

U.S. TO REFUTE BRITISH REPORT ON CONTRABAND

Reply to Shipping Protest Will Be Met by Data on Trade With Neutral Countries.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Great Britain's preliminary note replying to this Government's shipping protest was the subject in official and congressional circles today. Official Administration comment was withheld until the subsequent detailed note promised in the forthcoming.

General opinion here was that the note was extremely conciliatory and couched in even more friendly terms than the original protest. Officials said this Government would now mark time until the detailed British note is received. No further American communication, except in cases of individual ships or cargoes, will be sent to the British Foreign Office.

Orders were given today by the State Department, however, to marshal facts and statistics regarding the volume of United States commerce with neutral nations. Assistance of the Commerce and Treasury Departments was asked. They will submit complete data regarding contraband and non-contraband merchandise shipped from the United States to refute the contention made in the British reply that extra large shipment of copper and other contraband to the neutral countries is prima facie evidence that such merchandise was intended for re-exportation to England's foe.

Some officials today saw evidence that the principal neutrals, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands, would be officially drawn into the shipping controversy. Although Great Britain specifically denied there was any complaint against these neutrals because of exports of contraband, the active as well as the moral support of these neutrals was believed possible.

It was thought that in some manner, by demands or notes, the Foreign Office of the neutrals to the State Department, for transmission with prospective United States re-shipment note, the neutrals would deny that the mere fact of importation of abnormal quantities of copper and other supplies was a basis for suspicion that re-exportation in violation of neutrality was contemplated.

Some officials expressed belief that voluntary concessions and less rigorous rules would be adopted by Great Britain while the controversy is pending that would, to a large extent, ameliorate conditions complained of.

Opinion was also held that the Treasury rule withholding publication of cargo manifests for 30 days after sailing of vessels might be revoked as a result of the point made in the British reply that this secrecy renders close examination of vessels necessary.

The position of Great Britain on food-stuffs shipments caused the most comment here today. It was regarded as the principal weakness of the British position.

RIGHT TO SEARCH SHIPS

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The British press and public accept Great Britain's answer to the American protest against the "right of search" as opening the way for a speedy and amicable settlement of the points of dispute. There was general approval today of the fact that England maintains its right to prevent need assistance reaching her enemies. But it was generally agreed that the conciliatory tone adopted by the Government would prevent any strained relations with the United States, something England is desirous of avoiding.

It was admitted at the Foreign Office that the present note was in every way preliminary. The United States is expected to make definite reply contradicting some of the contentions of the British Government.

This is especially so in the claim made by the Foreign Office that the copper trade between the United States and neutral countries has increased so enormously that there is little question that the bulk of the increase is destined to reach Germany. The United States, it is understood, will take the position that in the past month of this copper and in fact, great quantities of goods now listed as contraband, reached these neutral countries through Germany. With German commerce swept off the seas and with its ports closed to commerce the countries naturally have to import direct in the opinion of the United States already communicated to the State Department. The British Foreign Office already has compiled definite figures dealing with this claim which have been reserved for use in the coming negotiations.

WOMEN APPEAL TO WILSON FOR PEACE COMMISSION

Declare War is "Most Dreadful and Barbarous in History."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The creation of a commission for the prevention of war was urged upon President Wilson this afternoon by Mrs. Frank F. Williams, of Buffalo, N. Y., a member of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Williams, who is attending the Woman's Peace party, presented the federation's resolution calling the European war "the most dreadful and barbarous in history," and suggesting that Congress while appropriating millions for war preparations and for pensions, had expended nothing in the cause of peace.

The Woman's Peace party, an organization created at the woman's conference for peace, began work today on its plan to call a peace convention of the neutral nations.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, of New York, is chairman of the women's meeting here, and Miss Jane Addams, of Chicago, is president of the new party.

The women assert that they are endowed with a peculiar moral passion of revolt against both the cruelty and the waste of war and as they are custodians of the life of the ages, they are particularly well equipped to further peace propaganda.

They advocate limitation of armaments and nationalization of their manufacture, organized opposition to militarism, education of the youth in the ideals of peace and popular control of foreign policies.

FIRST TWO OF SUNDAY'S CONVERTS HERE



Mrs. Anna Wilfong, of 5748 Market street, was the first woman and William W. Moon, of 5120 Irving street, was the first man to grasp the evangelist's hand when he made his call in the tabernacle last night.

