Evacuation of Bukowina by Russian Forces Is Reported

for doing otherwise, the ship be permitted at once to proceed with her cargo to her destination.

From the German point of view, the Wilhelmina constitutes a test case, on which revolves the entire question of feeding Germany.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES SITUATION

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, discussed the situation with State Department officials. On all sides, it is admitted here that the developments of the last few days present a most serious situation for American commerce.

That the next step by the United States may be a pronounced statement to Great Britain on the subject of conditional contraband was indicated at the State Department to-day. The American government in its first note argued strongly for unrestricted shipment of conditional contraband destined to noncombatants. The British preliminary reply did not oppose this view, but said an unconditional acceptance could not be given on account of Germany's alleged inhuman practices.

Following is the text of the German ambassador's note:

"According to absolutely reliable information, British merchant ships intend to offer armed resistance to German men-of-war in the area declared as war zones by the German admiralty.

"Some of these ships already were armed with British naval guns. Now all the others are speedily being equipped in a similar way. Merchant ships have been instructed to sail in groups, and to ram German submarines while the examination is proceeding or should the submarines lay alongside to throw bombs upon them, or else to attempt to overpower the examining party coming on board.

PREMIUM FOR DESTRUCTION OF FIRST SUBMARINE

"A very high premium has been offered for the destruction of the first German submarine by a British merchant vessel. Therefore, British merchant ships cannot any more be considered as undefended, so that they may be attacked by German war vessels, without warning or search. The British admitted that instructions have been given to misuse neutral flags. It is almost certain that British merchant vessels by all means will try to conceal their identity. Thereby, it also has become almost impossible to ascertain the identity of neutral ships, unless they sail in daylight under convoy, as all measures suggested by neutrals, for instance, painting of the ships in the national colors, may be promptly imitated by British ships.

"The attacks to be expected by masked British merchant vessels make a search impossible, as the examining party and the submarines themselves would thereby be exposed to destruction.

"Under these circumstances, the safety of neutral shipping in the war zone around the British Isles is seriously threatened. There also is an increased danger resulting from mines, as these will be laid in the war zone to a great extent. Accordingly, neutral ships are most urgently warned against entering that area, while the course around Scotland will be safe.

"Germany has been compelled to resort to this kind of warfare by the murderous ways of British naval warfare, which aims at the destruction of legitimate neutral trade and at starvation of the German people. Germany will be obliged to adhere to these announced principles till England submits to the recognized rules of warfare, established by the Declarations of Paris and London, or till she is compelled to do so by the neutral powers."

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS BLAME GREAT BRITAIN

BERLIN (via London), February 15.—Berlin newspapers, commenting to-day on the recent diplomatic exchanges between the United States and Great Britain and Germany, generally characterize the American note to Great Britain as too mild compared with that to Germany. They make use of the note to Great Britain, however, to support their contention that Great Britain is to blame for the situation. The Kreuz Zeitung says:

"The American note properly takes the British government to task for the contemptuous misuse of the American flag, a course which menaces the safety of neutral shipping. Therefore it is more difficult to understand what the American government wants of us. The German people will not be able to forget either the questions addressed to us or the form of their asking.

"Our position has not changed in the slightest degree since February 4. The United States has two ways to protect herself from harm. The first is to stop Great Britain's misuse of the American flag, and the second is to keep her ships and people and contraband of war out of the war zone. If she adopts this method she will not only avoid harm but bring a quick end to the war."

The Lokal Anzeiger says:

"It is evident the United States is pressing the matter with the same forcibleness in London as in Berlin. The British have now been told fairly and squarely that the entire responsibility is upon them if American lives or property are sacrificed through misuse of the flag. There is no difference in the tone of the two notes."

NOTE TO GREAT BRITAIN NOTABLY DIFFERENT

The Morgen Post has a different opinion, and calls the American note to Great Britain notably different from the German "in its soft and flute-like tone."

The Tages Zeitung says the United States in its note to Great Britain with "helpful care" leaves England "a convenient door of escape." This paper says it does not understand why neutral powers will not see they are sawing off the branch on which they sit when they do not vigorously protest at this disgrace of neutrality, which foreshadows their destruction.

