

BRITAIN DENIES REQUISITION OF AMERICAN SHIPS

Dispatch From London Contradicting U. S. Consul's Report Amazes Washington

INVOLVE THREE VESSELS

Locking, Genesee and Kankakee Reported Taken Over Without Prize Court Ruling

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.

The British Foreign Office has announced that the statement that the ships of Richard Wagner, head of the American Transatlantic Company, have been requisitioned is untrue, according to a dispatch received here today from London. This news caused great amazement among United States officials, who await confirmation before accepting the report.

MAY CAUSE CRISIS.

Great Britain's action in requisitioning the Hocking, as well as the Genesee and Kankakee, was denounced today in Administration circles. Coming as it does on the eve of the assembling of Congress it added greatly to the sentiment for retaliatory legislation. This is the one thing which the Administration has been more than anxious to avoid, but today it became certain that England's action is to be seized upon by the opponents of the allied foreign policy as an excuse for a series of resolutions and for bitter oratorical attacks on what many members were today terming "an act of near piracy."

Secretary Lansing will send a sharp demand to the British Foreign Office that it obey the existing law. The requisition is reported to have been made under a section of the British order in council which was amended on April 29 last. The United States contends that this section is a distinct violation of international law, fully as flagrant as was the German seizure of property in the United States.

OWNED BY AMERICANS.

Affidavits showing that 99 per cent. of the stock in the American Transatlantic Company is owned by citizens of the United States have been prepared by President Wagner, of that corporation. They will be used by the State Department to back up its claim that the interference with the company's property is a direct and open violation of American rights.

Senator Smith, of Georgia, and other Southern Representatives who intend making an open fight for retaliatory legislation because the Allies placed a lien on the contraband list, were today taking great interest in the ship seizures. They made no secret of their belief that this action can be used to prove their contention that the British Government has deliberately taken a hostile position to American interests, and that the only remedy is congressional action which will de-munition shipments until relief is afforded.

British Ship Rams U-Boat

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec. 3.—Captain Glassen, of the British steamer Inverkip, which went into drydock here for rush repairs, says he believes he accidentally rammed a submerged submarine while passing out the Straits of Gibraltar on November 6. The Inverkip, from Valencia to Norfolk, was about one hour's run from Gibraltar, when there was a great shock. The ship's officers saw all rise to the surface of the water. A long diagonal dent was made in the bottom of the Inverkip.

French to Buy British Ships

PARIS, Dec. 3.—The French Cabinet has authorized the Ministers of Finance and Marine to introduce in the Chamber of Deputies in the name of the Government a measure authorizing the purchase by the State of a merchant fleet of 50 ships in England, at a cost of \$20,000,000. These vessels are to include tank steamers for the transportation of petroleum and cold-storage vessels for the transportation of frozen beef to provision the population of France.

NEBBIA E TEMPESTE SULL'ISONZO HANNO OSTACOLATO LA LOTTA

Il Corpo di Spedizione in Albania Risalierebbe il Fiume Semeni Verso Monastir od il Drin Verso Prizrend

IL GEN. PORRO A PARIGI

ROMA, 3 Dicembre. Le operazioni di guerra sul fronte dell'Isonzo sono state ostacolate ieri l'altro da un violento uragano e dalla nebbia. Il Ministero della Guerra pubblica questa mattina il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna:

"Contro le nostre posizioni di Monte Piava, alle teste di ponte che difendono la valle del Rienz, il nemico sviluppò una inutile azione di artiglieria che non fu seguita da azioni di fanteria. Sul fronte dell'Isonzo si sono avuti forti temporali, accompagnati da una densa nebbia che ha ostacolato le nostre operazioni di artiglieria e di fanteria nella giornata di mercoledì. Non avendo il nemico tentato attacchi di sorpresa contro le nostre posizioni ad est di Oslavia e sulle pendici settentrionali del Monte San Michele, attacchi che furono tutti respinti.

"Piccole azioni da parte della nostra fanteria ci fecero catturare alcuni prigionieri ed una mitragliatrice sul Monte Mirza.