WHEAT DROPS BUT FLOUR RISES

Continued from Page One  
At 2 o'clock there was a great flurry at the Bourse. There could be obtained no explanation of the phenomenal drop of 6 cents. But a few minutes later there was posted an European dispatch of a rumor that one of the forts at the mouth of the Tardaneles had been captured by an Italian fleet and that Russia would soon have an open way to the sea through which she would be able to market her huge wheat crop.

Within ten minutes wheat in Chicago advanced 1/2 cent and flour advanced 1/2 cent at a time until it had reached 125. The original drop began at 1:30 and stopped at 1:35.  
Chicago showed the first decline and was immediately followed by New York, Boston and Baltimore. The influence was sharply felt here and no one knew where anyone was at for nearly half an hour.

The big bakers were silent today regarding their plans and the threatened increase in bread. The inevitable reply to inquiries was that there was nothing to be said and that when there was any news it would come out of itself. It was learned at one of the most important bakeries from a semi-official source that there was a common understanding among two groups of the big houses and that concerted action would be made if it became necessary to make the bread prices higher.

There is not entire harmony among all of the big houses owing largely to the differences in the size and weight of loaves. There is one large concern that distributes its products to 4000 retail grocers. This loaf weighs 21 ounces and contains five cents worth of flour and cut no figure in the problem of higher bread, but they do figure in maintaining a sharp line of demarcation between two classes of large bakers.

Grocers in many parts of the city have been told by flour distributors, they say, that an increase in the cost of loaf bread surely will come within ten days unless there is a very marked decline in the market.  
Jewish bakers last week advanced certain kinds of bread 2 cents a loaf. These prices, they say, will obtain until the wheat stops skyrocketing and the market returns to normal.

LABOR APPEALS FOR EMBARGO.  
Organized labor in this city has gone on record, at the regular meeting of the Central Labor Union, as opposing the continued exporting of wheat and food stuffs, and appealing to President Wilson to place a nationwide embargo upon further shipments of grain and flour abroad.

The action was unanimous at the meeting yesterday. Speeches were made supporting the resolutions by Joseph M. Richie, of the Building Trades Council, and by G. B. Ulrich, president of the Central Labor Union, who presided.  
When the speakers explained why the price of bread would have to go up, how the grain supply was being depleted "by the selfishness of export" and prices jammed up to the top notch by speculators, they were greeted with cries of: "We're on. We'll vote for it." Then the resolution went through.

THE RESOLUTION  
The resolution was introduced following an editorial in the EVENING LEDGER pointing out the danger of continuing to send the wheat of this country abroad.  
Whereas, the last wheat crop was the largest in the history of this country, and promised cheap bread for the working people; and  
Whereas, the great war in Europe has drawn laborers from the field and decreased the world supply of bread-stuffs; and  
Whereas, the decrease in the world supply has increased the demand upon the United States for wheat, and the demand has been followed by such a rapid and unrelenting increase in price, and an increase made still greater by scrupulous speculators, that unless some way can be found to stop it bread will be a luxury before the next wheat crop can be harvested. Therefore, be it  
Resolved, That the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia do most earnestly request the President of the United States to exercise his undoubted power to stop the export of wheat until normal prices are restored and then to permit the sale abroad of only so much as is not needed for home consumption.

The delegates who adopted the resolution represented, directly and indirectly, 200,000 persons. The 128 labor organizations of the city represented have a membership of 90,000. Of these 63,000 are heads of families. As there are, on the average, five persons in a family, these 63,000 represent 315,000, and the 22,000 bachelor members bring the total to approximately 337,000.  
Advises received from Washington state that it is within the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission to curtail the exporting of wheat and flour by compelling the railroads to abolish the differential in freight rates on the long haul from the wheat belt of the West to the Atlantic seaboard for export.  
These differentials range from 3 cents a hundred weight to Boston, down to 1 cent to Baltimore, and against the rate on wheat for domestic use. The schedules are as follows:

To Boston..... Domestic Export. 10c  
To New York..... 15c  
To Philadelphia..... 10c  
To Baltimore..... 5c

At the present rates of export, shippers will not be able to make both ends meet, if the freight rates on export wheat are raised to the domestic rates, and the greater number of the farmers who are unable to pay more than they pay now.  
The Board is tired of trying to deal with the pests—so tired that never again will it appropriate a dollar for the purpose of the Board. The State Mosquito Commission is all ready with a request for an appropriation of \$17,000 to fight the pests, but the Board says "No" in answer. It says the sandy stretches of Camden County will be a veritable Elysian fields next summer for the insect that made New Jersey famous.  
"What's the use?" asks President Ulrich, "We spend good money ditching, training, oiling and getting rid of the Camden mosquitoes just to make room for these from Gloucester and Burlington? They live in our every wind. If we have to have mosquitoes, we might as well patronize the home product and save our money."