"Why do not the neutrals, with the United States at the head," continues the Tages Zeitung, "demand of all the warring parties that they follow the London Declaration in all its particulars? In that event the British North Sea blockade would become inoperative; the contraband question would be controlled internationally, and the course of action Germany intends to pursue after February 18 would no longer be necessary.

"The United States should take this step for the reason that the expressed purpose of the Declaration of London is the protection of the rights of neutrals."

AMERICA'S THREAT SIMPLY RIDICULOUS

AMSTERDAM, February 15 (via London).—The Montag Zeitung, of Berlin, according to news dispatches, has published an article referring to the stand of the United States, and asking what harm America can do to Germany.

"She has no army," this paper says, "and her fleet would not dare approach nearer our shores than does the British. Expulsion of Germans from America would mean her ruin. America's threats are simply ridiculous, and it is more than ridiculous for us to take them in earnest.

This paper says it is Emperor William's intention to be at Cuxhaven, on the North Sea, on the 18th of February.

NEW REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING WILHELMINA

WASHINGTON, February 15.—Evidence submitted by the steamer Wilhelmina's owners to prove the vessel carries foodstuffs for noncombatants, and is not subject to seizure, was forwarded by the State Department today to Ambassador Page for presentation to the London Foreign Office. Mr. Page was instructed to suggest that unless Great Britain has sufficient grounds not yet advanced for doing otherwise, the ship at once be permitted to proceed with her cargo to her destination.

The proposal of the German ambassador that submarine attacks upon British merchantmen would be abandoned if Great Britain ceased interfering with food supplies for German civilians also was transmitteld to Ambassador Page for submission to the Foreign Office.

WHAT WARRING NATIONS CLAIM IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

French

PARIS, February 15.—The War Office this afternoon gave out this official communication:

"In Belgium yesterday the German bombardment of our trenches was uninterrupted. From the Great Dune, our heavy artillery inflicted damage on the mortars of the enemy. We occupied for a distance of about 250 yards a German trench along the roadway from Bethune to La Bassee.

"Yesterday saw very spirited artillery exchanges in the vicinity of Lens, around Albert, between the Avre and the Oise, in the suburbs of Soissons and at Verneuil, to the northeast of Vailly.

"In the Argonne, in the direction of Bagatelle and Marie Therese, the fighting still continues with energy from trench to trench, but there have been no movements of infantry.

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse an attempt at attack by the German forces at a point between the village of Malancourt and the forest of the same name, was promptly repulsed.

"In Lorraine the enemy, after having driven back our advance guard, succeeded in occupying Signal Hill and the village of Norroy. A counterattack on our part drove the Germans back as far as the northern declivity of Signal Hill, where they are still holding their positions in some trenches.

"In the Vosges the German offensive movement, which began along the two banks of the River Lauch, was not pursued yesterday on the south bank. The enemy only bombarded our positions on the north bank of this stream. The Germans are being held in check by us in front of our advanced line at Langenfelikopf, in the forest of Rempach. French troops on skis have executed a very brilliant counterattack against the German positions on the sides of the mountain at this point. Yesterday afternoon a very heavy snowstorm blew over this locality."

The following official communication was issued by the War Office to-night:

"Only a few actions are reported, and these favorable to our artillery. Near Poelcaphelle, northeast of Ypres, one of the batteries of the enemy was silenced. At Beaurains, south of Arras, several German trenches have been destroyed.

"In the neighborhood of Soissons and in the region of Perthes some earthworks of the enemy and collections of troops have been efficaciously cannonading."

German

BERLIN, February 15 (by wireless).—The War Office issued this statement to-day:

"South of Ypres, near St. Eloy, the Germans took about 900 metres of the enemies' positions. Counterattacks were without success.

"Equally unsuccessful was the enemy's attack in the district southwest of La Bassee. Several dozen of prisoners were taken by the Germans.

"An advanced trench which the Germans lost on February 2, near Sudelkopf, was taken back.

"The Germans drove the enemy out of Senzern, in the Lauch Valley (Alsace). Repach was evacuated by the enemy.

