

# ENGLAND ANSWERS

## SAYS WE HAVE NEITHER LAW NOR EQUITY ON OUR SIDE

### WILL KEEP BLOCKADE

Defends Actions of Her Navy, Justifies Them by Citing Germany's Various Acts—Supplemental Note Discusses Prize Courts and Suggests Arbitration of Whatever Differences May Arise.

Great Britain's reply to the latest American representations against interference with neutral commerce, made public Tuesday night reflects entirely the position of the British government in council as regards the blockade. It is a rejoinder to the British course as justified by international law.

"Unustainable either in point of law or upon principles of international equity" is the British reply to the American protest against the blockade. It is a rejoinder to the American invitation to submit to international arbitration any cases in which the United States is dissatisfied with action of British prize courts.

The British reply is contained in two notes, one supplementary to the American note, and the other a correspondence over the American steamer Neches, seized by the British while en route from Rotterdam to the United States, with goods of German origin.

Changed conditions of warfare, the British note contends, require a new application of the principles of international law. The advent of the submarine, the airship and alleged German atrocities in Belgium are cited as justification for extreme measures. The blockade is justified as a necessary and fundamental principle of a blockade is that a belligerent is entitled to cut off "by effective means the sea-borne commerce of his enemy."

The note reiterates that Great Britain will continue to apply the orders complained of, although not without every effort to avoid embarrassing neutrals, and observes that American statistics show that any loss in trade with Germany and Austria has been more than covered by the increase in other industrial activities due to the war.

In the general reply to the American representations against the orders in council, Sir Edward Grey, the foreign minister, addressing Ambassador Blandy, says that if a belligerent has the right to cut off the sea-borne commerce of his enemy, it is equally incumbent upon him to take such measures as are necessary to prevent the enemy from doing so.

Consequently, Sir Edward argues, it is impossible to maintain that the right of a belligerent to intercept the commerce of his enemy can be limited in the way suggested in the American notes on the subject. "There are many cases," he says, "in which the goods were enemy property which would afford strong evidence that they were of enemy origin or character, and in such cases it is in such cases that we are detaining them. Where proof of enemy ownership would afford no evidence of such origin or destination we are not in practice detaining the goods."

Sir Edward then refers to alleged atrocities in Belgium poisoning of wells in German Southwest Africa, alleged poisonings in the Congo, alleged troops in Flanders, and finally, the sinking of the Lusitania, to show how indispensable it is that "we should have used no justifiable method of defending ourselves."

Coming down to the question of the blockade of neutral ports, the note continues: "In the various notes which I have received from your Excellency the right of a belligerent to establish a blockade of the enemy ports is admitted, a right which is given power to a belligerent to cut off the sea-borne exports and imports of his enemy."

"The construction which I understand the United States government to put forward is so circumscribed that his commerce can pass through adjacent neutral ports as easily as through ports in his own territory, his opponent has no right to interfere, and must restrict his measures of blockade in such a way as to leave no avenues of commerce still open to his adversary. This is a contention which His Majesty's government feels unable to accept, and which seems to them unsustainable in point of law or upon principles of international equity."

"They are unable to admit that a belligerent violates any fundamental principle of international law by applying a blockade in such a way as to cut off the enemy's commerce with foreign ports, or that the circumstances render such an application of principles of blockade the only means of making it effective."

"The government of the United States, indeed, intimates its readiness to take into account the great changes which have occurred in the conditions and means of naval warfare since the rules hitherto governing legal blockade were formulated, and recognizes that the form of close blockade with its cordon of ships in the immediate offing of the blockaded ports is no longer practicable in the face of an enemy possessing the means and opportunity to make an effective defense by the use of submarines, mines and aircrafts."

"The only question, then, which can arise in regard to the measures resorted to for the purpose of carrying out a blockade upon the external lines is, whether to use your Excellency's words, they conform to the spirit and principles of essence of the rules of war and we shall be content to apply this test to the action which we have taken insofar as it is necessary to the maintenance of neutral commerce."

Sir Edward Grey then refers to the American civil war blockade of three thousand miles of coast with a small number of vessels and recalls how the United States finally took recourse to a blockade of neutral territory which offered convenient centers from which contraband could be introduced into Confederate territory and from which blockade running could be facilitated.

"Your Excellency will no doubt remember," wrote Sir Edward, "how in order to meet this new difficulty, the old principles relating to contraband and blockade were developed and the doctrine of continuous voyage was applied and enforced, under which goods destined for the enemy territory were intended to be transported to the neutral ports from which they were to be re-exported."

