

U. S. RECEIVES BRITISH BLOCKADE NOTICE; TO SEND SHARP PROTEST

Text of Edict Creates Bad Impression in Washington, Though Both White House and State Department Are Non-committal

Southern Senators See New Peril to Cotton Trade. Pledge Support to President in Any Action He May Determine to Take.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The President and his Cabinet today planned America's next move in the "blockade." Two notes from the Allies, transmitted through Ambassador Page, at London, were under consideration. They were:

The British Order in Council decreeing the stoppage of all trade to and from Germany, contraband or noncontraband, even though destined for transit through neutral Italy, Holland or the Scandinavian countries.

An evidence of just what this new development means to American business men was Commerce Secretary Redfish's announcement that last week's foreign trade broke all records. Estimates received by the Commerce Department indicate that the week's trade balance in America's favor will reach \$4,000,000, which cotton exports to Germany will make a considerable amount. It is this staple among others that England has barred.

Through the President and his cabinet would make no comment it is understood they were a unit in their belief that England's action was without warrant either under international law or any historical precedent.

The sharpest protest yet prepared as a result of the European war will be the answer of the United States to England's blockade proclamation, it is unofficially stated.

The inspection of the text of the British order in council and realization that its reply to the suggestion that foodstuffs for the noncombating population of Germany is a curt refusal have caused a feeling of resentment in government circles. It is realized that part of the latest order is for home consumption, but the open attempt to make the United States a party to the starvation of Germany by having it guarantee the safety of its products shall reach Germany or Austria has caused a bad impression here.

Senators and Representatives left in the city got in touch with the White House to assure the President that he would be unconditionally supported by the country in any course he might take in protesting against England's action.

Neither the White House nor the State Department was in a mood to make any extended comment on the British declaration. It was pointed out that vigorous protest already had been determined on, and just when that protest would be made or in what form it would be couched was left as a matter of detail.

Southern Senators who have returned home were today deluged the State Department and the White House with telegrams, calling attention to the fact that this latest British order is directed at the cotton industry of the South.

DUTCH MINISTER SEEKS AID FROM UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The Chevalier Van Rappard, Minister from the Netherlands, held a conference with Counselor Lansing, of the State Department, today, looking toward joint action between the United States and Holland to secure modification in the embargo orders issued by Great Britain against commerce to and from Germany.

After leaving Mr. Lansing's office, the Minister said that the British embargo created a most serious situation for the Government of Holland because of its dependence on the supply in that country.

The Dutch Minister suggested to Counselor Lansing today that in the last clause of the Order in Council a means might be found by which the two nations could protect themselves against what otherwise would be a most serious blow to their commerce.

This clause in the order reads: "Nothing in this order shall prevent the relaxation of the provisions of this order in respect of the merchant vessels of any country which declares that no commerce intended for or originating in Germany or belonging to German subjects shall enjoy the protection of its flag."

BLOCKADE OF GERMAN PORTS WILL HIT LOCAL IMPORTERS

Indirect Shipments From That Country Likely Will Be Stopped. England's blockade of German ports will affect local importers seriously, since the war has interfered with direct shipments. Chemical concerns will be hard hit, if this is true. They will have to curtail further their already limited production.

There have been no exportations to Germany through the harbor since the beginning of the war. Neither have ships sailed to this port direct from Germany. Shippers here expect the United States authorities to enter such a vigorous protest against the blockade decree that it will be modified. "If a blockade is effected, it will mean the curtailment of work of many industries," one shipper said today.

BRITISH RETAKE ST. ELOI; FRENCH ANNOUNCE GAINS

General Driven From Captured Positions Near Ypres. PARIS, March 16.—That fighting is in progress all along the line is shown by the official statement issued this afternoon by the French War Office. According to this announcement the British have recaptured the ground they lost when Germans near St. Eloi, in West Flanders.

(Note—In the German official statement issued today the claim is made that the British were driven from their positions around St. Eloi and the territory occupied by the Germans.) Progress for the French is reported from Champagne, and it is stated that the French now hold all the trenches in the forest of Le Preire which had been lost to the Germans. The French have captured a German trench on the slope of Hoch Ackerkopf, where some prisoners were taken. The Belgians have consolidated their new positions.

Official War Reports

AUSTRIAN

North of the Usak Pass, in the Carpathians, there was fighting of a furious character. Strong Austrian forces made an attack there Sunday and advanced to near our positions, where for a time they maintained themselves. Our troops Sunday afternoon made a counter attack, pushing back the enemy on the entire front and capturing four officers and 500 men.

