

BRITISH TO CEASE SEIZING MAILS ON NEUTRAL SHIPS

Note Replying to U. S. Protest Makes Concessions—Asks More Time

NOT TO CENSOR LETTERS

LONDON, Jan. 28.—Appended to the note of Sir Edward Grey replying to the American protest on mail seizures is a memorandum stating that to avoid misapprehension no mails will be censored or removed from neutral ships brought forcibly into port for purposes of search.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Administration officials were hopeful today that Great Britain and her allies will heed the United States protest against interference with American mails. With the text of the instructions sent to Ambassador Page at London before the public, Secretary Lansing and his assistants were hopeful that the Allies would realize that public sentiment in this country would inform it in its entirety and that material concessions would yet be made. It is not expected that any formal reply will be made to the protest for some time, inasmuch as England is consulting France on the subject.

The protest is the most vigorous yet sent to London, the use of the term "unjustly inquisitorial" being stronger than any suggestion yet made in the communications between London and Washington. The position of the United States is squarely set forth in the statement that "modern practice generally recognizes that mails are not to be censored, confiscated or destroyed on the high seas, even when carried by belligerent mail ships."

WANT \$10,000,000 SET ASIDE FOR BUYING FOREST LAND

200 Forestry Men Appear Before House Committee

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Representatives of 200 forestry, conservation and trade bodies today urged before the House Agricultural Committee a \$10,000,000 appropriation for continuing purchases of forest land in New England and southern Appalachian States.

Unless the present program is continued, speakers argued, great tracts of land will deteriorate through fire and erosion. Flood dangers were increased also, it was said, by half-logged-off tracts in the mountains.

LEAVES \$21,800 TO FAMILY

Will of Thomas P. Robinson, Who Died in Virginia, Probated

The will of Thomas P. Robinson, 148 East Washington lane, who died January 5 at Richmond, Va., was admitted to probate today. The document bequeaths an estate of \$21,800 to Mrs. Leonora McFadden Robinson and her two daughters.

Bequests of \$100 each to St. Vincent de Paul Society, of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Manassas, and to the Theological Seminary of St. Charles, Horner, are made in the will of John Boyle, 425 Pechin street. The remainder of the \$15,500 estate is left to Mrs. Margaret Boyle, the widow, and to other relatives.

Other wills admitted to probate today were: Edward E. Eckstein, 1611 North 13th street, \$15,500; Walter S. Rinehart, who died recently in the Jewish Hospital, \$15,000; Theresa Heitz, 232 Hamilton street, \$10,500; Albert Brandles, 321 Pine street, \$10,000; Albert P. Foster, 253 South 10th street, \$8,500; Thomas W. James, 3721 Locust street, \$100; Mary A. Babin, 38 North 26th street, \$370; William Colman, 653 North Carlisle street, \$300; Maggie Garman, 300 North 31st street, \$260; and Katherine E. Greesack, 7023 Gray's avenue, \$210.

NATURALISTS WELCOMED

Delaware Valley Members See Curtis Publications "Movies"

The Delaware Valley Naturalists' Union convened today in the auditorium of the Curtis Publishing Company Building for its midwinter meeting. James L. Pennyacker, the president, opened the meeting and replied to the address of welcome delivered by a representative of the Curtis Company. The delegates then were shown through the big building. Later they viewed moving pictures, showing the work of the "making of the Home Journal, Saturday Evening Post and Country Gentleman. Following the inspection reports from 13 subsidiary societies were read and approved. Supper will be served to the delegates in the company's dining room on the eighth floor. The evening meeting will be held at 7:30, the topics of discussion being "Mexico and the Dry Tortugas" and speakers will be Miss Mary S. Holmer, John L. W. Birkinbine and Prof. H. H. M. Bowman. The last two talks will be illustrated by lantern slides.

