

AUSTRIANS GUILTY OF ANOTHER BRAZEN ACT OF PIRACY; STEAMER PERSIA SUNK WITH LOSS OF OVER TWO HUNDRED LIVES

Was Sent to Bottom without Slightest Warning

Survivors Afloat For More Than Thirty Hours—British Strongly Denounces Piratical Act of Austrian Submarine—At Least One American Was on Board.

(Canadian Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Reuter's correspondent at Cairo, Egypt, telegraphs that the P. & O. steamer Persia was torpedoed without warning on Thursday, and sank within a few minutes, with great loss of life.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Cairo correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company sends the following concerning the sinking of the Persia:

"Nobody aboard the Persia saw the torpedo. The second officer is under the impression that he saw the ripple of it.

Survivors Rescued by a Warship; Little Time for Launching of Boats

The survivors, after thirty hours in boats, were rescued by a warship. Six officers were saved. The liner sank so rapidly that there was no time to launch the boats. "Waves soon enveloped the deck and swept the passengers and crew into the sea. Col. Bigham was standing on the deck beside Miss Hughes. He was suddenly swept into the sea and sank. On coming up he bumped against a boat and thus was saved. The other boats, which were seen to be launched, are missing, and there can be little hope that further survivors have been rescued."

London Papers Denounce The Latest Act of Piracy in Scathing Terms

(Canadian Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The London morning papers in editorials on the sinking of the steamer Persia, denounce the act in scathing terms and ask whether the "cup of Teutonic enormity" as far as America is concerned, is yet full. The Post says: "We long ago relinquished all expectations that neutral nations would effectually intervene in these repeated outrages of international law. It is naturally a matter for their own conscience, but at the same time it must be said that their position is singularly inconsistent with their pleadings to the Allied belligerents that they may be allowed to trade with the enemy."

The Times' editorial, assuming that it was the Austrians, though it may possibly have been a German or a Turkish submarine, says: "Whatever stage is stained by this fresh outrage, there is no room for hollow cynical explanations by which Vienna sought to amuse Washington. It cannot be pretended that the Persia was torpedoed in such a gentle fashion that the passengers ought to have been saved but for the culpable neglect of the crew, which is the cowardly defence of the Austrians in the Ancona case. Even Austrian impudence and cynicism cannot plead that five minutes is long enough to save hundreds of passengers."

The Deliberate Murder of Four Hundred Innocent Non-Combatants

"The fact that stares all nations in the face," says the Telegraph, "is that four hundred utterly helpless non-combatants were deliberately murdered in broad daylight by an enemy war vessel, acting under orders of its government. The singular coincidence is that the new disaster comes on the same day as the publication of Austria's Ancona reply to America." The Chronicle says: "In the light of this appalling crime, President Wilson can assure the value of assurances received from Germany and Austria. The former never apologized for sinking the Lusitania and Austria has sent to Washington a tardy apology for sinking the Ancona, its utter insincerity being shown by the almost simultaneous sinking of the Yasaki Maru, the Villa De La Ciott, and the Persia. The Central Powers could scarcely be more open in their contempt for the American government, and one wonders how much longer the American government and people will continue to tolerate their attitude."

Several Americans Were Included in the Long List of Victims

Presumably, America's action will be determined by the fate of the few American passengers on board the Persia, says the Daily News. "We should like to believe, for the sake of her good name, as much as in the interest of any victims of the future, that it would not, but whatever the President's decision, his right to choose his course without complaint or criticism from this side, is unqualified and unquestioned."

The Daily Mail says: "The cowardly sinking of the Persia

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POLITICAL SITUATION IS TANGLED

Compulsory Recruiting Bill May Apply to Ireland—More Resignations Likely

(Canadian Press.)

London, Jan. 3.—The statement that the compulsory recruiting bill will also be applied to Ireland so far rests on the authority of the Press Association, which however is often the medium of official intimations.

According to the Times' parliamentary correspondent, the political situation is still tangled, and there is a possibility of other resignations besides that of Sir John A. Simon, Secretary of State for home affairs, whose position can hardly be reconciled with the remaining ministers. A revised draft of the compulsory recruiting bill was circulated to the members of the government during the week end, and will be discussed at Tuesday's Cabinet Council. According to the Times, Premier Asquith has still to satisfy Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, regarding the total strength of the army, and the danger of the situation lies in the dangerous but plausible compromise for the sake of retaining these two ministers.

A BRITISH STEAMER SENT TO THE BOTTOM

London, Jan. 3.—The British steamship Glengyle has been sunk. There are about 100 survivors.

OVER A MILLION ARE ELIGIBLE

Ottawa, Jan. 3.—In connection with the increase of the Canadian forces to half a million men, statistics from the last census bearing on the subject are of pertinent interest. By the census of 1911 the male population of Canada between the ages of 18 and 40 was 1,468,370, of whom 612,842 were married. Included in the above total were 285,082 foreign-born males, 25 per cent. of whom were Germans, Austrians or others of alien nationality.

Mr. F. S. Whittaker, assistant P. O. inspector, of St. John, is at among the guests at the Queen.