"North of Tilsit (East Prussia) the enemy was driven out of Piktupoenen, and pushed in the direction of Tauroggen. On both sides of the frontier, in the eastern lake district, engagements are in progress with the retreating enemy. German troops are advancing rapidly everywhere.

"German detachments marched in the Kolno district against the enemy, advancing beyond Lomza.

"In the Vistula district the Germans gained further ground and occupied Racionz.

"In previous engagements, besides a number of prisoners, six guns were taken.

"In Poland, on the left of the Vistula, there were no important changes."

Austrian

VIENNA, February 15 (via London, 10:35 P. M.).—The following official communication was issued to-night:

"In Russian Poland and West Galicia no noteworthy incident has occurred.

"The battles in the Carpathians are proceeding.

"In Southeast Galicia we advanced to Nadworna (sixty-seven miles northeast of Czernowitz), and forced the enemy back in the direction of Stanislau (fifty-eight miles southwest of Tarnopol).

"In the southern war theatre only unimportant frontier fighting has occurred."

Russian

PETROGRAD, February 15.—The following communication from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief was made public to-night:

"On the front of the Niemen and Vistula Rivers some encounters took place on February 13, at about the same places as on the day before. On the left bank of the Vistula the customary cannonading occurred.

"In the Carpathians we repulsed stubborn attacks by the Austrians at Svidnik. We make some progress on the left bank of the upper San, and captured more than 1,000 prisoners, five machine guns and a gun.

"Germans who attacked the heights near Myto Koziourka, between the Beskid and Wyszkow Passes, were repulsed. They suffered heavy losses. Our troops, starting a counterattack from Dukla and Wyszkow, dislodged the Germans from the heights fortified by them.

"Strong Austrian forces are advancing along the roads leading to Nadworna and to Bukowina."

ASSUME DEFENSIVE ON OWN TERRITORY

(Continued From First Page.)

of London as the best guarantees for safety of American shipping. At the same time, the Germans argue that submarines cannot be expected to search hostile merchantmen before destroying them.

The English press insists on regarding the note to Germany as a virtual ultimatum. It does not attempt to forecast Great Britain's reply to the Washington communication regarding use of the American flag, but it does declare Great Britain cannot forego her claim to the right to use a neutral flag in case of necessity.

An indication that England regards the German threat as something more than a bluff is found in the fact that liners to-day are coming into British ports with their lifeboats slung out and watered and provisioned.

No disposition yet has been made of the cargo of the American steamer Wilhelmina, which now seems to be under voluntary joint guardianship of the British Foreign Office and the American ambassador.

Unusually heavy artillery duels, according to reports from both sides, are proceeding in Belgium, but definite news of results is lacking.

In East Prussia the Germans still are advancing except at Lyck, where the Russians are making a stand. Both sides claim successes in the Carpathians. Vienna reports that the Austrians still are advancing in Bukowina. In the centre of the long eastern battle front, quiet apparently prevails with no change in the relative positions.

GREEK MINISTER LEAVES CONSTANTINOPLE

LONDON, February 15 (5:45 P. M.).—A Reuter's dispatch from Athens says:

"Difficulties having arisen in regard to fulfilment of the Porte's promise of satisfaction to Greece for the insult to the naval attache of the Greek legation at Constantinople, Mr. Panis, the Greek minister, felt compelled to leave Constantinople yesterday, leaving the secretary of the legation in charge of the affairs of Greece."

DEFENSIVE CAMPAIGN ON RUSSIAN TERRITORY

PETROGRAD, February 15 (via London).—The forced Russian retirement from East Prussia is expected to result in a reversion to the original plan of conducting a defensive campaign on Russian territory. It is pointed out that Germany, in that case, would be deprived of transportation facilities, which she has used with great effectiveness within her own borders.

When an offensive was undertaken early in the war, Germany was forced to withdraw many troops from the west. That is believed to have contributed largely to the German reverse in the battle of the Marne. Russian officers say, therefore, the object of their offensive campaign has been achieved.

In the southwest the Russians are holding the Carpathian Passes of Wiskow and Nadworna against the German assaults, and, according to reports here, are daily capturing German and Austrian prisoners and guns. Another battle, in which bayonet attacks were made by the Russians, is reported from Smolnika. The Russians surrounded an Austrian position and took prisoner ten officers and 405 men. Battles have occurred also at Kurimka, near Dukla, and Baligrod.