HER SILK STOCKINGS GONE

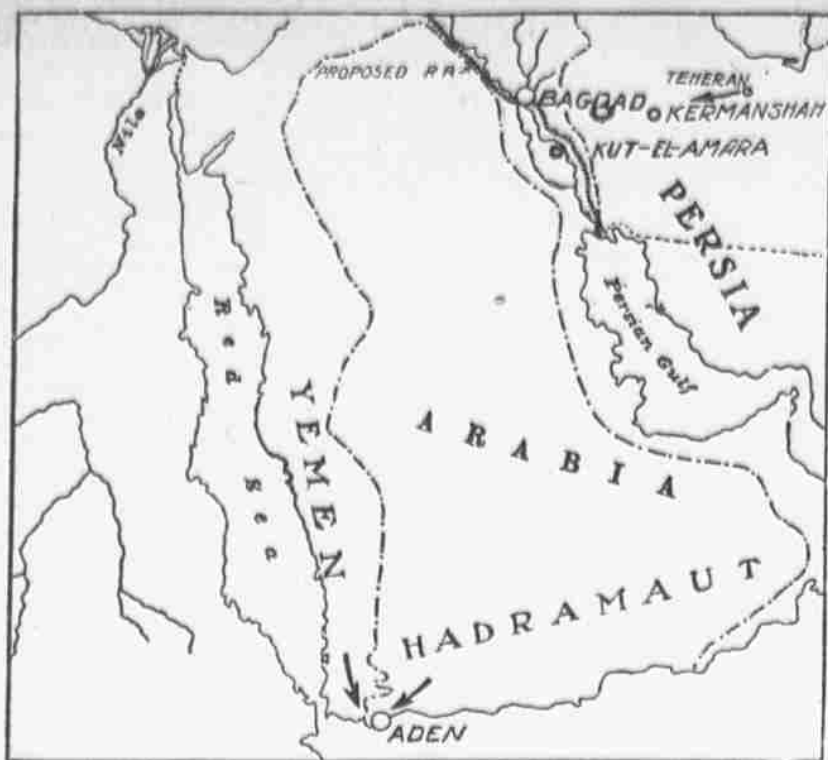
Actress Sues Boarding House Keeper for Loss of Lingerie More or Less Intimate

What can an actress do without her silk stockings? This is what Miss Mabel Le Monnier, 1514 East Chestnut street, would like to know in her suit brought today in the Municipal Court against George A. Karlavagn, 24-06 North Franklin street, proprietor of a boarding house. Miss Le Monnier says that she missed \$6 worth of her wardrobe while stopping at the boarding house in September.

Daniel S. Boyd Gets Housing Post

Director Kruger appointed Daniel S. Boyd, for 20 years vice president of the Republican Executive Committee of the 5th Ward, as assistant chief clerk in the Division of Housing and Sanitation.

ARABS TURN AGAINST BRITISH



British troops, to the number of 20,000, are reported to be virtually besieged at the port of Aden, on the Red Sea, after losing most of the ground they had occupied in this section. In Mesopotamia the British relief column marching on Kut-el-Amara is now reported to be 23 miles south of Kut, instead of six miles east of that point. Meantime, the Russian forces from the Caucasus are pushing hard across Persia in the hope of relieving the pressure on the British.

IL NEMICO BOMBARDA LE PROPRIE POSIZIONI E LE PROPRIE TRUPPE

Valona, Ben Fortificata ed Occupata dagli Italiani, Sara Difesa e Tenuta Contro gli Austro-Bulgari

ALESSIO E' STATA PRESA

Il Ministero della Guerra ha pubblicato questa mattina il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna sulla situazione sul fronte italo-austriaco: "Vi e' attivita di artiglieria appoggiata da aeroplani su tutta la fronte. L'artiglieria nemica ha causato un incendio nella valle del Terragnone, che per e' stato subito domato.

"Aeroplani nemici hanno bombardato Ala, Roncozero e Borgo, senza però causare danni. La stessa artiglieria del nemico ha invece distrutto ripari e posti di osservazione degli austriaci a Croda Rossa, sul Monte Serten ed a Maznik, sul Monte Najo.

"Nella zona di Gorizia noi abbiamo arrestato l'offensiva del nemico e teniamo fortemente la nostra posizione. L'artiglieria austriaca ha bombardato distaccamenti austriaci che marciavano verso il ponte dell'Innozza a nord-ovest di Gorizia, impedendo così la loro avanzata.

"Sul Carso il 25 corrente uno dei nostri reparti avanzando rapidamente guadagnò terreno in direzione della chiesa di San Giacomo. Ora noi teniamo solidamente questa posizione."

VALONA SARA' DIFESA. E' stato deciso che l'Albania sara' evacuata dalle truppe alleate che vi si trovano, cioè dagli italiani che sono con le forze di Essad a Durazzo. Gli alleati difenderanno soltanto la baia di Valona e l'immediato hinterland.

A Valona gli italiani occupano posizioni ben fortificate, ma si sa che le forze austriache e bulgare si dirigono verso quella baia dal nord e dall'est, incontrando poca resistenza. Disposti ufficiali da Valona dicono che l'attacco sulla città ed una delle più importanti battaglie della guerra nei Balcani possono essere aspettate fra una quindicina di giorni. Si dice anche che i serbi, albanesi e greci, si occupano di partecipare alla lotta, bombardando Valona dall'Adriatico. Se così sara', gli alleati combatteranno la prima grande battaglia navale della guerra.

