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AMERICAN NOTE BRINGS RELIEF TO SHIPPERS OF NEUTRAL CARGOES

Arrangement Between Great Britain, Italy and Holland Removes Practically All Cause for Complaint.

LITTLE INTERFERENCE LIKELY IN FUTURE

Same Agreements May Be Made With Scandinavian Countries Regarding Export of Contraband.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Washington, Jan. 7.—Arrangements between Great Britain, Italy and the Netherlands have been completed whereby commerce to the latter two countries from the United States is expected to undergo a minimum of restriction.

The steps taken by Great Britain and announced in statements from the British embassy and the state department, remedy some of the complaints made by the United States and the plans encouraged administration officials in the hope that commerce with the Scandinavian countries and other neutral nations also would be improved.

Objections Removed.

The statements indicate that so far as Italy and Holland are concerned, the British government now believes the danger of getting contraband articles through those countries to Germany and Austria is practically removed. Should effective measures be agreed upon between the allies and the other neutrals of Europe, American commerce, it is believed by British officials, will not be subject to the delays and interference complained of in the American note.

American Minister Van Dyke at The Hague, Cabled During the Day that the British, French and Russian Ministers had given formal assurances that merchandise, even of a contraband character, would not be permitted on the high seas if consigned to the recently established Netherlands monopoly.

May Ship Naval Stores.

Secretary Bryan received a personal note from Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, stating that inasmuch as the re-exportation of naval stores, known as "naval stores," would probably be prohibited by Italy and Holland, arrangements would soon be completed whereby these products could be shipped without difficulty to those countries from the United States.

The British ambassador also issued the following statement:

"Shipment for Italy in Italian steamers of goods placed on the embargo list of the Italian government and consigned to named persons, are free.

Shipments to Holland, apart from copper, petroleum and grain (except rice and corn), which must be consigned to the Netherlands government, should be consigned to the Netherlands government in order to insure non-interference.

Out of 778 vessels that have proceeded from the United States to Scandinavian countries, Holland and Italy since the beginning of the war, only eight have been put into the courts and one of these has been released, leaving only seven detained for decision of the prize court. By the greater number of those detained for examination, have been already released.

Copper Shipments.

With regard to the purchase of cargoes, the British government has purchased many cargoes of copper and has not yet condemned or confiscated any neutral cargo or consignment, although some are awaiting adjudication.

In connection with the statement, government officials pointed out that while only eight ships have been put into prize courts, cargoes of others had been held up for varying periods of time before being released. It was not only those delays but the consequent moral effect on shippers who hesitated to subject perishable goods to extended examination in British ports.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Jan. 7.—New Mexico: Fair Friday and Saturday.

The Day in Congress

Met at 11 a. m.

Philippine committee continued hearings on the pending bill and decided to refer testimony on the military importance of the islands.

The treasury department order suspending publication of manifests of vessels for thirty days was debated.

Meetings on the mineral land leasing bill were begun before the lands committee.

which brought forth the American note. The fact that only eight cases actually were taken into the prize courts has convinced many officials that the bulk of American commerce was of a legitimate character, and that most of the detention of American ships were without real cause.

Text From Holland.

"The text of a cablegram received by the Netherlands minister from his government was summarized in the following statement by the state department:

"The British and French ministers who were joined orally by the Russian minister, have declared by a note dated December 26, that contraband merchandise which is consigned to the recently established Netherlands monopoly for the receipt of imports, will not be stopped. They also declared that their governments would not stop foodstuffs (not the necessities of life) consigned to merchants, unless the merchants are beyond a doubt mediums for delivery to the government of the adverse belligerents. The minister adds that consignment to the Netherlands with the intent to re-export to other neutral countries, except across enemy territory."

Gives General Summary.

The British ambassador gave Mr. Bryan a general summary of the status of some of the specific questions which had been raised outside of the American note on the general subject of commerce. Mr. Bryan issued the following statement based on the memorandum from the ambassador:

"The question of rubber is believed to be approaching a satisfactory settlement. Progress is being made with the question of naval stores and it is expected that arrangements will be made by which shipments can be made to the Netherlands and Italy and other neutrals without difficulty."

It is understood that a plan for the guarantee by American merchants against re-exportation of rubber to belligerents is being arranged for in London.

Arrangement With Italy.