DEBRANGED YOUTH WAS SUICIDE  
Eighteen-year-old Charles Lebowitz, 345 North Christie street, whose body was found in Fairmount Park near the Belmont Driving Club Saturday, was temporarily deranged when he shot himself, according to a verdict returned by the coroner's jury. The youth's parents at first declared he had been murdered, but the verdict was reached on evidence that a revolver was near his hand when the body was discovered.

COUNCILMEN FAVOR ELECTION IN SPRING FOR TRANSIT LIAN

City-wide Demand for Early Decision of Question at Polls Echoed by Many Officials.

Developments in City's Transit Fight

January 7 (afternoon).—Ordinance introduced in Councils providing for special election that city may obtain transit funds for development of rapid transit system.

January 7 (night).—Several thousand residents of northeast district that special election to obtain transit funds be held in March.

January 10.—Central Labor Union, representing a membership of 90,000, in a meeting, endorsed Director Taylor's plan and demand special election March 1.

January 11.—Councilmen in many wards throughout the city urge special transit election in March.

Councilmen from all parts of the city today agree with the expressed views of business men that the special election on the \$30,000,000 loan for transit development should be held in March.

The demand for a March election also was made by the Central Labor Union at an enthusiastic meeting yesterday in its headquarters, 232 North Ninth street. Resolutions were adopted by the 128 delegates, endorsing Director Taylor's plan and urging construction of the high-speed system at the earliest possible moment.

Director Taylor explained his transit plans to the delegates in detail, showing the routes of the proposed lines, how they could be obtained and the beneficial results that would follow. His address frequently was interrupted by applause. Following adoption of the resolution, it was decided that each local present be represented at the transit demonstration Thursday night, when all citizens and organizations interested in the movement will parade on Broad street at a mass meeting at the Academy of Music.

This demonstration therefore will be a typical expression of public opinion on the vital transit question. Business men and mechanics will be shouldered at the door and tenant will be shouldered at the door, and the result will be the same as an election of the people.  
The attitude of Councils on the subject is shown by the opinions of members of both chambers. Some of the Councilmanic views follow:

RIGHT TO DEMAND ELECTION.  
"The people have the right to demand an election at the earliest possible moment." This is the view of Select Councilman George P. Cox, of the 4th Ward.  
"I would like to see the election held as soon as possible," he said, "and I will vote along this line. It would be foolish to postpone action when the people of the entire city favor better transit facilities. Furthermore, the construction of the new system will give work to thousands of men in many lines and redound to the benefit of the city. If an election is held in March, the money necessary soon would be available and the transit system known to be getting under way in a short time. I know my constituents favor an early election. They realize as well as others that the sooner the new system is started the better off the city will be."  
The same opinion was voiced by Select Councilman Joseph J. Dilworth, of the 18th Ward. "The sooner the election is held, the better," he said. "There is no reason for delaying important projects. I can readily see the good results which will come from an adequate transit system, and I think all who have the interest of the city at heart will favor an election at the earliest possible moment."

DELAYS "DO NO GOOD."  
Select Councilman Ira D. Garman, of the 16th Ward, said he is in favor of a special election in March. The money for transit development should be made available as soon as possible. I think all citizens will agree that it's best to get right ahead and get the good work already started. Such a course of business like and brings more satisfactory results. Delays in a big undertaking of this kind do no good. So let us take the proper action to start the new system at an early date.

"The high-speed transit system cannot come too soon," said Councilman George E. Dorwart, of the 21st Ward. "A great deal of money is being wasted here because of the poor facilities which I heartily favor an election in March in order to get things under way. Any person conversant with the plans for the proposed transit system knows they are practicable and the sooner they can be carried out the better it will be for the people. Those who live in Roxborough are especially anxious to have a system which will enable all to reach their homes with speed and comfort."