WOMEN WOULD VOTE

An appeal for woman suffrage in Virginia was sounded last night by Mrs. B. B. Valentine, president of the Equal Suffrage League in Virginia, in a speech on "Equal Suffrage," delivered at a meeting of the Richmond Socialist Local, held in the rooms at Seventh and Broad Streets.

When the speaker had finished, she replied to numerous questions from her hearers as to the probable result of allowing woman to vote in this State, and regarding the situation in States where women are now voting. The speaker was questioned regarding the attitude of woman toward the problems presented in conflicts between labor and capital. In response Mrs. Valentine replied that women, as well as men, are divided on political issues, and it would be unfair to state just how a majority of women in Virginia would vote on that particular question if they had the ballot.

"Isn't it true, Mrs. Valentine," asked one of the listeners, "that 51 per cent of the women who are demanding the right to vote are doing so just to be in style—just because of social reasons, and because the movement is popular?"

"I should say not," Mrs. Valentine replied. "It is true that a great many women join the movement for such reasons, but the majority of them are sincere in demanding their rights."

Women prominent in the cause of equal suffrage are busy securing signatures to a petition, which will be presented to the General Assembly asking that Virginia women be given the ballot. Several signers to the petition were secured at the meeting last night.

JUDGE DAYTON PAINTED AS LABOR UNION ENEMY

His Alleged Prejudices Gone Into by Witnesses Before Congressional Subcommittee.

JUDICIAL CONDUCT AFFECTED

Officials and Members of Mine Workers Who Figured in West Virginia Strike, and Contempt Cases Growing Out of It, Testify.

WHEELING, W. VA., February 15.—Federal Judge Alston G. Dayton's alleged prejudice against labor unions, was gone into to-day by witnesses before the congressional subcommittee investigating charges against the jurist. His alleged connection with the Federal Carbon Company also was mentioned.

Officials and members of the United Mine Workers of America, who figured in the strike at Colliers, W. Va., and the contempt cases growing out of it, said that in their opinion Judge Dayton was prejudiced against labor unions, and that his prejudice influenced his judicial conduct.

Fannie Sellins, of St. Louis, testified to her arrest on a contempt charge. She was sentenced to six months in the Fairmount jail.

Max Schaefer, reporter for a Wheeling labor paper, told the committee he thought the contempt trials were "farces." He declared Judge Dayton once threatened to remove A. M. Belcher as attorney for miners, and appoint another counsel in his place. Belcher told the committee the statement was true.

Sheriff A. T. Sweeney, of Ohio County, secretary of the Acme Carbon Company from 1905 to 1910 testified that Judge Dayton owned 200 shares in it.

SPEAKS DEROGATORY OF MINE WORKERS

Direct testimony that Judge Dayton, of the Northern District of West Virginia, had spoken derogatory of the United Mine Workers of America, was presented here to-day to the congressional committee investigating charges against Judge Dayton. The committee came from Parkersburg, where testimony was taken last week.

James Oates, a United Mine Workers' organizer, testified he had heard Judge Dayton make the statement that the United Mine Workers as an association was a criminal conspiracy, and its officers ought to be in jail. Oates said Joe Hoblott, a foreign miner, unable to speak English had been arrasted at Colliers, and the next day "railroaded to jail for six months, on a charge of contempt of Judge Dayton's court." The prisoner, Oates said, had been denied an attorney and an interpreter.

Oates declared that while the Colliers' contempt cases were being tried he heard Judge Dayton say:

"If I had John P. White here I would give him twelve months in jail." White, president of the United Mine Workers, was at that time, said Oates, charged with contempt, but had not been arrested.

Deputy United States marshals, Oates said, had torn down tents occupied by the striking miners on order of Judge Dayton's court.

FREQUENTLY SHOWS ANGER AND PREJUDICE

Oates further declared miners cited for contempt were compelled to go to Philippi, W. Va., at their own expense before they finally were sentenced by Judge Dayton. Judge Dayton, he said, had shown anger and prejudice during the proceedings, and frequently had said he would not permit the United Mine Workers to exist within his jurisdiction.

