merits most severe condemnation.

"While wire tapping by the police, in order to prevent the use of the telephones and the wires attached for unlawful business or traffic or criminal offences, has been an effective means or agency when properly, lawfully and justifiably used, it is perfectly apparent to this Grand Jury that this great power has been abused in this instance, subjecting those who have been its victims to grave harm and injury. It therefore becomes most necessary that the authorities exercise the greatest discretion possible in the use of those great powers, so that no harm comes of it to any one.

"The dangers which this system can be subjected to by officials with ulterior purposes must be apparent, and this Grand Jury condemns those officials who, in violation of their oaths, arbitrarily intrude by means of tapping telephone wires into the private affairs of law abiding citizens without warrant in law."

In the course of an address thanking the Grand Jury for its work Judge May said:

"A half a truth may be more vicious than a lie; a subterfuge is more contemptible than an open acknowledgment of guilt. If what was done by our public officials, of which now through your indictments you complain, was done as a means to evade the law, while proclaiming it to be in support of the law, then such conduct is, to say the least, reprehensible and deserves the severest condemnation."

No statements were made by Father Farrell, Dr. Potter or Dean Potter after the indictments had been returned. Their attorney, Alfred J. Talley, however, was quite willing to speak in praise of the Grand Jury's action. He said:

"This action is a fair indication of the resentment felt by the average citizen against spying and eavesdropping on the part of public officials. In pressing their complaints my clients rendered a public service. The Grand Jury and District Attorney Lewis are entitled to the thanks of the entire city for the fearless and energetic manner in which they investigated the charges. No matter what the final disposition of the charges may be the obnoxious practice of tapping the wires of reputable citizens has been ended.

"I have no comment whatever to make on my indictment," said William H. Hotchkiss last night. "I hope that the trial will be called at the earliest date possible. The lawyers suggested to-day that it be held some time in June. That will be satisfactory to me. Until then I shall have nothing to say about the case.

"My information is that the Grand Jury in Kings county, which had all these facts and conversations before it and heard all the witnesses in the case, failed to indict the Mayor by only one vote—rather that the vote on indicting him was twelve to eleven."

ITALIANS FALL FURTHER BACK IN SUGANA VALLEY

Retreat to Main Positions Before Repeated Austrian Attacks—Teutons Lose Position on Mount Sief—Arsiero Forts in Peril.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 23.—The Italians abandoned their advanced positions in the Sugana Valley yesterday before the Austrian advance and fell back on their main positions. The Austrians attacked repeatedly in this sector throughout yesterday, the Italians repulsing the attacks and effecting an orderly retreat.

The official statement issued by the Italian War Office to-night announces that the Austrians are massing troops in the Riva zone, to the northwest of Lake Garda, where the Italians, in the Ledro Valley, have menaced Riva and the railroad leading to Arco, Mori, Rovereto and Trent for many months.

An Italian detachment took an Austrian position on Mount Sief, in the upper Cordevole zone yesterday.

The official statement issued by the Italian War Office to-night follows:

Between Lake Garda and the Adige the enemy is massing his forces in the Riva zone. There was aerial activity to-day on Monte Baldo (the mountain ridge to the east of the lake).

From the Adige to the Astico there were only reconnoitrings.

Between the Astico and the Brenta rivers in the Sugana valley yesterday our troops fell back gradually on their main lines after repulsing enemy attacks throughout May 22. The retreat was orderly and spontaneous.

In the upper Cordevole valley one of our contingents captured an important enemy position on Monte Sief, taking fifty prisoners and arms and ammunition.

Along the rest of the front the artillery actions were more intense on the upper But, on the heights northwest of Goritz and in the Monfalcone sector.

Enemy aeroplanes bombarded places in the Venetian plain. A few persons were wounded. No material damage was done.

Besides announcing the Austrian advance in the Val Sugana, Vienna despatches received here by way of Berlin to-day say that the Austrians are continuing the reduction of the forts protecting Arsiero, well across the Italian frontier on the way toward Vicenza. Arsiero is the terminus of a railway leading down into the Vicenza plain and the city of Vicenza.

