

BRITAIN RELEASES WAR TIME SEIZURES

Will Return to American Owners Goods Seized During the Blockade.

Compensation Will Be Granted for Perishable Shipments Which Were Taken.

Special Dispatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Release of American owned goods seized by Great Britain during the war is now assured, according to an announcement made today by the State Department.

The American Embassy in London has been notified by the British Foreign Office that the British Government was prepared to release the goods upon establishment of American ownership at the time the goods were shipped.

The release is to be granted upon such terms as the prize court may determine as just and equitable to be accepted by the claimants in final settlement of all claims.

The note to the American Embassy refers to goods detained under the Order in Council dated March 11, 1915, issued by the British authorities as a retaliatory measure on account of the German submarine warfare.

It also stated that where Americans whose goods should be detained by the British authorities had deposited the value of their goods with the British prize court to effect the release of the property for use in the manufacture of war materials the British should take steps to pay over the invoice value of the goods released.

The goods affected include those taken from neutral ships during enforcement of the so-called British blockade, in connection with which Viscount Grey, as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, addressed a note dated March 15, 1915.

American claimants must submit directly to the British Procurator-General in London documentary proof of their ownership at the time the goods were shipped.

It is understood that these documents should include an affidavit executed by the claimant setting forth the contract for the purchase of the goods, insurance policy, if any, in respect to them, together with checks or drafts establishing the fact that the property was paid for at the time of shipment.

Claimants for proceeds of goods which already have been sold or their invoice values deposited with the British authorities will be dealt with in the same manner as the case of goods held upon submission of similar documents.

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BRITISH IMPORT BAN NULLIFIED BY COURT

King's Bench Holds Illegal Shutting Out of Goods by Order in Council.

Decision May Have Complicating Effect Upon American Trade Relations.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The British Government was declared by Justice Sir John Sankey of the King's Bench Division today to possess no power to prohibit the importations of certain goods, and that therefore its proclamation to this effect was invalid and illegal.

The judgment is considered one of the most important ever rendered against the Government.

The case in which the decision was given concerned the importation of pyrogallic acid from the United States, the acid having been seized on its arrival.

The proclamation referred to was issued this year under a section of the Customs Consolidation Act of 1876, providing that "the importation of arms, ammunition, gunpowder or any other goods may be prohibited by proclamation or order in Council."

Judge Sankey held that the words "any other goods" meant "similar" goods. Leave to appeal was granted by the court.

The decision was one of such far-reaching importance and significance that the Attorney-General immediately made his application for leave to appeal, and should the decision be sustained by the higher courts it must have an important influence on the Government's whole action and policy in dealing with foreign trade.

Most of the Government's prohibitions and restrictions on imports during the war, when challenged by the Liberal and free trading interests in the Parliament and the country, have been justified by the Government as legalized by the act of 1876.

Those who opposed the Government's order were emphatic that the act was applicable only to armaments, munitions and their constituents, and that the Government was acting illegally in imposing such prohibitions without the consent of Parliament, on goods of other kinds.

The Attorney-General, in defending the Government's contention before the court, presented to-day, among other arguments, that pyrogallic acid was employed in photography, and that photography was used in war.

Judge Sankey replied that such an argument, if admitted, would extend to bread and butter to feed the soldiers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—While the effect of the decision invalidating the restriction placed on imports by the British Government may not be very great so far as the amount of the business affected is concerned, British trade experts here said that because of the contractual relations of American and British firms serious complications might follow.

The restrictions were imposed originally by the British Government with the object of stopping the rapid increase in the balance of trade against Britain.

In the beginning the list of restrictions was large, but it has been reduced appreciably in recent months.

One result of the original prohibition, it was pointed out, was automatically to cancel large contracts placed by British firms for American goods.

An appeal from to-day's decision may be taken to a higher court if it was said.

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WORLD DECLINES TO RELINQUISH OLD JOB

Coldest Day of Year.

At that Prof. Porta succeeded in making yesterday the coldest of the year. The sun might have been completely blanketed by spots for all the heat it gave to New York when the world awoke and found that a new day had indeed dawned.

The prophet could hardly be credited with the first snowfall, however, as it began long before midnight.

Searchers for Prof. Porta—Prof. Albert F. Porta—whose name has gone whistling to the ends of the earth, were inclined until yesterday afternoon to suspect he was the grand vizier of the Ahkood of Swat.

Philadelphia papers had spoken of him as "the eminent New York astronomer." New York heard that he was a resident of Ann Arbor, Mich., and even a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan.

The University, it developed, knew him not, but it was "understood" he used to be a professor in the University of Turin, Italy, and was now said to be an amateur astronomer at present living just outside Los Angeles.

Los Angeles went hunting for him in vain. He probably reported to-day the prognostications were greatly exaggerated. The rotation of the sun, preventing the formation of any sun spot, Prof. Porta said. It was this sun spot that he feared.

"Heavy electro-magnetic energies produced by the tension of the planets on the sun would produce a huge sun spot which would in turn cause a cataclysm, but which event is prevented by the sun's rotation," Prof. Porta said. "Those who garbled my original predictions are responsible for the widespread fear that the end of the world is coming. I am well satisfied to let the turn of events prove my contention that serious storms, earthquakes and other disturbances may be averted."

"And anyway," added the San Francisco meteorologist, "there is going to be a serious storm on the Pacific coast."

Harold R. Jacoby, professor of astronomy at Columbia University, said last night at the Columbia observatory that not even a display of the aurora borealis had thus far accompanied the "lining up" of all planets with the sun.

"I did not expect any special display," he added, "but as one explanation of the aurora is that it is caused by an electro-magnetic discharge, I thought it just possible this planetary arrangement might produce something. It has not, however, perhaps observers farther to the north may have something to report. There is nothing unusual in the way of sun spots, so far as I know. The prophecy that the world would come to an end was of course too ridiculous for words."