Van Bittner, president of District No. 5, United Mine Workers, testified that during the contempt hearings no miners except the one on trial were allowed in the court room. He said Judge Dayton had rebuked the mine workers' officials for wearing good clothes and living at the expense of the miners. He said he had been sentenced by Judge Dayton to serve sixty days, "as a matter of general principle," and that Judge Dayton had accused him of being an agent of the Ohio and Pennsylvania coal operators who were trying to destroy the coal industry of West Virginia. He testified that court records in the mine cases did not show Judge Dayton's remarks, he having, ordered them stricken out.

Judge Dayton, Bittner continued displayed violent emotion during the colliers contempt cases, and would strike the bench with his first and throw books around.

Frank Ledvinka, another organizer, gave testimony along the lines followed by Bittner.

ALLIES HAVE ONLY THIRD OF STRENGTH IN FIELD

(Continued From First Page.)

Lloyd George told the House of Commons this afternoon that the expenditures of the allies on the war would be £2,000,000,000 ($10,000,000,000) during the current year, of which Great Britain was spending more money than were her two allies.

The present war, Lloyd George said, was the most expensive in material, men and money that had ever been waged.

Great Britain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, could finance the war for five years out of the proceeds of her investments abroad. France was able to do so for about two or three years with something to spare. Russia, he said, although prodigiously rich in natural resources, was in a different position.

Lloyd George said that it was decided at the conference of the Finance Ministers in Paris not to issue a joint loan.

DIFFICULTY IN FINANCING PURCHASES ABROAD

The chancellor said Russia had increased her productivity from 30 to 40 per cent by suppressing sale of vodka. She had had difficulties in financing her purchases abroad, and the same thing had applied to France.

"I am not sure we realize the strain upon this gallant country," the Chancellor of the Exchequer continued. "She has a larger proportion of her men in the field, and the enemy is in occupation of the richest part of her territory. Nevertheless, the confidence of the French nation strikes every visitor to Paris. There is to be seen a calm and sincere courage, supposed to be incompatible with the temperament of the Celt, and one hears the general assurance that the German army has as much chance of crushing France as of overrunning Mars."

Each ally must bring its resources into the common stock, Lloyd George continued. The conference dismissed the idea of a joint international loan, which would have frightened every bourse, he added, and decided that each country should raise the money it needed within its own territories, so far as conditions allowed; but if help were needed for purchases abroad, those who had means would help to the best of their power. The only joint loan would be with respect to advances made or to be made to the smaller of the allied states.

With regard to Russian purchases, the chancellor said it had been decided that the first $250,000,000 for that purpose should be raised in equal amounts on the Paris and London markets.

FURTHER ACTION TO STOP FOOD REACHING GERMANY

Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, in a statement to the House of Commons to-day intimated that further action would be taken by the allies to prevent the importation of foodstuffs in neutral ships to Germany.

"The task before us is both anxious and grave," said Mr. Churchill. "We now are to be the object of warfare never before practiced by a civilized power. So far, we have not attempted to stop the importation of food. We have not prevented neutral ships from trading directly with German ports. We have allowed German exports in neutral ships to pass unchallenged. But the time is near when the enjoyment of these immunities by a state which, in a matter of deliberate policy, has placed herself outside of international obligations, must be reconsidered. A further declaration on the part of the allied governments will be made which will have the effect of applying for the first time the full force of naval pressure on the enemy.

"It must not be supposed that because the attack is extraordinarily good a reply cannot be made. Losses no doubt will be incurred, but I believe no vital injury can be done. If merchant skippers act in the spirit of the captain of the Laertes and observe certain precautions, losses will be confined within manageable limits, even at the outset, when the enemy naturally will make his maximum efforts. Our reply will perhaps be not ineffective.

"Germany cannot be allowed to adopt a system of open piracy and murder. There is good reason for believing that the economic pressure of the navy is beginning to be felt in Germany."

During the last three months, he said, there had been 3,600 sailings and 4,465 arrivals at ports of the United Kingdom. Only nineteen of these vessels had been sunk by Germany, and of those only four were destroyed by above-the-water craft. The navy had chartered one-fifth of the British mercantile marine for the purpose of supplying food, fuel and ammunition to the fleet and the troops in the field.