Closing In on Arsiero.

Through the capture of the Spitz Tonezza and Monte Melignone the Austrians say they now hold the entire line across the frontier as far as Forni on the Astico. They also announce advances toward the ridge north of the Val dei Laghi, and toward Monte Tormino and Monte Cremone, all three outlying defences of Arsiero.

Meanwhile the right wing of the Austrian army, after storming Col Santo, is moving toward Monte Pasubio, and the left wing has stormed the Sasso Alto, commanding the Armentera ridge, enabling the Austrians to advance into the Sugana valley and to take Ronceano.

According to the Vienna despatches the Austrians have captured fifteen 28 centimeter howitzers from the Italians so far in the present offensive.

The following account of the Austrian offensive, which began a week ago yesterday, was sent out from Berlin to-day by the Overseas News Agency:

"In the southern Tyrol before the present offensive movement was instituted the Austro-Hungarian front ran from the northern end of Lake Garda to Mori, southwest of Rovereto, along the Terragnola Valley, to the southeast edge of Folgaria plateau, to the east edge of Lavarone plateau, through the Sugana Valley, to the west of Borgo, across Mount Collo and thence to the northeast. On May 14 the Austro-Hungarian artillery became active at many places along this front.

"Early on the morning of May 15 Austro-Hungarian troops were able to advance at several places in the sector from a point below Rovereto to the eastern edge of Folgaria plateau, on account of the excellent results obtained by the artillery.

"The first Italian positions were taken with very small loss for the attacking troops, and 600 Italians belonging to one of the new regiments formed during the winter were captured. These men had arrived recently at the front.

Italian Losses Severe.

"In the Terragnola Valley the enemy resisted tenaciously at several places, but by evening his resistance was broken. At many places the Italians were driven far beyond the first line positions. In this day's fighting there were captured sixty-five officers, more than 2,500 soldiers, three cannon and two machine guns.

"On May 16 the attack was renewed along the whole line. The Austrians captured a position on the eastern end of Folgaria plateau, which, according to an Italian order, a copy of which was found, was designated as one of the chief points of resistance, to be defended to the utmost. In the Terragnola Valley points of support which up until that time had been defended stubbornly were captured.

"Austro-Hungarian troops advanced everywhere on May 17. They captured territory to a depth of seven kilometers (more than four miles).

"At several points the victorious troops crossed the Italian frontier and at other points they advanced close to the border.

"In order to appreciate the significance of these successes it must be remembered that the fighting is going on in the mountains, on ground varying in altitude as much as 1,000 meters per kilometer. The mountains are still partly covered with snow and the transportation of supplies is exceedingly difficult."

ITALIANS WRECK AERO.

Naval Guns Bring Machine Down in Upper Adriatic.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, May 23.—The Italian Admiralty issued the following statement to-night:

Last night our naval anti-aircraft guns brought down an Austrian aeroplane in the upper Adriatic.

ITALY YEAR IN WAR.

Observes First Anniversary of Entrance Into European Conflict.

ROME, May 23.—The anniversary of Italy's entry into the European struggle by her declaration of war against Austria on May 23, 1915, was celebrated to-day throughout the kingdom.

The streets of Rome and of every other city and town in Italy were decorated with flags and in many of the larger towns there were processions and speech making.

King Victor Emmanuel received thousands of messages of greeting and many messages were sent also to Gen. Count Cadorna, the Commander-in-Chief of the Italian army.

THREE STEAMERS SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN

Captain of One French Vessel Made Prisoner by German Submarine.

PARIS, May 23.—Despatches from Marseilles state that the French steamship Languedoc, of 1,612 tons, was sunk by a submarine on Saturday in the Mediterranean. The captain of the vessel, Pierre Battisti, was taken on board the submarine because, the German commander declared, he endeavored to defend his ship.

A despatch from Palma, island of Majorca, states that the Norwegian steamship Tjomo, of 1,453 tons, has been sunk near Alcudia, Majorca, in the Balearic group. The crew of seventeen men was saved.