On our positions on both sides of the Carpathians the Austrians repeatedly tried to gain the heights, but failed with heavy losses. An especially heavy attack collapsed Sunday, and in view of the losses these offensive operations will not be repeated. South of the Disater our counter attacks gained ground, the Russians being pushed back from several front sectors.

RUSSIAN

The enemy has brought some of his batteries close to the front lines. In view of the obvious ineffectiveness of the bombardment at longer range, the artillery in the Russian fortress successfully shelled a column of the enemy consisting of motor cars, pieces of artillery, provision wagons and ammunition carts. Fighting at moderate distance left advantage constantly on the side of the defenders (Russians). Two German companies attempted to approach the frozen Bobr River in the district of Gondzas (25 miles south of Augustow), but, after being shelled, retired. Their losses were heavy. In the neighborhood of Demovitz our scouts carried some of the positions of the enemy at night and brought prisoners into the fortress.

At Przasnysz the Germans keep up a very violent artillery fire, but their infantry is unable to resist our attacks. We are holding the enemy over almost the entire front. We have achieved successes of particular importance on the battlefields bordering the River Orze.

In the enemy's positions in the Buzza region, our activity is observable at night, indicating that the Germans are possibly reinforcing their artillery there.

GERMAN

The English position on a height near St. Eloi, south of Ypres, in West Flanders, for which we have been fighting since the day before yesterday, has been taken by us. South of Lorette Heights, northwest of Arras, in France, an engagement is growing in volume for possession of a hill. In Champagne several French attacks broke down under the German fire, the enemy suffering heavy losses. North of Beusselour German troops conquered several French positions. Still in progress, in the Vosges fighting is reported from several places. On both sides of the Orze River and between Przasnysz and Augustow, attacks have everywhere been reported. There has been especially violent fighting for Jednorozek (Boguzurzynek), where 200 Russians were captured. South of the Vistula there is nothing to report.

GERMANS LOSE 18,000 AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

General French Reports Advance Toward Lille—Repulse of Counter-Attacks.

LONDON, March 16.—It is officially estimated that the Germans lost 18,000 men in the fighting around Neuve Chapelle, north of La Bassée, in France, during the 10th, 11th and 13th of this month. These figures are collected in the bi-weekly report of Field Marshal French, which was made public today by the Government Press Bureau.

The report, in part, was as follows: "The operations in the vicinity of Neuve Chapelle have been continued. The line of trenches taken by us on the 10th and 11th east of the village have been consolidated and held in spite of repeated efforts of the Germans to retake them. During the night of March 13-14 several counter attacks were repulsed, sixtynine were killed. The same night a skilfully conducted enterprise resulted in the capture of L'Epineux, with small loss on our part. The possession of this village advanced our lines on the Neuve Chapelle front. On the 12th the fighting around Neuve Chapelle was very severe. Strong counter attacks were repulsed and 612 more German wounded were taken. On the night of March 13-14 the Germans delivered more violent counter attacks. On the 14th the fighting was confined mainly to artillery.

"Prisoners taken by us since March 10 number about 1700, of whom 30 are officers. Judging from the number of German dead on the ground the total of the enemy's losses from the 10th to the 14th on the Neuve Chapelle front cannot be less than 17,000 or 18,000. During the evening of the 14th the enemy rushed some of our trenches south of St. Eloi, in Belgium, under a very heavy bombardment. A mine was also exploded in this position. These trenches were recaptured this morning. Fighting in this area continues.

"The Royal Flying Corps has secured further successes during the last few days' although fog has interfered somewhat. On the 12th the Don and Donsin Railway junctions were bombarded. On the 13th a train was blown up at Don."

GERMANS SEIZE SWEDISH SHIP. COPENHAGEN, March 16.—The Swedish steamship Gloria, carrying a cargo of corn from La Plata, Argentine, to Stockholm, has been halted by a German warship and is being conveyed to Swinemunde, on the Baltic, according to dispatches received here today.

BRITISH SEA LOSSES REPORTED. LONDON, March 16.—From the beginning of the war up to March 10, 166 British merchant ships were interned, captured or destroyed. It was announced today by Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Two Fairs at Half Fare; Exposition Rates Cut in Two

The railroads have greatly reduced their fares and made it possible for you to see both the San Francisco and San Diego Expositions on one ticket. By way of the Burlington Route (C. & Q. R. R.) the cost of a railroad ticket to California and back with only about one-half the usual price, and you can take in the incomparable Colorado scenery, including the Royal Gorge, see Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Salt Lake City on the way, stopping off at any point desired. Returning, you may enjoy a sea trip up the coast to Portland, see Tacoma, Seattle and Spokane, and either Glacier National Park or Yellowstone Park—the wonders of the world. You don't take a trip like this very often. You should see the best scenery on route and not spend any more than is necessary to do it. Tell me when you plan to go, how long you can stay, and let me make up an itinerary to fit your particular needs. Let me explain how and why the Burlington can serve you best. I'll be glad to do it. Write, telephone or call. Wm. Austin, General Agent Passenger Dept. C. & Q. R. R. Bldg. 438 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Phone WA 3-6400.