Mr. Churchill gave an interesting review of the naval situation. He said efficiency was the keynote of the admiralty's program, and that at the outbreak of war the supplies of ammunition, men and oil were complete. Every ship in the navy fit for service, as well as new ships being built for foreign governments, and armed merchantmen, had been fully manned.

RIGHT TO BE CONTENT WITH RESULTS OF LABORS

"In fact, the German army was no more fit for an attempted war on a gigantic scale than was the British fleet for national defense," he said. "After six months of war, with new dangers and difficulties coming into view, we have every right to be content with the results of our labors in making provision for the navy.

"Only two small cruisers and two armed merchantmen remain of all the German preparations to attack our trade routes.

During the six months of the war, Mr. Churchill said, Great Britain's total losses at sea, including all ships except trawlers, amounted only to sixty-three.

Referring to Vice-Admiral Jellico's command of the sea "as silent, unsleeping and as yet unchallenged," Mr. Churchill said the admiralty had moved men at home and abroad, including Belgian and French troops and wounded, to the number of 1,000,000 without an accident or the loss of a life.

Mr. Churchill said the recent action in the North Sea had shown that "the Navy is sound as a bell all through."

The new fifteen-inch gun of the navy, he said, was equal in quality to the 13.5-inch gun, and vastly more powerful and destructive.

Mr. Churchill placed the navy's losses during the war at 5,500 officers and men, most of whom were killed by submarines. The Germans, he said, had lost a like number, chiefly by gun fire. The British had taken prisoners eighty-three German naval officers and 954 men. There were no British naval prisoners of war.

WANTS NO COURT MARTIAL FOR EACH SHIP LOST

Referring to the suggestion which has been made that a court martial be held whenever a ship was lost, Mr. Churchill declined to adopt such a course. He said the theories of naval warfare had been changed completely, and he felt the suggested court martials might cause commanders to play for safety and avoid the responsibility of positive actions. In view of existing conditions, he thought the British losses had been comparatively few.

A. Bonar Law, opposition leader, who followed Mr. Churchill, spoke of the "inevitable irritation" to the neutral powers in connection with their shipping. He thought the strictest regard should be paid to the interests and susceptibilities of neutrals and he said their rights must be respected.

Bernstorff Reported Summoned to Berlin

LONDON, February 15 (11:15 P. M.).—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company gives the rumor from Berlin that Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador to the United States has been summoned to Berlin.

Countess von Bernstorff, it is added, had engaged passage by a steamer which sailed Saturday to join her husband at Washington, but she canceled the booking a few hours before the steamer's departure.

DENIAL BY GERMAN EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON, February 15.—The German embassy to-night authorized a denial of the report that the ambassador had been summoned to Berlin, or was contemplating leaving the United States for any purpose. It was said that Countess von Bernstorff had made no plans for a visit to America in the near future.

DUTCH PROTEST SIMILAR TO THAT OF UNITED STATES

The Netherlands Presents Notes at Same Moment to Germany and Great Britain.

SHIPPING IS GREATLY MENACED

Imputation of Partiality to England Is Denied — Kaiser's Government Warned It Will Be Held Responsible for Loss of Any Vessels Sunk.

THE HAGUE (via London), February 15, 11:55 P. M.—The Netherlands has presented notes of protest at the same moment to Germany and Great Britain regarding the acts of these governments in respectively declaring a war zone of the waters around the British Isles, and in using neutral flags.

Diplomats here have been awaiting action of this kind, and their expectations were fulfilled to-night when it was announced that the Dutch minister at Berlin had been instructed to hand the note to the German Foreign Office, the other note being communicated to Great Britain at the same time.

There has been much discussion of dangers to be encountered in the North Sea, and the Dutch shipping is menaced more than that of any other neutral nation, owing to the large number of Dutch vessels passing through the English Channel on the voyage to the Dutch Indies. Dutch shippers are determined not to change their schedules, and the ships will proceed over the usual routes, taking precautions to make their nationality clear.