With respect to shipments of copper, final arrangements have not yet been made, but it was learned today that through the co-operation of the Italian embassy here and the Italian foreign office, consignment of copper will be free from molestation hereafter. Although the Italian government considers that its embargo against the exportation of copper is sufficient guarantee in the matter, it has decided to help American shippers in getting their cargoes across the Atlantic without delay by certifying the consignments before they leave the United States. Under this arrangement, the Italian foreign office makes an investigation of the business of the consigner and the purposes for which he seeks to use the imported copper.

On learning that the copper is strictly for home consumption, the Italian foreign office issues a certificate to that effect to be issued by the Italian embassy in Washington, which is submitted to the British consul at the port where the shipment is being loaded.

Christmas Day

IS CELEBRATED

IN ALL RUSSIA

Observance of Belated Holiday Is Now in Full Blast, Hampered Only by Lack of Vodka and Luxuries.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Petrograd, Jan. 7 (U. P. W. L.).—Russia today is celebrating Christmas. War's shadow has failed to darken the customary Christmas spirit, which is more variously and intensely manifested in the Russian capital than elsewhere in the world.

Christmas celebration is anything but a brief ceremony. Officially lasting three days, it is often prolonged by festivities well beyond new year, which, in the business and social circles, is the time when the stores are closed, while the country is given up to one festive season which breaks the long period of winter.

As in other places in Europe, the war has interfered to some extent with the Christmas customs in Russia, which suffer from the rigid enforcement of the prohibition laws and the difficulty in importing fruits and luxuries. Christmas dinners, oranges and apples were selling on the Russian Christmas eve at 25 cents each.

But if some homes are empty of the material necessities to the Christmas tide, the spiritual and religious side of the Christmas has been given an unusual impulse by the Russian military successes in the Caucasus and the higher community of interests of a nation at war.

On the whole, the holiday season manifested itself in the sharp winter which sent the mercury four below zero; the children gathered around blazing street fires, singing Christmas carols, and the bustling parcel-laden crowds, extending greetings.

All day the streets were lined with people on the way to the principal cathedrals for observance of the religious rites—one traditional feature of the Russian Christmas with which the war has not interfered.

COPENHAGEN GOOD PLACE FOR BUSINESS

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Copenhagen, Jan. 7 (U. P. W. L.).—Many American merchants have been visiting the Danish capital, and the Danish government has been very friendly to them.

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SHIP PURCHASE BILL ATTACKED BY BURTON IN A LENGTHY SPEECH

Ohio Senator Insists Government Ownership and Operation Would Entail Enormous Losses to Treasury.

CARRYING CAPACITY QUITE AMPLE NOW

Trouble With South American Trade Is That Those Countries Are Not Financially Able to Buy at This Time.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Washington, Jan. 7.—Opening the republican fight against the government ship purchase bill, Senator Burton of Ohio, today assailed the measure as a dangerous experiment in government ownership and asserted that it would open the way to the building up of privileged interests.

The Ohio senator talked for several hours after Senator Fletcher, in charge of the measure, had succeeded over persistent opposition in bringing it squarely before the senate for discussion. Later the District of Columbia appropriation bill took the right of way but the debate will be resumed as soon as that measure is out of the way.

Lengthy Discussion.

Senator Burton who emphasized the oft-reiterated determination of the republicans to debate the measure at great length, had not concluded his address when he gave way for the appropriation bill. He challenged advocates of the bill to tell any specific route of trade on which it was proposed to establish a government monopoly. Senator Fletcher replied that the question of routes was one which must be worked out by the shipping board; that it involved a great deal of careful study to determine just what lines of traffic would be most benefited. He declared that the minority report indicates that in the opinion of its signers the United States government was powerless to assist its people in the emergency presented to American commerce by the war. It contended, he said, not for some other plan of relief than that offered by the majority of the committee, but that nothing whatever should be done that American shippers should be told they would have to wait until their difficulties settled themselves.

Plenty of Carrying Capacity.

Even the advocates of the bill, Senator Burton insisted, believed the government ships would be operated at a loss and he asserted that to have those ships over could be disposed of and the government retire from the business without a tremendous loss on the original investment as well as the deficit of operation, was only a question of time. He declared that the loss in this way would be many times greater than the expenses of ocean mail subsidies, such as he favored.

Senator Burton gave it as his opinion that the shipping board, the main body of which he is discharging so ably, could not have all the available data before him when he concluded that transportation facilities were limited.

The fact is, he said, "that transportation facilities to Central and South America are abundant. Ships going from New York to South America have plenty of extra room in them, the reason being that the carrying capacity of South American countries is greatly reduced owing to the financial stress which began before the war and later developed into a real crisis."