Il generale Cadorna avrebbe dovuto recarsi in Francia per conferire con il generale Joffre e con il maresciallo French, ma a causa dell'intensità della lotta sul fronte italiano ha dovuto rimanere al viaggio a dove la caduta di Gorizia. Per il momento il generale Porro, sottosegretario di Stato Maggiore Generale, andrò in Francia invece di Cadorna.

SBARCO ITALIANO A VALONA.

Intanto un telegramma da Atene dice che martedì scorso forze italiane sono sbarcate a Valona, in Albania. Siccome ieri l'altro il ministro degli Esteri, on. Sonnino aveva dichiarato nella Camera che la bandiera italiana sarebbe presto sventolata sull'opposta sponda dell'Adriatico in soccorso dei serbi, si ritiene che si tratta della spedizione che si reccherà a combattere nella Serbia.

Telegrammi da Londra dicono che le dichiarazioni di Sonnino circa gli aiuti italiani ai serbi sono state accolte in quei circoli diplomatici come un elemento che serve a chiarire la situazione nella guerra di Oriente. Il fatto che l'Italia Penisola, Balcanica. Il fatto che l'Italia decida a combattere finché gli alleati avranno ottenuto completa vittoria, vale a dire a Londra, a rendere più sollecita la decisione della Grecia di mettersi a fianco degli alleati è quanto di più una risposta favorevole alle domande degli alleati.

La decisione dell'Italia potrà avere anche influenza sulle decisioni della Romania, dal momento che forze italiane e russe stanno al confine di quelle unità francesi operanti ora nella Serbia. Si dice anzi che forze russe hanno già passato il confine della Rumunia e marciato contro la Bulgaria, ma questa notizia non è ancora confermata. Se fosse vera significherebbe che la Rumunia si è messa a fianco degli alleati.

LA SPEDIZIONE ITALIANA.

Si ignora ancora quale strada seguirà la spedizione italiana in aiuto della Serbia. Sembra doversi escludere che essa debba andare in Albania, dato che relazioni per nulla cordiali esistono tra Grecia ed Italia. Sembra che la sola via sarebbe quella di Valona, sebbene in Albania lo stato delle strade è presso che orribile. Da Valona le forze italiane seguirebbero la valle del Semeni, al porterebbe a sud del lago di Ochrida. Di là esse potrebbero volgersi a nord-est per portarsi ad ovest di Monastir, cioè nel punto dove ora è impregnata la battaglia, tra serbi e bulgari.

Gli italiani potrebbero però seguire anche un'altra via, sbarcando alle foce del Drin e seguendo la vallata. Così essi giungerebbero nella zona di Prizrend. In questo caso però l'Italia dovrebbe sbarcare anche forze complementari a Valona per la protezione di quella città e del fianco destro della colonna marciante lungo il Drin.

Two Talks Today by Prof. Baumgard

Prof. R. L. Baumgard will appear twice for the University Extension Society today. The first lecture is "Venice the City of Golden Dreams," at Association Hall, Germantown, at 4 o'clock, and "Pompeii, the City of the Dead," at Witherspoon Hall, at 8 o'clock.

Metal Weather Strip

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If not, use our Quick Service.

The United Gas Improvement Co.

Wonderful Christmas Stocks : Efficient Service : Great Values

Gift Jewelry

Women's \$16.50 } \$12.98 Watches \$14 solid gold, Elgin movement.

\$7 Solid Gold Scarf } \$4.98 Pins With colored stones, pearls and diamonds.

DIAMOND RINGS For Men, Women & Children \$7.50 value, \$5. \$10 value, \$7.50. \$20 value, \$15. \$25 to \$50 value, \$20 to \$32.50.

Men's \$17.50 } \$14.95 Watches \$14 solid gold with Elgin movement.

\$8 to \$65 Watch \$6 to \$55 Bracelets \$5 to \$150 } \$3.98 to \$138 La Vallieres With colored stones and diamonds.

\$7.50 Solid-Gold } \$4.98 Cuff Links \$2.50 Pearl Beads, \$1.50 Graduated sizes; 10-kt. solid gold clasp.

\$2 Pearl Beads, 89c Regular or graduated sizes, on gold-plated chain with 10-kt. gold clasp.

\$5 Gate-Top Mesh } \$2.98 Bags \$1.50 Mesh Bags, 98c German silver, ring mesh, French army frames. Silk lining.