Ormai ogni resistenza delle truppe serbe, montenegrine e di Essad pasca' contro l'avanzata degli austriaci e dei bulgari su Durazzo e' inutile. Tutte le truppe serbe e montenegrine, albanesi, greche, non vogliono arrendersi agli austriaci venendo trasportate all'isola di Corfu o a Valona per cooperare con gli italiani. In una decina di giorni o poco più, si crede, l'occupazione di tutta la Penisola Balcanica da parte degli imperi centrali e dei loro alleati sara' completa, ma gli alleati sono decisi a difendere Valona e tenerla come un tenace baluardo, giacche' ambedue queste città hanno posizioni strategiche di grande importanza.

DI'RAZZO EVACUATA. Intanto le truppe italiane hanno evacuato Durazzo, e da un momento all'altro si attende la notizia che la città e' stata occupata agli austriaci che sono già giunti ad Alessio e vogliono congiungersi con i bulgari provenienti dalla regione di Scutari.

Qui non si nutre alcuna apprensione per il copro di spedizione che l'Italia ha a Valona, giacche' esso occupa posizioni di difesa, e di quelle di quelle che gli alleati occupano a Salonico e queste posizioni sono ben fortificate. E del resto sa la flotta austriaca, uscite dai suoi porti, essa incontrerebbe subito le superiori forze italiane e degli alleati e sarebbe distrutta. Però si ha qualche apprensione circa la Grecia. Essa ha note ambiziose su Valona, e si è domandata qual cosa essa fara' di fronte all'attacco degli austro-bulgari.

Tutto l'interesse del pubblico si concentra ora su Valona. Si dice in questi circoli politici che un'offensiva bulgara contro Valona potra' determinare una dichiarazione di guerra tra Italia e Germania. Questo e' stato finora evitato con cura, ma l'Italia e' ben decisa a difendere l'Albania contro qualsiasi nemico che la minacci, e gli alleati sono in pieno accordo con il governo di Roma.

Si dice che i bulgari potevano attaccare Valona da parecchio tempo, ma non

l'hanno fatto perché probabilmente ne sono stati impediti dalla Germania.

Intanto si apprende un altro fatto curioso: i greci si concentrano ad Argostoli ed a Koriza per impedire che i bulgari attacchino Valona, essi dicono: ma in realtà essi invadono l'Epiro. La Germania ha finora evitato di mandare truppe su nell'Albania, per evitare di venire a contatto con le forze italiane e provocare così una dichiarazione di guerra; ma truppe bulgare sono state mandate a cooperare con gli austriaci.

BABY BANDITS OF CHICAGO ARRESTED, LOOT RECOVERED

Five Boys Who Held Up Bank Funds Took \$15,616

CHICAGO, Jan. 28.—The police today announced that they had arrested the five "baby bandits" who took part in yesterday's robbery of the Washington Park National Bank, and that they had recovered nearly all of the \$15,616 when the youthful robbers obtained in their bold raid.

The arrests were said to have been made on information furnished the detective bureau by Mrs. Joseph Friedman, whose husband was one of the men taken in custody, one of the "baby bandits."

While part of the raiding party was knocking on the front door of the house, a pasteboard box containing about \$500 of the stolen money was thrown from a window. This money, with the other currency found by the detectives, was identified by H. J. Kavanagh, a director of the bank.

In all eight men and four women were arrested. Three of the men under arrest were said to be "fiddler" Mark, a well-known pickpocket; William Fein and "Al" Brodie.

Joseph Friedman, who, with his wife, also was arrested, is a driver of a newspaper wagon.

Merion to Spend \$325,000 This Year

Administering the affairs of Merion township, in which many of the Main Line towns are located, will cost \$325,000 during 1916, according to the budget now before the township commissioners at Ardmore. The tax rate for the year will not be changed from the 7 mills in force heretofore. Appropriations include \$2,000 for police and fire, \$8,000 for highways, \$32,215 for health and drainage, and \$16,000 for lighting.

SLAVS' BLOWS CRIPPLE TURKS IN THE CAUCASUS

Moslems Attempt Desperate Offensive, but Are Quickly Beaten Back

ERZERUM SOON TO FALL

LONDON, Jan. 28.—Slashing blows by Grand Duke Nicholas' Russian army have so seriously crippled the Turks in the Caucasus that complete victory is now in sight, according to advices received from Petrograd today.