PORTS CLOSED BY BRITISH BLOCKADE



The Order in Council, just promulgated, along the lines forecast by Premier Asquith late last month, sweepingly and drastically blockades all German ports and goods. Not only are German ports proper blockaded, but vessels from neutral ports, carrying cargoes either of enemy destination or enemy origin, are subject to the terms of the decree, which affects potentially the neutral commerce of the United States, Holland, Denmark, Italy and the Scandinavian countries.

SLOWNESS OF BRITISH BLAMED BY FRENCH

Early Advance of Germans Due to Failure of English to Mobilize Quickly.

LONDON, March 16.—The failure of the British to mobilize an army more quickly and the retreat of their troops before the German advance during the opening stages of the war is given by the French as the cause of their failure to check the Kaiser's troops in their rapid advance on Paris. The review of operations is from official sources and says in part: "From the first week in August it was apparent that the length of time required for the British army to begin to move would delay our action in connection with it. This delay is one of the reasons which explain our failure at the end of August."

"On the 21st and 23rd of August it is the British army's retreat before more hurried. After Launheutes and Le Cateau it fell back southward by forced marches. It could not from this time keep its hold until after crossing the Marne."

"It then tells of the failure of the early operations in Alsace and Lorraine, and continues in part: "There remained the principal business—the battle of the North—postponed owing to the necessity of waiting for the British army. On August 20 the concentration of our lines was finished and the general in chief gave orders for our center and our left to take the offensive.

"Our object was to hold and dispose of the enemy's center and afterward to throw ourselves with all available forces on the left flank of the German grouping of troops in the North."

"On August 21 our offensive in the center began with ten army corps. On August 22 it failed, and this reverse appeared serious. The reason for it are complex. There were in the affair individual and collective failures, imprudences committed under the fire of the enemy, divisions ill engaged, rash deployments, precipitate retreats, a premature want of men, and finally the inaccuracy of certain of our troops and their leaders, both as regards the use of infantry and artillery."

"In spite of this defeat our maneuver had still a chance of success if our left and the British army secured a decisive result. This was unfortunately not the case. On August 22, at the cost of great losses, the enemy succeeded in crossing the Sambre and our left army fell back the 24th upon Beaumont-Givert, being perturbed by the belief that the enemy was threatening its right."

"On this same day the British army fell back after a German attack upon the Maubeuge-Valenciennes line."

"The rapid retreat of the French, including with the defeat sustained in Belgium, Luxembourg, allowed the enemy to cross the Meuse and to accelerate, by fortifying it, the action on his right."

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GERMANS FORCE WAY FROM MLAWA TO JOIN COLUMN AT PRZASNYSZ

General Francois' Army Makes Progress on Route, Berlin Declares, Petrograd Claims Advance in North Poland.

Berlin's bulletin speaks of repulse of Russian attacks around Przasnysz and desperate fighting along the road from Mlawa to the objective. Along this route General Francois is forcing his way to a junction with Hindenburg's army concentrated on the Przasnysz front.

Heavy German guns are busy at both ends of the North Poland line. Petrograd acknowledges that the foe has gained ground in the investment of Ossowitz, which is pounded incessantly. Retirement apparently has been forced at Augustow and Suwalki, where the invaders have launched an offensive designed to attack Warsaw from the north and rear. The Russian War Office, however, claims a general advance before Przasnysz and checking of Von Hindenburg's movement of vast forces along the Narew and Bobr.

The Austrians have aimed a new thrust for the relief of Przemysl, but this has been halted, according to Russian accounts, which announce the capture of a post three miles from the stronghold.

The British have repulsed a counter-attack of the Germans and again occupy St. Eloi, according to an official French report. In an effort to divert the attention of the Allies from their advance toward Lille the Germans are making a terrific drive near Ypres.

In the Argonne and Champagne there is renewed activity, and the French claim to have advanced slightly.

Official reports from Berlin claim that the British have been driven from St. Eloi, near Ypres, after a three-day battle and that French attacks in the Champagne and Argonne were repulsed.

TURKS REPAIR FORTS WRECKED BY ALLIES

British Hospital Ship on Way to Malta With Wounded, Warships Damaged.