WORK ON SEWERS AND SUBWAYS.  
Delay on the transit question also is opposed by Robert D. Dripp, Councilman from the 22nd Ward.  
"I favor action on the transit matter at the earliest possible date. It is planned to institute the work of sewer relocation in March. That work, made possible by the \$500,000 item in the Bill, 2000, will include the lowering and changing of lines of sewers in the central part of the city. If the funds for the \$30,000,000 loan were to be available this summer it is probable the excavations could be made not only for the relocation of sewers but also for the simultaneous start of the subway work."  
Select Councilman William J. Crawford, of the 30th Ward, chimed in with the majority when asked how he stood. He said: "I have had no thought but to vote so that the work may be started as soon as possible. March is the time to hold the election in order to attain this end, and I will vote accordingly."

"I believe it to be my duty as a member of Select Council to give the people what they want at the earliest possible moment," said Herbert L. Maria. "I don't believe in delaying important improvements to quail over fine points. I believe every possible improvement to the city's transit system should be made at once."  
Of a similar trend was the sentiment expressed by Select Councilman George R. Davis, of the 34th Ward. He said there was no reason apparent to him why there should be any delay in making such an important improvement as on transit and that as a March election would enable the city to begin the work this year, the election should be held then.

William J. Huston, Select Councilman from the 36th Ward, put himself on record as follows: "I stand for what I think to be the best thing for the people of my city. In this case I think the transit improvement should be made as soon as possible as a March election will make this possible. I stand for an election then."

ONLY THE POPE CAN BRING PEACE, SAYS CARDINAL FARLEY

Church Stands Ready to Receive Penitent Belligerents, He Declares Sermon in New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—"Peace will be brought to the world only by the action of the Pope—he is the one desirous of this service," said Cardinal Farley in a sermon yesterday in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

It was the second time the cardinal had spoken from the pulpit since his return from the war zone last October, and his sermon was filled with penitential thoughts. The Church, Cardinal Farley said, has been persecuted from time immemorial, but now it was the one institution which the entire world turned to in times of trouble.

He said his sentiments could not be expressed better than "by a well-known writer," whose words, the cardinal believed, were prophetic. He quoted:

If at some future day, and the day may not be so far distant, you return of men, after having accomplished your divorce from the Church, by the Christian teachings, frightened by the storms that are rumbling ominously above your heads, and that threaten to submerge your ship of state—ready the sport of every wind—should call on the Church for aid, even as she says to you that you may securely count upon her assistance, and that, unmindful of the fact that you cast her off and discovered her, she will be your ally and support in the day of trial.

Cardinal Farley told the story of the prodigal son, and said the parable pictured the story of the States of the world today.

"In this parable," he said, "you have the image of the Church. Today the storm which have been threatening for years has burst upon the nations; that is, the teachings of Christian civilization, and gave themselves to ambitious and riotous living. Now they find themselves in the agonies of a world war, the most brutal and brutuality of which are unprecedented."

\$52,000 PROFIT FROM MADE-IN-AMERICA BAZAAR

Splendid Relief Fund the Fruit of Horticultural Hall Show.

Home and foreign relief work realized \$52,000 through the brilliant Made-in-America Bazaar held in Horticultural Hall last month, according to the first complete report of the profits. This sum represents one of the most complete contributions for sufferers in Europe and in Philadelphia. Mrs. Barclay H. H. W. Burton was chairman of the committee.

The German booth, of which Mrs. Walter S. Thomson was chairman, raised \$20,000. The proceeds of the bazaar were conducted for certain designated charities, and totaling \$36,267.88, are as follows: The Belgian booth, under Mrs. Charles E. Wright and Mrs. P. W. Roberts, \$12,230; the French booth, under Mrs. Arturo de Heeren, \$3,831.50; the Southern kitchen (home relief), under Mrs. John C. Groome, \$1,181.67; the English booth, under Mrs. Burt Grubb and Mrs. J. Parker Norris, \$2,525; the Red Cross booth, under Mrs. William L. Moran, \$1,320.88; the garden booth, under Mrs. Charles E. Cox, \$1,101.06; and the doctor's booth, under Mrs. John B. Deaver, \$100.

For general relief \$14,215.61 was earned through exhibitions and booths conducted in conjunction with the bazaar. The largest contributor was the Fashion Show, for which society women were living models at the Ritz-Carlton. Mrs. William J. Clotier was chairman of this committee. The \$13,315.11 will be 65 per cent, each for the Belgian and Red Cross divisions.