\$1.50 Vanity Cases, 98c German silver. Have coin holder, powder puff and mirror.

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Men's \$13.50 and \$15 } \$10 Overcoats Men's \$18 Overcoats, \$11.75 Men's \$20 and \$22.50 } \$15 Overcoats

This "Mildred Louise" Balloon Day in our Little Girls' Section

Today All of Our Youthful Customers Accompanied by Adults will be Given Free a "Mildred Louise" Balloon.

Lingerie Dresses 98c to \$1.98 \$2 Hand-Smoked Coatee \$1.29 \$1 Pure Silk Shirts, \$2.98 \$6 House and Smoking Jackets, \$4.98 \$5 Blanket Bathrobes, \$3.98

The Christmas FUR SALE

Far and above all previous sales of the kind held at this time of the year. A Sumptuous \$100,000 Stock at \$60,000

\$40 Fur Sets at \$29.75 \$20 Snow White Iceland Fox Sets, \$12.75 \$30 Golden Beaver Muffs, \$19.75

Children's \$1.50 to \$40 Furs at 98c to \$25 \$40 Moire Russian Pony Coats, \$27.50 \$75 French Seal Coat, \$59.75 \$110 Hudson Seal Coat, \$79.75

\$4 HOLIDAY WAISTS \$2.98

Of a Prettiness and Freshness That Will Immediately Please

Two Styles in White and Pink. In Crepe de Chine With hemstitched panels of plait, neatly square pearl buttons and military tary collar.

In Silk Chiffon—With china silk foundation, fancy metal buttons, wide orange ribbon, large soft revers and collar of cream silk shadow lace.

\$5 Georgette Crepe } \$3.98 Waists at

Extraordinary Christmas Special in UNDERGARMENTS FOR GIFTS

70c Camisoles, One Sketched 49c

\$1 Petticoats, Like Picture \$2.98

\$3 Envelope Chemise, \$1.98

This Great Holiday Sale of Shoes & Slippers

Is Daily Drawing Tremendous Crowds With the Timeliness of Its Values

Women's \$3 Shoes, \$2.19 Patent coltskin, gum-metal calf and glazed kidskin with dull black, fawn or gray tops.

Women's \$3 to \$4 Shoes, \$1.95 Patent coltskin, gum-metal calf and glazed kidskin, with plain and tipped toes.

Misses' & Children's \$1.75 to \$2.50 Shoes, \$1.29 Patent coltskin, tan Thun-sia calf and gum-metal calf.

Men's Slippers Romeo, Everetts and Operas \$1.50 Slippers \$2 Slippers \$2.50 Slippers

Misses' and Children's Felt Julietts Ribbon and Fur Trimmed \$1.50 value, sizes 3 to 8, at \$1.49 \$2 value, sizes 3 to 8, at \$1.49

Women's Felt Julietts \$1.50 value, sizes 3 to 8, at \$1.49 \$2 value, sizes 3 to 8, at \$1.49

Women's \$2 Washable Kid \$1.59

Men's Mocha \$1.50

Women's \$2 Washable Kid \$1.59

Women's \$1.50 } \$1.10 Gloves at

Women's \$2 Washable Kid \$1.59

Women's \$2 Washable Kid \$1.59

Women's \$1.25 Silk } 98c Stockings at

Women's \$1 and \$1.25 Embroidered Silk } 69c Stockings at

Women's \$2.50 Venetian Silk } \$1.98 Vests at

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Misses' \$20 Fur-trimmed Suits \$14.75

Misses' \$8.50 Serge Dresses \$5.98

For Women \$25 Top Coats \$16.98

Women's \$25 Fur-trimmed Suits \$15

Miscellaneous Gift Suggestions

Gloves Women's \$1.50 } \$1.10

Neckwear \$1 Maline Ruffs, 69c Imperial Collars, 50c & \$1 Collar & Cuff Sets, 25c to \$1

Hosiery and Underwear Women's \$1.25 Silk } 98c

Women's \$1 and \$1.25 Embroidered Silk } 69c

Women's \$2.50 Venetian Silk } \$1.98

Men's Fur Caps \$1.35 to \$12.50

Women's \$8 } \$5.50 Sweaters at