The large Greek steamship Adamantios Korais, of 2,947 tons, was sunk in the Mediterranean by the Austrians.

SPANISH SHIP MISSING.

Increasing Indignation in Bilboa Over Frequent Torpedoings.

MADRID, via London, May 23.—The steamship Marques de Mudela, which sailed from Newport, Wales, on May 1 for Bilboa, Spain, has failed to arrive and the owners fear she has been sunk by a submarine.

Liberal Deputies from Bilboa say that the frequent German submarine attacks on Spanish ships are causing much agitation and indignation among owners on the Cantabrian coast. It is stated that the Deputies have requested the Spanish Government to demand from Germany respect for the Spanish flag. So serious has the situation become that Spanish ship owners have threatened to keep their vessels in port.

FOR UNLIMITED U BOATS.

German National Liberal Party Wants Restrictions Removed.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 23.—A renewal of the "unlimited use" of the submarine in the war against British supremacy at sea was urged at a meeting of the central board of the German National Liberal party in Berlin Sunday, according to an Amsterdam despatch.

The board, it is reported, adopted a resolution calling upon the party representatives in the Reichstag to agitate such a renewal in the event that the United States "does not yield to the conditions set forth in the last German note."

The despatch adds that the party stands solidly behind the Government, which is said to be bending all its efforts to bring about a fulfilment of those conditions.

GERMAN LOSSES HELD BACK.

LONDON, May 23.—Despatches from the British headquarters in France state that confirmation has been supplied of the report that the German casualty lists are far in arrears, so that their total, issued occasionally, is not accurate.

It is known, according to the despatches, that the lists recently have carried the names of Germans captured or killed at the battle of Loos last September.

"FIGHT ON," KIPLING SAYS.

"Allies' Mission to Free World of Dominion of German Ideals."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 24.—Rudyard Kipling sends a message to the English press in honor of Empire Day, of which the following are the opening and concluding sentences:

"When Germany challenged us nearly two years ago to uphold with our lives the ideals whereby we professed to live, we accepted the challenge, not out of madness nor for glory nor for gain, but to make good those professions. Since then our allies and our empire have fought that they may be free and all the earth may be free from the intolerable domination of German ideals.

"Knowing as nations what it is we fight for, realizing as men and women the resolve that has been added to us by what each has endured, we go forward now under the proud banner of our griefs and losses to greater effort, greater endurance, and if need be heavier sacrifices, equal sponsors for the deliverance of mankind."

DELCASSE'S SON ILL TREATED.

Germans Also Make Etienne Bunau-Varilla Object of Reprisals.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, May 23.—Etienne Bunau-Varilla, son of Philippe Bunau-Varilla, captured while serving as an aviator, and young Delcasse, son of the former French Foreign Secretary, are being ill treated in German prisons. They have been selected, being the sons of influential men, as objects of reprisals for the alleged bad treatment accorded two prominent young Germans by the French authorities. The French Government states that the report of ill treatment of the Germans is entirely unfounded.

M. Delcasse refuses to use any influence to obtain better treatment for his son, not wishing it to be said that he was using his position for his son's benefit.

Vicomtesse Rancougne, daughter of Philippe Bunau-Varilla, has gone to Switzerland to meet her husband, who was taken prisoner early in the war.

ASQUITH ASKS FOR NEW $1,500,000,000

Tells Commons War Sets Record Cost of $1,205,000,000 in Fifty Days.

TOTAL IS $11,910,000,000

LONDON, May 23.—Premier Asquith in the House of Commons to-day proposed a vote of credit of £300,000,000 ($1,500,000,000) for the expenses of Great Britain from now until the first week in August.

If this credit, the eleventh since the beginning of the war, is granted, the grand total voted by the House since August, 1914, will be £2,382,000,000 ($11,910,000,000), of which £600,000,000 ($3,000,000,000) will have been voted during the present financial year.