"The difficulties which imposed upon the United States the necessity of reshaping some of the old rules as to some extent to those with which the allies are now dealing with the trade of their enemy. Adjacent to Germany are various neutral countries which afford her convenient opportunities for carrying on her trade with foreign countries."

"Her own territories are covered by a network of railways and waterways, which enable her commerce to pass as conveniently through ports in such neutral countries as through her own ports. A blockade limited to enemy ports would leave open routes by which every kind of German commerce could pass almost as easily as through the ports in her own territory."

"Rotterdam is, indeed, the nearest

# THE WAR LAST WEEK

## FALL OF WARSAW STARTS A HUGE GERMAN EFFORT

### AFTER ARMY OF NICHOLAS

Turning Movement Now Being Developed is Attempting to Drive Slavs From Their Second Line of Defence and to Force Evacuation of Bug River Positions.

In reviewing the operations of the past week that led up to the fall of Warsaw, a division of the fighting front into sectors, similar to that of several weeks ago, will again be made and followed. Although the ultimate objective of all the Teuton armies on this front was naturally Warsaw, each of them had a functional objective, and it was a combination of this that was to effect and did effect the fall of the Polish capital. Therefore, the various steps taken can, in their relation to the whole, be best understood by following the operations of each of the various armies.

**Around the Gulf of Riga.**  
In the extreme northern sector, that of Courland, the army of Gen. von Buelow is operating, his left being at some point on the Gulf of Riga, his right extending down into the hood of Augustowo. The operations of this force have not been strictly against Warsaw itself. It seems rather, a heavy raiding force, which, in addition to its offensive operations, prevents the turning of the German left, as was done by the Russians in the earlier campaign against Warsaw.

**Von Buelow's Minor Successes.**  
Von Buelow's operations have been largely against the principal Russian cities in Courland and the railroad running from Warsaw through Grodno and Vilna to Petrograd. This army has met with considerable minor successes. It has taken the important gulf port of Riga and, although stubbornly opposed, has fought its way forward some little distance toward the railroad. But the railroad is still a long way off and it will probably be some time before it can be reached, if it ever is. Some of its branches have been and probably will continue to be cut, but the main stem is intact.

**Railroad Line is Important.**  
The importance of this road is not primarily that it feeds Warsaw, for Warsaw being now in German hands need no longer be considered in this connection, but the Russian will of necessity fall back to a new line, which Sir Edward's notes point out, is the fight flank of their new line that will depend on it for supplies.

In so far as the rest of the new line is concerned, it is the success of Von Buelow's operations, as the roads through Siedlce and Volkovysk, and through Brest-Litovsk, with their numerous branches, can bear sufficient traffic to bring up the necessary supplies.

It is far, therefore, as Von Buelow's force has influenced the fall of Warsaw, it can not be said to have done more than to have effectively guarded the flank of the forces operating in the next sector, that of the Narva and the Bug at Serock.

**Narva Affords Splendid Defence.**  
Although the Narva is only about 200 yards wide, it is guarded, as are most of the rivers of Poland, by a wide marsh belt on either bank, which makes an excellent defensive position. In addition to its natural strength its defensive possibilities have been greatly augmented by the construction of permanent fortifications at various points along the Narva, and the Narva, therefore, has proved a most formidable barrier to the advance of the Teuton forces.

**May Cut Off Garrison.**  
The Narva between Lomza and Serock screens three railroads radiating from Ostrolenka, all of which are branches of the Warsaw-Petrograd road. It is, therefore, entirely logical that such a heavy fighting force should be concentrated along the Narva front, as the cutting of any of the three roads would almost certainly result in the isolation and consequent capture of the Russian forces occupying at least one of them.

It has been stated repeatedly in these reviews must be remembered—the objective of the German army must not be territory, but men, the Russian army itself. Grant's victories at York Harbor, and Petersburg, gave him only territory and otherwise left him empty-handed. It was only when Lee surrendered at Appomattox and the army of Northern Virginia ceased to exist as a fighting entity that Grant's "military" campaign was put down as a success. It is with an understanding and realization of this fact that we must view the German operations against Warsaw.

**German Driven Back.**  
During the week beginning July 24 the Germans threw an overwhelming force against the Russian line on the east bank of the Narva near Serock and succeeded in forcing a crossing with a considerable force in the neighborhood of Rozan. But the Russians, reinforced at this point, put a sudden stop to the German advance by a severe counter attack, which drove the troops that had crossed the river, and held the others in the heavy forest just east of the Rozan bridgehead. Official reports from Berlin have daily mentioned this sector, and every report emphasizes the severity of the fighting, but no report was made of a successful crossing other than that noted.