The grand total, after deducting expenses, is \$51,468.23, which will be expended to \$62,000 when all the items are returned.

BUSINESS MEN ASK FOR LAW TO MAKE RAILROADS OBEY

Legislature Will Be Urged to Give Commission Full Authority to Enforce Its Requirements.

Legislation giving unquestionable jurisdiction to the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission over the rates of the Pennsylvania Railroad and all other railroads operating within the State, will be urged by the Transportation Committee of the United Business Men's Association before the Legislature at Harrisburg as a result of the argument for a rehearing of the passenger rate increase case before the commission last Friday.

Attorneys for both the Pennsylvania and the Reading delivered on that occasion an ultimatum to the commuters and to the commission that, should the effort to reduce the passenger rates be continued, the railroads would at once institute proceedings questioning the right of the commission to pass upon the rates of the two companies on account of their charter rights, as fixed by the State Legislature.

Earlier in the rate controversy between the commuters and the railroads, the railroad attorneys declared that the Pennsylvania commission did not have the right to suspend proposed rate advances pending a formal hearing.

This question, too, will be taken before the Legislature by the Business Men's Association and an effort will be made to have legislation passed settling beyond dispute the powers and prerogatives of the commission in respect to railroad passenger rates.

In a statement issued today the association declares that the railroads are not in a position legally to free themselves from the jurisdiction of the commission.

WILL EXHIBIT FALSE SCALES

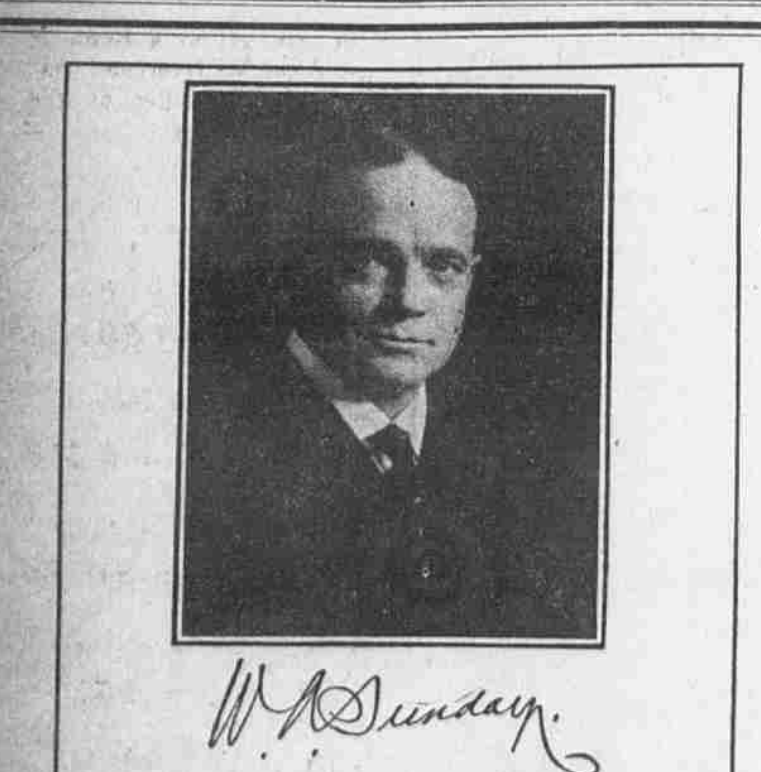
Chief Virdin Plans to Display Them in City Hall Pavilion.

Chief John H. Virdin, of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, is arranging an exhibit of false weights and measures and other apparatus of trickery that have been confiscated by inspectors of this bureau in the effort to protect Philadelphia housewives.  
The exhibit will be held in the pavilion in City Hall courtyard, where the "Know Your City Better Exhibit" is now open. That exhibit closes next Saturday and on the following Saturday Chief Virdin will have on display the false scales and measures.

HUGE COAL DEALS PENDING

J. V. Thompson Negotiating Transfer of 20,000-Acre Tract.

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Jan. 11.—Denial was made this morning by J. V. Thompson of the consummation of a gigantic sale of coal lands in Greengrove county, but he expects to close two important deals this week. It was reported that Mr. Thompson had transferred 2,000 acres of coal lands in a New York syndicate for \$5,000,000.



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