FIGHTS TO KEEP RICH HUSBAND

Brothers Want Weltman Freed From Wife to Aid His Health.

Retired Cloakmaker, Worth Half Million, Wonders What Contest Is About.

Samuel Weltman, 47 years old, is illiterate, speaks English poorly and prefers to converse in Yiddish. Despite these handicaps he has in thirty years amassed a fortune of \$500,000.

Two years ago, however, he suffered a stroke of apoplexy. Yesterday, somewhat bewildered, he sat in court before Justice Scudder, an object of contention, with his wife Amelia on one side and his six brothers on the other.

Weltman became paralyzed as a result of the stroke and for a time could not talk. He is now convalescent, but still finds it difficult to speak.

His brothers contend that his wife has restrained Weltman's liberty and they have sued out a writ of habeas corpus for custody of him.

Weltman came from Europe, made his money in the cloak and suit business and is now retired. In September last a family doctor advised that he go to his farm at Ellenville, in Ulster county. The farm is run by one of his brothers, Nissen Weltman, who is 70. Mrs. Weltman

claims that when she journeyed to the farm she was unable to see her husband. On December 1, she added, her husband was brought to Brooklyn without her knowledge, to the home of one of his brothers at 693 Greene avenue. Last Thursday he was out walking with a nurse when his wife and her sister, Mrs. Sarah Werbelovaky, chanced by in an automobile. Weltman, so it is said, waved to attract them and then kissed his wife.

The other side, however, insists that Weltman was "kidnapped" at the time by his wife and her sister, that Mrs. Weltman "look him from his nurse, to whom he was clinging, pale and frightened," and brought him to the home of her sister, at 630 Kosciuszko street. Oscar and Abraham Weltman sued out the writ, but their brothers are also interested. They contend that their brother's domestic life has not been conducive to health or his peace of mind and that he should be taken to an institution where he can have quiet and rest.

Mrs. Weltman charges the brothers are seeking to keep her husband from her. Meier Steinbrink, who appears for Mrs. Weltman, attached significance to the fact that Weltman upon leaving the stand halted, looked uncertainly about, passed a brother and sat down near his wife.

Justice Scudder will decide whether or not the sick manufacturer, who sits and wonders what it is all about, is capable of determining where he will live and if not what disposition should be made of his case.

He has two children, one, Jasper, a student at the University of Pennsylvania. Louis J. Altkrug appears for the brothers. The hearing will be continued Saturday.

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WHY NOT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ?

LET CHRISTMAS-TIME BE MUSIC-TIME

Autocarps..... \$5 to \$20 Aeolian Harps..... \$5 to \$10 Banjos..... \$5 to \$10 Banjo Mandolins..... \$15 to \$36 Banjos, Tenor..... \$25 to \$80 Banjo Ukuleles..... \$6 to \$18 Bugles..... \$1 to \$12 Cornets..... \$25 to \$30 Clarinets..... \$25 to \$100 Castanets..... \$1 to \$5 Drums..... \$5 to \$90 Fifes..... \$1 to \$12 Flageolets..... \$1 to \$5 Guitars..... \$12 to \$175 Harps..... \$75 to \$3,000 Harmonicas..... \$1 to \$3 Mandolins..... \$5 to \$150 Music Rolls..... \$1 to \$5 Music Satchels..... \$2 to \$18 Organs..... \$5 to \$65 Piccolos..... \$15 to \$65 Practice Keyboards..... \$20 to \$40 Saxophones..... \$75 to \$110 Taropatches..... \$15 to \$35 Ukuleles..... \$5 to \$25 Violins..... \$5 to \$750 Welcome Harps..... \$15 to \$30 Xylophones..... \$3 to \$250

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Natural Mink Dolmans. Formerly \$2,450 Now \$2,000

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Hudson Seal Coat, with large collar, cuffs and inverted border of Skunk. Formerly \$875 Now \$795

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Natural Muskrat Coat, with large collar, cuffs and border of Nutria. Formerly \$465 Now \$395

Handsome Beaver Coats. Formerly \$800 Now \$695

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Hudson Seal Coats, 45 inches long, Formerly \$475 Now \$395

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Broadway Saks & Company at 34th St.

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See Mary Play

It is a very fascinating game. She is putting three shiny wooden sticks into a box that is marked "3".

"Simple," no doubt you are saying. But remember, Mary is a very little girl and already she has learned the concrete meaning of "3".

Pretty soon she will know the COUNTING BOXES up through "9".

Mary began this wonderful play when she was very young.

She loved to play with the DRESSING FRAMES. She would button and unbutton those gay bits of cretonne—and then she would find one that laced up—just like big sister's shoes!

Mary looked to fasten hoods and eyes and to button her shoes,—in fact, she learned to use her fingers in just lots of useful ways.

Do you know the meaning of this play? The games are called MONTESSORI MATERIALS and they are designed to co-ordinate the development of a child's mind and body.

There are sixty different games and we have them all. Here are some of the names and prices:

THE CYLINDERS, \$2.39 set

DRESSING FRAMES, 90c each

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This store is the sole retail distributor of Montessori materials in Greater New York.

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Second Floor, 34th St.

GENUINE DIAMONDS 3/4 Carat \$73 SPECIAL 2-DAY SALE

Police Department Orders. The following changes in assignments are ordered: BICYCLE PATROLMAN. To take effect 8 A. M. December 17, 1919: John J. French, 129th Prec., assignment to bicycle duty discontinued.

NEW MOIRE BAGS, \$5.00 to \$100.00. IT is a new departure for Ovington's to show hand bags—a departure justified only by the bags themselves and their prices.

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