No More Absurd Sales.

Paris, Jan. 7 (6:20 p. m.).—The cabinet has approved a measure for submission to parliament, making permanent the prohibition of the sale of alcohol and other similar liquors. The government finds that the military decree forbidding absinthe has benefited the population.

REPUBLICANS IN NATION PLEASED WITH RESULTS

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Washington, Jan. 7.—An exhaustive review of the November elections, issued here today at republican national committee headquarters over the signature of Secretary James B. Reynolds, says in part:

"First—The republicans carried upon national issues states that would give a clear majority in the electoral college and elect a republican president."

"Second—The democratic majority in the next house is only the result of the progressive vote in certain districts of the country, and the democratic vote will be really a minority vote in the house."

"Third—Two-thirds of the progressive vote of 1914 has not only ceased to support any party candidates but has returned to the support of republican policies and candidates."

This is the story that is told in the official figures of the last election, the triumph of the republican party in the November elections.

This is followed by a list of states in which the republican party carried the election, and a list of states in which the democratic party carried the election.

The republican party carried the election in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

The democratic party carried the election in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PUBLICITY ON WRECK STRANGELY ENCOURAGED

(THE MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)
London, Jan. 7.—An instance of how completely the policy of the Great Eastern railway, which has been changed under the management of an American, J. E. W. Thornton, of Long Island, came to light in connection with the disastrous wreck on that line at Ilford Friday. When reports of the wreck reached London, newspapers arrived at the scene of the wreck they were astonished to find themselves cordially greeted by representatives of the railway, and to be given the fullest facilities for inspecting the debris and making speeches as to the cause of the disaster.

Their astonishment was due to the fact that on previous occasions of this kind newspapers men have been rigorously forbidden to approach within sight of the wreckage, and have been treated generally as interlopers.

President to Talk Politics.

Washington, Jan. 7.—President Wilson left at 7 o'clock tonight for Indianapolis, where he will speak tomorrow at a Jackson day celebration under the auspices of the Indiana Democratic club. He will be introduced by Governor Harrison and Indiana and his speeches will be entirely of a political character.

Summary of War News of Yesterday

Although severe fighting has been going on in France during the past day or two, it has been rather discredited by the Russian successes against the Austrians in the Carpathians. In both eastern and western theaters the situation has been decidedly active. Steady progress is noted in their official statements regarding the operations in Poland and the French official bulletin reports German attacks in the Arzonne, in the region of Verdun and around Stenbach in Alsace.

Details of the fighting, as usual, are lacking as the long drawn-out battles are referred to briefly, seemingly as a matter of routine, unless something of an extraordinary nature occurs.

Regarding the operations in the west, as a whole, a British eye-witness who has been the regular chronicler of events, says that really marked progress has been achieved by the allies. He adds, however, that "the German defensive is an active one," and that it might not be inferred that the progress made has been other than very slow and laborious or that the final result is within immediate reach.

Berlin reports that a Turkish bulletin announces the occupation by the Ottoman troops of Urundah, an important town of Persian Armenia.

Petrograd is celebrating Christmas, the Russian observance falling thirteen days later than that of other countries and the people of the Russian capital seem to be in no wise depressed by the war which has called so many millions of men to arms.

Activity in Austrian submarines, according to Berlin, apparently has compelled the French admiral to withdraw his ships from the strait of Otranto at the entrance to the Adriatic sea.

The German military governor in Belgium gives denial to the report that Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, has been arrested or detained by the German authorities. Neither have any priests been arrested, it is asserted.

The British admiralty is of the opinion that the sinking of the battleship Formidable, in the English channel was due to the two torpedoes fired by a German submarine. The Marquis of Crewe has announced to the British house of lords.

Great Britain's preliminary reply to the United States government's protest against delays in forwarding short tonnage to the United States is a further reply will come forward later. The preliminary note will be in the nature of an acknowledgment of the American note and a general statement of the unusual conditions that have arisen and the many new problems thrust upon England.

Germany has ordered that there be no more fraternizing between the Germans and their opponents in the field.

Official Reports From Press Bureaus of Belligerent European Nations

FRANCE.

Paris, Jan. 7 (10:45 p. m.).—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"The French press has received this evening of violent German attacks in the region of Lausigny in the Arzonne, at the crossing of the road from Le Four de Paris to Verdun, and on the ridge which dominates St. Mihiel. All these attacks have been repulsed."