The Turkish forces defending Erzerum took the offensive when the Russians halted their first successes, but were driven back in rout. The Russian success in Asia Minor has had the same effect on Persia that the German victories in the eastern theatre had on Bulgaria, according to the Athens correspondent of the Daily Mail. He says it is reported that Persia is about to join the Allies.

The general effect upon the Moslem peoples will also be of immense benefit to the Allies, whose prestige in the Orient had undoubtedly suffered as a result of the evacuation of Gallipoli peninsula. Erzerum is the strongest Turkish fortress in Asia Minor. It forms the keystone of the Ottoman line of defense against Russia. The fortifications are modern and are equipped with Krupp guns.

Anxiety for the safety of General Townsend's Mesopotamian army, shut up in Kut-el-Amara, which was increased yesterday by the announcement on the part of the Government that General Asmeyer with his relief force is not yet within 20 miles of his destination, was relieved today by a message from General Townsend himself, announcing a withdrawal of Turks before his lines.

The message was very brief, carrying the announcement that the Turks had evacuated their trenches on the land or southern side of the defenses at Kut-el-Amara, and had fallen back to new positions about a mile from the British intrenchments.

A dispatch received here today quoting a report printed by the Cologne Volkszeitung, telling of the straits in which the British garrison at Aden, in Southern Arabia, had been reduced, was promptly denied by the Press Bureau.

WILL IRWIN TO WED

Writer to Take Inez Haynes Gilmore as Bride

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—From the battlefield of Europe to the battlefield of matrimony today came the author, Will Irwin. The California man and Inez Haynes Gilmore, who also writes and gets real money for it, are armed today with a passport, sometimes called a marriage license, and February 1 they expect to face the 42-centimeter battery of their friends' eyes while the marriage ceremony is performed at 47 Washington Square.

Irwin and his bride will sail for Europe the day they are married, to spend their honeymoon at the front.

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FIND DICTOGRAPH IN BRITISH NAVAL ATTACHE'S ROOM

German Plot Nipped. Planned by New Teuton Secret Service Heads

FOUND IN VENTILATOR

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—The discovery of a dictograph in the room of Captain Guy Gaunt, naval attaché of the British Embassy, has prevented a German agent's becoming cognizant of important British Government secrets.

Captain Gaunt's friends say he outwitted men who hoped to catch him off his guard. The story of the dictograph forms a remarkable behind-the-scenes narrative of never-ceasing duel between the highly organized secret services maintained in this country by the Central Powers and the Allies.

The Teuton agents, after months of planning, succeeded in planting the dictograph in the room often used by Captain Gaunt for conferences. The plotter took rooms situated on all sides of Captain Gaunt's apartment, below and above.

"The German agents watched Gaunt for two weeks and observed his daily movements," said the informant. "They made minute examinations of the formation of the walls, the location of carpets, ventilating systems, etc."

"They finally hit upon the ventilator as the place where a dictograph could be placed. With the aid of an expert mechanical the conspirators entered Gaunt's apartment. They 'traced' the dictograph from the captain's room to an adjoining one.

"The scheme perhaps would have worked perfectly except that Captain Gaunt, since he took up his residence in New York, had anticipated the very method of attack. Accordingly he had arranged with the hotel management to make a thorough search of his quarters at intervals of at least twice a week. Because of this the dictograph was discovered almost at once.

No attempt was made to arrest the

men responsible for the plot because the rival secret services can play the game that way, and because it was thought best to place constant watch upon the conspirators.

NEW GERMAN SPY HEAD. DOVER, Del., Jan. 28.—The first fire of any consequences that has visited Dover in more than a year destroyed William Boyd's moving picture theatre on Lehigh street at 2 o'clock this morning.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, in the building was a mass of flames when it was discovered. Good work on the part of the Robbins Hose Company saved the adjoining buildings. The loss amounts to more than \$500. There was no insurance.

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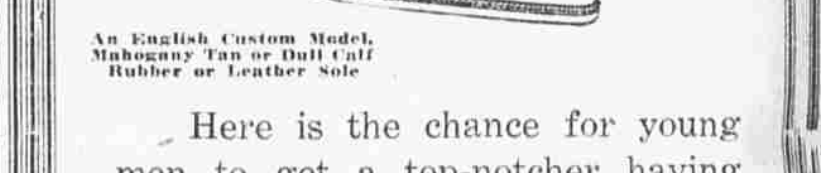
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