In order to acquaint the members of the House with the exact manner in which the money is expended Premier Asquith selected the period between April 1 and May 20 and explained how in those fifty days the Government had expended £241,000,000 ($1,205,000,000).

During that time the sum of £149,000,000 ($745,000,000) had been expended for the army and navy and for munitions of war. Loans were made to the other Allies and to the dominions of £74,500,000 ($372,500,000). Food supplies, railways and miscellaneous items cost £17,500,000 ($875,000,000).

War Cost Sets New Record.

If the payments to the Bank of England for the advances made abroad are eliminated, allowances having been made for them in the previous votes, the Premier said, the average daily expenditure was £4,600,000 ($23,000,000) during those fifty days.

The expenditure directly for the army and navy, Mr. Asquith stated, had been reduced slightly, being now just under £3,000,000 ($15,000,000), but the total outlay was somewhat larger owing to the size of the loans to the Allies and dominions.

Premier Asquith said that without the financial assistance rendered by England to the other countries the combined operations of the Allies could not be prosecuted with success and efficiency.

"The House will not grudge an addition to expenditures in order that the whole financial, naval and military fabric upon whose cooperative work the success of our joint efforts depends should be kept in a state of efficiency," the Premier declared.

Mr. Asquith stated that he could not at present extend any hope of any appreciable reduction of expenditures. The expenditure of £241,000,000 during April and up to May 20 was the highest rate reached by England in the war.

Churchill Urges More Men.

Winston Churchill, formerly First Lord of the Admiralty, who has been vigorously opposing the Government since he returned from France, took part in the debate after Mr. Asquith had moved the vote of credit. He regretted, he said, that the Premier had not reviewed the general military situation. He asserted it was most unreasonable of the people to expect a sudden and sharp turn of the fortunes of war in favor of the Allies. The contending armies, he pointed out, were at present far too evenly matched in men and artillery to allow such a sudden change.

Although the Allies felt that they were stronger and had more men, said Mr. Churchill, this advantage was counterbalanced by the central position of the Germans and the superiority of their control and direction. He declared that the Allies had larger reserves than their enemies, and it was in these that their chance of victory lay.

He appealed to the Government to place every available man on the fighting line, including the natives of Africa and more Indian troops, as the only method to insure victory.

The frequency of the attacks of the Teutons on every front might either indicate their strength or a sign of their anxiety, said Mr. Churchill.

George J. Wardle, the labor leader, pointed out that there was a great need of war material as well as men, and spoke of the inadvisability of too large an army.

The vote was passed without opposition.

FIFTH GERMAN LOAN.

New Credit of $2,500,000,000 to Be Asked in June.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 23.—The Berlin *Vossische Zeitung* states that the bill for the fifth German war loan, which will amount to £500,000,000 ($2,500,000,000), will be introduced in the Reichstag in June.

HUNGER TO DECIDE WAR.

Danish Paper Says Germany Can't Hold Out Till Year's End.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

COPENHAGEN, via London, May 23.—The newspaper *Ribes Stitis Tidende* says:

"Lack of food will decide the war. Germany will be unable to carry on the war until the end of the year. The German army ration has now been curtailed. The troops are not getting sufficient bread. The permission to purchase half a loaf weekly and to add to their allowance three-quarters of a pound daily has been withdrawn. Parcels with food from home have been stopped. As a result the physique of the soldiers is considerably impaired."

CROPS SHORT IN HUNGARY.

Decreased Acreage Followed by Damage by Severe Weather.

ROME, May 23.—The International Institute of Agriculture reports that the winter crops of Hungary, which were reported some time ago to be favorable, are short in acreage and have suffered considerably from severe weather. Shortage in Austria was reported earlier in the year.

The institute's report showed a decrease in the wheat acreage throughout the world, the United States being 21.4 per cent. below that of last year for winter wheat, Italy 5.9 per cent. and British India 17.52 per cent.