FULL TEXT OF DUTCH PROTESTS NOT AVAILABLE

The full text of the Dutch protests are not available, but the following are the salient points of the contents of the note communicated to the German Foreign Office:

First. The government of the Netherlands denies the imputation that it has been partial to Great Britain in commercial affairs, in embargo acts or otherwise. The Netherlands has pursued a strictly neutral attitude.

Second. As the Netherlands government protested against the British declarations of the North Sea as a war zone, so it now protests against the German declaration of an enormous stretch of water surrounding the British Isles as a centre of war, which peaceful neutral vessels may not safely enter or cross.

Third. The Netherlands government declares that the possible posting of a neutral flag by an enemy merchantman would not excuse German warships in sinking merchantmen, on suspicion, without arrest or search. Such an act would be in direct contravention of international law.

In case a Dutch ship were thus attacked and sund the Netherlands would hold Germany responsible.

In its note to Great Britain the Netherlands government says that while the use of a neutral flag by a belligerent merchantman to escape an enemy war vessel has been tolerated in individual cases, if it were practiced on a large scale and by the direct sanction of a belligereut government, it would certainly be an abuse of a neutral flag.

"The fact that the merchant shipping act of Great Britain is practical permission for merchant ships of other nations to make such use of the flag in case of imminent danger for the purpose of escape," says the note, "does not justify the use of flags of other nations which have no such law and have given no ship permission.

"The Netherlands calls attention to the grave danger which would be imposed upon all its shipping by general instructions to British merchants to make use of the Dutch flag."

EMPEROR RETURNS FROM POLISH FRONT

PETROGRAD, February 15.—Emperor Nicholas returned today to Tsarskoe-Selo from a ten days' visit to the Polish front, the Carpathian front and Kiev, Sebastopol and Moscow.

$800 FOR MAN'S LIFE

City Circuit Court Jury Assesses Southern for Death of Harry Jones.

A verdict for $800 was awarded in the City Circuit Court yesterday to Joseph Jones, administrator of Harry Jones, against the Southern Railway Company. Harry Jones was killed on June 22, 1914, when a Southern Railway train ran down the wagon which he was driving at the Williamsburg Avenue crossing. In his declaration the administrator, Joseph Jones, charged that the railway company was negligent, in that it failed to lower the gates at the crossing when the train was about to pass.

Attorneys for the Southern Railway Company demurred to the evidence, and the jury's verdict for $800 was rendered subject to the opinion of the court on the demurrer. Argument on the demurrer will be heard by the court on Friday. Jones had sued for $10,000.

Released to Danville Authorities.

W. T. Dickson, who was serving time in the Henrico County Jail, charged with impersonating a Federal officer, was turned over to Danville authorities yesterday, and was taken to Danville, where he is wanted on a charge of passing a worthless note.

FEDERAL BUILDING JANITOR PASSES AWAY

Conrad Bacon, Colored, for Fifty-two Years Bailiff in Courts, Is Dead.

Conrad Bacon, colored, who served for fifty-two years as bailiff in the several Federal courts in Richmond, and as janitor of the Federal building, died on Friday night.

For more than half a century Conrad was a familiar figure in the Federal building. His tall, bent form will be remembered by all who were connected with the various offices there, and by others who had daily business at the postoffice. He was a servitor of the old type, courteous to all and ever willing to exert himself in behalf of his white friends. Conrad served under Chief Justice Fuller, and was the body-servant of Judge R. W. Hughes. After his retirement and at the special request of Judge Hughes, Conrad was retained by Judge Edmund P. Waddill, when the latter ascended the bench, and he remained as a servant of the court until the infirmities of age forced his retirement.

Threw Rocks Through Church Window.

James Armistead was yesterday arrested by Detective-Sergeants Wily and Kellam on a charge of being a fugitive from justice in Keysville. Armistead is alleged to have become angry at a man and to have thrown two rocks at him. Neither of the rocks hit the man, but both crashed through the windows of a Methodist Church, endangering the lives of worshipers. He will be taken back to Keysville for trial.

Whittet's Condition Improving.

The condition of Robert Whittet, chairman of the Administrative Board, who was recently operated upon at Grace Hospital, was reported last night as steadily improving. His physicians reported last night that while recovery will necessarily be slow, he would shortly be able to sit up and to see a few friends, and that a complete recovery was anticipated.

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