LONDON, March 16.—In spite of the effective fire of the Anglo-French fleet, which is trying to force a passage through the Dardanelles, the Turks have been able to repair some of their shattered works and mount new guns, according to advices from Athens today. It was reported at the same time that Field Marshal von der Goltz, of the German army, who was sent to Turkey on Turkish military affairs, paid a visit to the Turkish fort of Nazara where he congratulated the Turkish officers and the German gunners upon the accuracy of their artillery fire.

In addition to damage to the British and French ships, it is said that the British hospital ship Canada is on her way to Malta filled with wounded.

A dispatch from Athens says that the Turks are working feverishly to strengthen their defenses on the Bosphorus. Big guns are being mounted on the heights of Scutari and Canindja. The possibility exists that the Turks will bombard Constantinople with these guns if it is entered by forces of the Allies.

A dekadatch telegram says that the Sultan is being pressed to leave Constantinople, but that he refused, saying: "It would be better for me to be a prisoner of the Allies in Constantinople than a prisoner of the Young Turks in Konia."

BRITISH DRIVEN BACK NEAR YPRES, SAYS BERLIN

St. Eloi Captured by Germans in Three-day Fight.

BERLIN, March 16.—Defeat of the British south of Ypres was announced in today's statement from the War Office.

After three days of bloody fighting the Germans have driven the English from their position on the heights near St. Eloi, south of Ypres. Northwest of Arras an important engagement is in progress for possession of a cliff in the Lorette Hills region.

The French have renewed their attacks upon the German positions in the Champagne. In each instance their assaults have broken down under German fire. In the Argonne the Kaiser's troops have conquered several French trenches. The engagement in this region and in the Vosges continues.

Petrograd Admits Advance on Stronghold. PETROGRAD, March 16.—Increasing intensity marks the fighting around Ossowitz, the Slav stronghold in Poland, where the Germans have been carrying on a violent bombardment of the fortress with their heaviest guns. An official statement issued today says that the Germans have been able to move some of their batteries nearer the city, but that the cannonade has proved ineffective so far.

Night sorties of the Russians resulted in the capture of German prisoners. German columns have attempted night assaults, but have been repulsed. It is officially announced. An attempted crossing of the frozen Bobr River was checked.

German activity at this extreme of the North Poland line all the way to Augustow and Suwalki has been marked dur-

ITALY CURTAILS MAIL TO AUSTRIA AS BREAK GROWS THREATENING

Minister's Orders Stopping Money Order and Traveling Postoffice Service Create Profound Impression in Rome.

ROME, March 16.—The order of the Italian Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, issued yesterday suspending the exchange of telegrams money orders with Austria-Hungary, created a profound impression here. It points unmistakably to the widening of the breach between the two nations. Orders also were issued suspending the traveling postoffice on trains bound for the Austrian frontier.

Negotiations carried on by Prince von Buelow, the German Ambassador in Italy, with a view to having Austria make important territorial concessions to Italy, are still continuing, despite reports that the Emperor Francis Joseph has announced that he will never consent to such a measure.

As regards the question of concessions, the situation appears to be that Austria is willing to yield a little, but that Italy's aspirations are so great that no reasonable compromise will be reached. On this phase the Italian government has received a dispatch from Vienna, which says that the Emperor Francis Joseph gave an audience yesterday to Baron von Ciano, the Foreign Minister, who subsequently conferred with the German Ambassador, the Italian government's obviously related to the Italy-German negotiations, which the newspapers now allowed to mention, but not to comment upon.

The Emperor absolutely refused to concede the Trentino to Italy and insists that the negotiations be broken off. He has urged the Kaiser to send Batasto troops to the Tyrol to aid the Austrians in the defense of Trieste and Trento where the garrisons have been strengthened, and the authorities have given no sign of serving a foreign Government if a territory is invaded.

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There was a riot here yesterday when Republicans tried to hold a demonstration in honor of the patriot and revolutionist Mazzini. Soldiers dispersed the crowds, which cried "Down with Austria!" The rioters then gathered at the Cathedral square, where many of them made speeches assailing Germany and Austria and lauding Belgium.

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In the Legislatures of both your States bills have been introduced putting the control of the proper manning of trains in the proper hands—those of the Public Service Commissions. If these bills are passed they will do all that the Full Crew Laws were intended to do—insure safe and efficient train operation—without the present huge waste.

As a straightaway business proposition, the immediate passing of these bills is a pressing public necessity. Write to your elected Representatives at Harrisburg and Trenton, urging them to work and vote for these sorely needed bills.

- SAMUEL REA, President, Pennsylvania Railroad. DANIEL WILLARD, President, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. THEODORE VOORHEES, President, Philadelphia and Reading Railway. R. L. O'DONNELL, Chairman, Executive Committee, Associated Railroads of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, 721 Commercial Trust Building, Philadelphia.

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