LOW ROUND TRIP VACATION FARES VIA CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RY. Now in effect to San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego, Cal.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., effective June 1st to Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah, Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colo., and effective June 10th to Yellowstone National Park. Wide choice of routes and numerous free side trips. Favorable stopover privileges, liberal return limits. San Diego Exposition open entire year 1916. Splendidly equipped through trains leave the New Chicago Passenger Terminal at convenient hours daily. The Best of Everything. Let us plan your summer trip. We will be pleased to submit an attractive itinerary, furnish illustrated booklet and full information regarding rates, schedules, etc. C. C. Walton, G. A., Chicago & North Western Ry., 1282 Broadway, Tel. Gresley 5860, New York, N. Y.—Adv.

GERMANY NAMES A FOOD DICTATOR

Von Batocki Will Control Disposal and Fix the Prices.

IS INTERIOR MINISTER

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

AMSTERDAM, via London, May 23.—The "War Feeding Office" has at length been established in Germany. Adolf Tortilovitz von Batocki, Ober-President of East Prussia, has been appointed "Food Dictator." He will be directly responsible to the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg.

Herr von Batocki is empowered to dispose of all foodstuffs, raw materials and fodder. His authority also includes control of sales, consumption, import, export and transit as well as of prices.

In south Germany the view seems to prevail that the new order of uniform food distribution means a "storming" of the southern states, which, it is pointed out, long ago foresaw the shortage and prepared for it.

Chief Burgomaster Lautenschaeger of Stuttgart, capital of Wuerttemberg, at a session of the City Council to-day pointed out that the idea prevailing in northern Germany that the south is "jammed full of provisions" is erroneous and that the northern states must not take advantage of the timely regulations adopted in the south.

The people of Berlin have been assured that there is enough butter now. The weekly ration has been reduced to about three ounces. It is found, however, according to Berlin advices, that the new system is no better than the old. Large groups of women stood in line to-day, waiting for butter rations and many left without butter.

"The adequate nourishment of our population is fully assured and will not be rendered doubtful by any blockade regulations of enemy States, no matter how unscrupulous they may be and no matter how long the war may last," says the semi-official *Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* in an announcement of the creation of a food dictatorship.

Scarcity Acutely Felt.

"However, the short harvest of 1915, together with reduced imports, have resulted in a food scarcity in some directions which makes itself acutely felt, and efforts to better conditions have been hindered by the fact that each Federal State has been able to make independent regulations. This will now be corrected by a centralization of power."

The *Berliner Tageblatt* demands further reforms, declaring that there should be no need for the people to wait outside the butter, meat and coffee shops. "On this point," says the paper, "our much famed organization has completely failed. A way must be found to assure everybody of the allotted ration."

The *Lokal Anzeiger* sums up the situation as follows:

"It is no longer any secret that certain supplies are short, not so much as a result of the friendly efforts of our enemies, but as a result of last year's poor harvest. It is true that we do not need to worry about bread. We have saved enough here by economic administration to reach to the new harvest. We shall even be able to increase the ration for manual laborers.

Much Still Lacking.

"We shall also come through with potatoes, even though with scant rations until the early crop. But our meat and fat supplies, as is well known, leave much to be desired. The last animal census showed only slightly more than 13,000,000 swine, but since the number of pigs is large we may expect in a year or more to make up in some degree what is lacking. The number of meat cattle had decreased less than was supposed, but what we lack is cattle fit for butchering. The older animals are consumed and the army's meat requirements are so mighty that even animals unfit for slaughtering must be taken.

"In no circumstances must we touch milch cows, or we shall endanger the milk supply of our children. Hence until animals fit for slaughter have grown up we must impose the most extreme limitations on our meat consumption. Meat rations will become very small without distinction in the whole German empire.

"It does not require, furthermore, to be said that the butter scarcity compels the greatest possible sparing of milch cows, since the butter we import from abroad eats up enormous sums of money."

The *Lokal Anzeiger* refers to mistakes in organization, but says after all the main reason for the existing evils is the scarcity of supplies.