TORPEDOING OF THE PERSIA DENOUNCED BY THE U. S. PRESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The majority of the American newspapers, in their editorial opinions on the destruction of the Persia, are disposed to wait for further details of the disaster before making extended comment. Following are American newspaper editorials on the destruction of the Persia:

The New York World says: "We have had the word of a monarchy as proud and punctilious as any in the world that the inhuman practices to which we have objected would not be repeated. The good faith of that great nation is involved in this matter, and we must in decency await the communications—profoundly apologetic, perhaps—which we cannot fail to believe it will make haste to present."

A HYPHENATED OPINION.

The New York Staats Zeitung says: "It is admitted that the Persia was in fact a transport. She had on board 'many soldiers,' though 'all were travelling as private citizens,' according to 'admiralty announcement.' The German and Austrian-Hungarian government have stated that 'the sacred commandments of humanity must be observed also in war.' We must wait until we have the full facts of the case at hand before condemning Austro-Hungary or Germany for the sinking of the Persia, but in the meantime we can well ask ourselves if it is not within the right and duties of Congress to interest itself in the elucidation of certain questions repeatedly brought to the fore by such incidents."

THE BOSTON GLOBE'S VIEW.

The Boston Globe says: "Coming at the first of the New Year, and closely following Austria's pronouncement of a more humane submarine policy, the news of the sinking of the Persia and the loss of many passengers, is like hearing of the death of a friend we thought was well on the road to recovery, following a long illness. The shock is all the greater. The latest disaster completely overshadows Austria's friendly note. We care nothing about friendly notes. If Germany thinks we no longer remember the Lusitania, or if Austria thinks we are not mindful of our duties and responsibilities, both shall learn that they have made a sad mistake. The Persia may serve to hasten such a day."

KAISER'S CONDITION SAID TO BE SERIOUS

Was Operated Upon Last Wednesday for An Affection of the Throat—German Munition Depots Blown up by French Artillery—Russians Take Initiative on An Extensive Front.

PARIS, Jan. 3.—Press despatches from Switzerland and Italy continue to affirm that the illness of Emperor William is serious. It is stated that he was operated on last Wednesday successfully, but the nature of the operation is not specified. It is stated that the Emperor is suffering from a deep seated affection of which the cutaneous eruption is but an incidental symptom and that the malady is complicated by the reappearance of his old throat trouble, which has extended to the mouth. It is even asserted that it would be necessary to provide him with an artificial plate made of silver.

GERMAN MUNITIONS DEPOTS DESTROYED BY THE FRENCH ARTILLERY IN BELGIUM

(Canadian Press.)

PARIS, Jan. 2 (delayed).—The War Office tonight issued the following statement: "In Belgium a bombardment by our field artillery and trench mortars against groups of the enemy in the region of the dunes, caused heavy damage. Two fires were started and two munitions depots were blown up."

"In the Argonne the fire of our batteries dispersed a body of Germans moving upon the road from Avoncourt to Malancourt."

"On the heights of the Meuse in the forest of Chevaliers a heavy cannonade directed against the enemy trenches caused the destruction of several blockhouses."

"In the afternoon two shells fell in Nancy. The enemy's gun from which they came was immediately taken under our fire."

"In the region of Hartmann's Weilerkopf, the enemy carried on a violent bombardment following which our troops retired along a front of 200 metres on the western side of the ravine to the south of Rehfselen."

"The enemy did not attempt any attack with infantry."

"The Belgian statement says that nothing in particular has transpired outside the customary artillery struggles."

THE INITIATIVE ON A 190 MILE FRONT IS FIRMLY ON THE SIDE OF THE RUSSIANS

(Canadian Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Whichever side began the offensive, and whatever has been the gap in the news, the raising of the curtain on the Volhynian and Galician fighting shows that the initiative over a front of 190 miles is now firmly on the side of the Russians. The Russians seem to be securely established across the Stry river, north of Czartorysk. They have captured the village of Khriask, three miles from the river. A flank attack six or seven miles to the southeast of Kolki, according to the advices, has failed to shake the solidarity of the new Russian dispositions. Inasmuch as Russian progress is also reported north of Olyka, the movement is apparently making in the direction of Kovel, along the two railways between Sarny and Kovel and Rono.

BRITISH LINERS MAY CHANGE THEIR ROUTES TO AVOID PIRATICAL CRAFT OF THE ENEMY

(Canadian Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The possibility of British liners which are using the Mediterranean, changing their route, as the Dutch and Japanese steamships already have done, is being discussed in the press, but it is pointed out that British mail boats are in a different position. They are under contract with the government to carry mails by specified routes, and therefore could not change without the consent of the government.

THE FRENCH CONSUL AT SOFIA HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

(Canadian Press.)

BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville), Jan. 2.—The Bulgarian government has arrested the French vice-consul at Sofia, in retaliation for the arrest of the Bulgarian consul at Saloniki, according to the Overseas News Agency, which adds that the vice-consul has remained at Sofia with the permission of the Bulgarian government, in order to assist the Dutch minister, charged with the care of the French interests.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—An Athens despatch to the Daily Mail says that the consuls recently arrested at Saloniki will be liberated shortly either at Piraeus or Marseilles, with safe conducts. The Allied legations are awaiting instructions before tendering explanations to the Greek government.