The French report given out this afternoon announces the capture of a portion of the German first line trenches in the Voivre district, to the northwest of Elzey. This advance derives its importance from the fact that it indicates the French are making inroads into the German triangular position, the apex of which rests on the right bank of the Meuse at St. Mihiel.

The activity in Flanders and in France is confined largely to artillery exchanges. In them the French claim the advantage. Mines also have been exploded at two points on the line with successful results to the French troops.

The enemy at Stenbach has not attacked again, and the French in this region have retained their positions. They claim also an advance toward Altkirch in Alsace, south of Stenbach and Altkirch.

GERMANY.

Berlin, Jan. 7 (U. P. W. L.).—The German official communication on the progress of the war was given out in Berlin this afternoon. It contains the following statements:

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BELGIUM WOULD STARVE BUT FOR FOOD SUPPLIES FROM AMERICA

Burgomaster Says People Cannot Work Because There Is No Market for What They Produce.

RICH CANNOT BUY NECESSITIES OF LIFE

What Germany Cannot Do With Arms Is Being Accomplished by Generosity of United States.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Brussels, Jan. 7 (U. P. W. L.).—The Secretary of the American commission for relief in Belgium, as shown in a statement issued tonight, includes the dispatch of four ships with 25,000 tons of food valued at approximately \$1,500,000 and representing a little more than seven days' supplies for the Belgians.

The Lyporia, carrying Virginia's donations, will sail from Norfolk not later than Saturday. It was announced by the commission, Maryland's offerings went to sea today from Baltimore on the John Hardee.

The Harpalus, the New England ship, sailed from Boston today and the Hannah, the Kansas ship, left New York on Tuesday.

The commission announced that Myron T. Herrick, former ambassador to France; Brand Whitlock, minister to Belgium and Governor Willis of Ohio, will constitute the advisory committee of the Ohio relief commission and that the steamship Natick, with a capacity of 3,000 tons, will be turned over to the state of Ohio to fill.

The commission received word that Nebraska had begun a campaign to fill a "Nebraska ship," with headquarters at the governor's office at Lincoln.

NEUTRAL CONFERENCE LIKELY TO BE CALLED

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)
Washington, Jan. 7.—Secretary Bryan and the eight diplomats who constitute the special commission of the Pan-American Union for the consideration of proposals that would amend more clearly the rights of neutrals in time of war, listened to an extended argument today by Dr. Santos A. Duménil, the Venezuelan minister, urging that a congress of neutral diplomats be held in Washington.

Although no action was taken in the suggestion beyond referring it to a sub-committee for further study, it was learned that the plan was favorably reported. The general expectation is that after the Pan-American Union formulates concrete proposals for the protection of neutral rights the diplomatic representatives of all neutral countries in Asia and Europe will be invited to a general conference at which such proposals would be discussed and later submitted to the belligerents for action.

Senator Lewis Quite Ill.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 7.—United States Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Chicago is seriously ill at the exclusive mansion in this city with an attack of acute indigestion. Senator Lewis was taken ill upon his arrival in Springfield last night. A physician was called today and advised a rest of several days.

ARIZONA FREAK LAW VETOED BY FEDERAL COURT

Appeal to Higher Tribunals Must Be Awaited but Meantime Enforcement Is Stayed by Decision.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Washington, Jan. 7.—While officials of the state department and some of the foreign embassies were keenly interested today in news that the federal court in California had declared unconstitutional the Arizona alien employment law, they indicated that no comment would be forthcoming pending receipt of the text of the court's opinion.

The Italian embassy some time ago filed a vigorous protest against the Arizona statute, and the British embassy has made representations forecasting a similar protest. The state department, which is awaiting the outcome of a test of the law in the courts.

At first an attempt was made to have Governor Hunt of Arizona withdraw his objection to the law, but the department could not deal with the treaty questions involved, but it was found that this could not be done and then the department, taking notice of the fact that actions had been brought by individuals—Mexicans and British subjects—working in Arizona, decided to await the outcome of the legal test before proceeding with the diplomatic treatment of the subject.

It is understood that an appeal will be filed from the special court which delivered the opinion today, first to the United States circuit court of appeals and thence to the supreme court. It is understood that an appeal will be filed from the special court which delivered the opinion today, first to the United States circuit court of appeals and thence to the supreme court.

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new all the factories are closed. For three hours in the industrial square the people passed in line as big leaves were handed out from the bins.

MORE FOOD SUPPLIES ARE RUSHED TO BELGIUM

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