The Emperor has decorated Clemens Delbrueck, who recently resigned as Minister of the Interior, ostensibly on account of ill health, with the Order of the Black Eagle, and has sent him a personal letter thanking him for his devotion to Germany.

The *Koelnische Zeitung* predicted the appointment of a "food dictator" after Herr Delbrueck resigned as Minister of the Interior. It was stated in despatches from Germany that the cause of his resignation was his inability to handle the food problem satisfactorily.

Max Johann Otto Adolf Tortilovitz von Batocki distinguished himself in the last three months of 1914 when he took charge of the reconstruction of East Prussia after the province had been devastated by the Russians in their invasion shortly after the outbreak of the war. He is 48 years old and a native of Bledau, near Koenigsberg. He spent many years in the Prussian administrative service, retiring several years ago as "Landrat."

When, in 1914, Dr. von Windheim, Ober-President of East Prussia, was transferred to Hanover, Von Batocki, who is a member of the Prussian upper house, was selected to conduct the affairs of the province. It is believed that the new office of "food dictator" was tendered him as a reward for that work and in the conviction that he will be equal to the tremendous tasks of organization that await the man who is to put 70,000,000 souls on a meal ticket basis.

RUSSIAN CROPS FROZEN.

Berlin Hears Large Area May Have to Be Replanted.

BERLIN, via London, May 23.—The Overseas News Agency states that according to advices from Stockholm all the winter crops in the northern and central governments of Russia have been destroyed by a sudden and severe frost.

It is said that the crops in the Volga district and in the governments of Kazan and Samara, which had profited by the early spring, were frozen. The Russian Government has taken the situation in hand and will decide whether or not to plough and replant the frozen area immediately.

The same despatches declare that Russia lacks coffee and other goods owing to the detention of commodities valued at 6,000,000 rubles ($3,000,000) in Sweden. The Senate of Finland, it is said, has prohibited the exportation of milk to Russia.

'MAMMON YOUR GOD,' HE WRITES U. S. GIRL

Alleged German Officer Tells Boyhood Sweetheart America Prolongs War.

"WE FIGHT ON ONE LEG"

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 23.—A further example of German attacks upon America is found in the conservative *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, which gives prominence to a letter supposedly written by Hans von Goecke, an officer at the front, to his American friend "Ruth," whom he met twenty years ago in the Harz Mountains. The letter reads in part:

"MY OWN DARLING: Your President Wilson's latest note is a most unwelcome Easter present, but it has had one agreeable effect: it has reminded me of the time when we met. You remember, you were eleven and I was fourteen. Later you came to Berlin and danced with me. Every society home was opened for you.

"I would not write now were it not for the fact that there are several thousand American girls like you in Germany, heartless and egotistical, and getting all they can out of Germany.

"Are you not ashamed, Ruth, of your leading countrymen? Has the last spark of decency died within you? Have you no sense of justice and fair play left?

"You know as well as I do that the true situation is as follows: Here is a fighter in the ring without friends, while his opponent is with a crowd of friends. The friendless man fights honorably and wins round upon round. His enemy, attended by sympathizers, repeatedly gets restoratives to refresh and strengthen him.

"The fight continues. The onlookers remove the water that the friendless man may not drink; they also take the sponge he uses to wipe the perspiration from his brow. But the friendless man continues to win. Then the crowd insists that he fight standing only on one leg.

"Yes, darling, that is the true situation. This is what you call fair play. Aren't you ashamed? Why are you doing this? Because for you business is involved. All your noise about humanity, neutrality and law is simply nonsense. Two or three drowned Americans are a matter of indifference to you. You would not have mentioned them had not your business been interrupted by our submarines.

"Tell me, my darling, does your husband make bombs or he is only engaged in manufacturing poisonous gases? He must be engaged in one or other of these employments. When you go to the theatre and put that pearl collar round your pretty neck which he gave you after making his $5,000,000 out of the war, are you aware that some one is looking over your shoulder whom you know? Do you remember that Lieutenant whom you loved, for whom you shed so many tears?

"You may have heard that he has died for his fatherland, perhaps killed by one of the bombs manufactured by your husband. You will have enjoyed yourself in the theatre with your pearl ornaments—but are you not ashamed?

"Darling, I would not hurt you. You of course are innocent. You are only true to your God, but your God is mammon. I wish you four more pearl necklaces for your pretty neck, provided that the blood that sticks to them does not choke you. Business is business.

"Give my regards to your friends with whom I once danced. I hope they will amuse themselves and not yawn too loudly when after a jolly night they read at breakfast the next list of the Verdun casualties."

NET BRITISH SHIP LOSS 13.

New Vessels in Year Almost Made Up for Foes' Destruction.

Despatches have been received here from London indicating that Lloyd's register of shipping shows that the net loss to the British merchant marine during 1915 because of the war was 451 vessels of 814,233 tons, which loss was offset by new vessels built, numbering 438, with 778,321 tonnage. The excess of war loss, therefore, amounted to only thirteen vessels of 35,912 tons.

Lloyd's shows also that the number of vessels listed on the official register last year decreased by 268 and the total tonnage by some 11,150 tons. There were added to the list 807 vessels, with a total tonnage of 1,523,750 tons, while 1,075 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,534,901 tons were removed.

Great Britain purchased seventy-seven steamers, with 101,551 tonnage, and fifteen sailing vessels, with 7,139 tonnage from foreign countries. Of the withdrawals from the official register 19 per cent. were the result of breaking up, dismantling and other ordinary sea casualties, while about 53 per cent. were due to war losses.

About 15.2 per cent. of the gross production, or 232,947 tons, were sold to foreign buyers, which was less by approximately 389,800 tons than the average sales to the same buyers in the preceding four years. During last year the United States purchased from the United Kingdom 88,348 tons, Norway, 38,623 tons, and Greece, 30,279 tons, while there were 39,307 tons transferred to British Colonies.

Almost all of the new tonnage constructed in the United Kingdom during the year was of steel, although a few wooden vessels of small tonnage were built.

Of the tonnage classed during the year 679,178 tons, or about 70 per cent., have been built in the United Kingdom. Among foreign countries the United States contributed the largest amount of tonnage (104,723 tons), then follow Holland (63,092 tons), Japan (54,997 tons), and Denmark (24,712 tons).

The tonnage built for the United Kingdom was 599,913 tons, and 368,620 tons for other countries. Among the latter the United States led with 105,464 tons. Then follow: Holland, with 60,369 tons; Japan, 54,997 tons, and Denmark, 30,470 tons.

LAST EXCURSION OF THE SEASON

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Sunday, May 28th

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GERMANS DASH VAINLY AGAINST FRENCH LINES

Continued from First Page.

the opposite bank of the river. Taking advantage of this situation, Gen. Nivelle massed artillery and began his artillery preparations on Sunday, launching the infantry attack at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The Germans resisted stubbornly, notably along the Froide Terre heights and at Douaumont village, where the French forced the Germans back only by the constant use of the bayonet.

'DOUAUMONT NOT TAKEN.'

Germans Say Fort Is Still Firmly in Their Hands.

BERLIN, by wireless to Sayville, May 23.—"A correspondent on the French front sends a description of the latest attack of the French on Hill 304, on the Verdun front," the Overseas News Agency says. "The French brought up fresh troops to this sector, where so many divisions have been repulsed previously. There were colored troops in the new division, mixed with white troops from the finest regiments.

"The French troops who made the attack were compelled to charge up a steep road, which afforded no protection, so that the German batteries were able to fire directly on them. Furthermore, the Germans directed a curtain of fire along the front from Esnes to Hill 310 and beyond. Three attacks were executed brilliantly by the French and crushed methodically by the German guns.

"The third attack exposed the French troops to a particularly deadly fire. The French extended back beyond Esnes and dense masses were visible on the open ground before Hill 310. The tenacity with which the French commanding officer repeats the attacks proves the importance attached to the loss of Hill 304."

The following statement was given out by army headquarters to-day:

Preparations by the British to make a counter attack southwest of Givenchy-en-Gohelle were observed. Small advances by the British in the Roclincourt district were repulsed. [In this section the British and Berlin war offices announced yesterday that the Germans had captured first line trenches on a front of 1,500 yards.]

In the Meuse district (Verdun front) the fighting was especially heavy on account of the enemy's counter attacks. To the west of the river the Germans captured a French blockhouse south of Canard forest. Hostile attacks east of Hill 304 and on the southern slope of Le Mort Homme resulted in failure.

East of the Meuse there were violent infantry engagements on the front south of Thiaumont farm, as far as the Caillette wood. The French, after a strong artillery preparation, entered the foremost German position, but were repulsed on the flanks of the sector by German counter attacks. South of the village and south of the former fort of Douaumont the engagement is not yet finished. Fort Douaumont remained firmly in German hands.

Northwest of Fort Vaux we recaptured a sap which had been occupied temporarily by the enemy.

The first and second lines of the French on Combres Height were destroyed by our mines over a considerable distance.

On the heights of the Meuse, southeast of Verdun, near Vaux-les-Palameux and Senoey, the enemy's attacks for the most part broke down before our curtain of fire. Small detachments which entered our trenches were annihilated.

An enemy aeroplane was shot down southwest of Vailly.

VIMY ATTACK RENEWED.

British Report Heavy Bombardment by Both Sides.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 23.—The following report from British headquarters in France was issued to-night by the official press bureau:

Hostile aircraft were active on portions of our front yesterday. Fourteen enemy aeroplanes were engaged. One was brought down inside the enemy's lines in a damaged condition.

Last night and to-day there were heavy bombardments by both sides about the Vimy ridge, where the situation is unchanged.

To-day the hostile artillery was very active against our trenches between Hooge and the Ypres-Roulers railway. There was shelling about Mametz, Hebuterne, Monchy-au-Bois, Neuville-St. Vaast and Grenay.

There was some mining activity about Mametz, Fricourt, the Hohenzollern redoubt, Cuinchy and east of Laventie.

BELGIAN GUNS ACTIVE.

Artillery Duels Waged Near Dixmude and Ramscapelle.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAVRE, via Paris, May 23.—The official communiqué issued by the Belgian War Office to-night follows:

There was a violent artillery duel east of Ramscapelle, in the region of Dixmude, in reply to a bombardment of our positions by German trench mortars, we executed a destructive fire on the enemy works and batteries.

TURKS RETIRE ON TIGRIS.

Troops Withdrawn Owing to Capture of Kut-el-Amara.

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, May 22.—As a result of the capture of Kut-el-Amara the Turkish plan of campaign in Mesopotamia has been changed. Troops have been withdrawn on the right bank of the Tigris.

The Turkish War Office to-day issued the following statement:

On the Mesopotamian front in view of the favorable new situation resulting from the capture of Kut-el-Amara a change of our defensive plans became necessary. Three days ago we withdrew our troops a little on the right bank of the Tigris. The enemy did not realize this until two days later. We established the fact that the enemy advanced against our positions on the right bank of the Tigris with only a portion of his cavalry, with the sole purpose of reconnoitring.

On the Caucasian front on Sunday the situation on the right wing was quiet. There was some local infantry fighting in the centre.

On the night of May 19-20 the enemy undertook two surprise attacks on our outposts on the left wing. These attacks were repulsed.

RUSSIANS OCCUPY SERDESHT.

Turks Also Dislodged on Northern Slope of the Taurus.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PETROGRAD, via London, May 23.—The Russian War Office issued the following statement to-night:

On the western theatre we exploded a mine south of Krevo and occupied the edge of the crater. In the region of Kubockavolia we drove the Germans across the Voseluhu tributary. On the Pripet we smashed up the enemy's trenches.

In the Caucasus south of Trebizond we repeatedly repulsed the Turks. In the direction of Gumushkhan we dislodged the Turks from their position on the northern slope of the Taurus.

In Persia we occupied Serdesht.

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