**The Fall of Warsaw Will, however, force the Russians to retire from the Narva to their new line.** The situation is somewhat confused at present, but the probabilities are that a strong Russian rear guard is holding the bridgeheads at the various fortified points while the main Russian army occupying the front is retiring. The fighting will be desperate, naturally, as troops engaged in such a rear-guard action will be entirely sacrificed, if necessary, in order to retard the advance for a sufficient length of time for the main army to make good its retreat.

When the advancing Germans force the bridgeheads their work is not done, and the Russian rear guard can still make effective resistance by reason of the marshes and deep forests with which the eastern bank of the Narva is fringed. The only question is, how long the Russian rear guard can hold out, and how long the German forces in the sharper part of the Warsaw salient: Knowing that ultimate retirement was inevitable, have the Russians commenced the retrograde movement in time?

Where Von Haxthausen attacked the Warsaw sector, that immediately west of and encircling Warsaw, von Hindenburg drove forward by frontal attacks against fortified positions along the outer line of defensive works of the city. To the north, in the region of Nowo-Georgievsk, through continuous fighting of the most severe character did not shake the Russian resistance. But the fall of Lublin and Chatau and the consequent abandonment of a considerable section of the railroad between Warsaw and Lublin, and the fact that the Russian rear guard is holding the bridgeheads at the various fortified points while the main Russian army occupying the front is retiring. The fighting will be desperate, naturally, as troops engaged in such a rear-guard action will be entirely sacrificed, if necessary, in order to retard the advance for a sufficient length of time for the main army to make good its retreat.

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# NEWS OF THE WAR

## SCATTERED ITEMS GATHERED ABOUT WORLD CONFLICT

### BIG NEWS IN SHORT SPACE

Interesting Pointers About the Signal-Can Things Which Oftentimes Escape Attention—War Goes on in Many Fields of Activity—What the Various Nations are Doing.

About 33,858 pounds of bombs were dropped one day last week by a French aeroplane squadron of thirty-five machines on and near the railroad station established by the Germans for strategic reasons at Vignelles-les-Hattonchateau, the station serving the region of the Calonne trenches and that of the Forest of Apremont. The squadron, working in the face of a forty-mile aerial range, according to the official report, 171 bombs of 90 kilograms each (about 198 pounds). The Germans have been assembling large quantities of military stores at the station. The bombardment started several fires. All the aeroplanes returned to the French lines.

British troops are now in Serbia fighting with the Serbians against the Austrians, so it was stated at Liverpool on Thursday by Crawford Price, the British eyewitness to the Serbian front. He said that the British army authorities had permitted him to make this announcement.

Shells have been dropping into Arras for more than 250 days. When the war began the town had a population of 35,000. Now the population was 4,000; now it is 1,000. A few scores of the inhabitants have been killed or wounded, while the rest have left, under persuasion of the military authorities. Those who remain sleep in cellars, and the streets are being cleaned by a few underground shops are doing business.

American travelers who have reached Greece from Turkey state that the native Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman empire, the Armenians, are being driven from their homes by tens of thousands, driven to distant places, and given the choice between accepting Islam or being put to the sword. Their houses and property are seized by Turks. Able-bodied men are being sent to the Turkish army. Many Armenians, who are faring somewhat worse than the Greeks, have been massacred.

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Cholera is raging in Lemberg, recently captured from the Russians, and the Austrian and German troops have been withdrawn in consequence, so reports from Petrograd state. Civilian refugees are pouring into Russian territory. At Kiev the Lemberg cabmen are plying their trade.

The British Navy League is urging the government to seize all German, Austrian and Turkish ships detained in the ports of the British empire "as a set-off, in some measure, against the destruction of British merchant vessels without warning by German submarines."

Plans are being made in Germany for the formation of a central body, acting under the direction of the Imperial government, and composed of equal numbers of producers and consumers, to improve the economic war machinery during the next harvest year, especially in regard to the control of maximum prices and the control of the food supply. The government plans to establish a systematic control of prices of all goods necessary to the conduct of the war, taking all matters of this kind out of the hands of the individual states.

Nearly \$3,000,000,000 has been subscribed by the people of Great Britain to the war loan, this being, in the words of Chancellor of the Exchequer McKenna, "by far and away the largest amount subscribed in the history of the world." The British government has through total number of subscribers through their subscriptions being \$2,850,000,000, while 547,000 persons have subscribed \$75,000,000 through the post office, with more subscriptions through the latter channel yet to come.

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# RESERVE BOARD TO AID IN MOVEMENT OF CROP

## Will Lend Money to Banks Who May Use Notes of Farmers Secured by Cotton Certificates.

### Big Loss to Growers

Preliminary plans designed to make available the resources of the federal reserve system in the annual fall movement of the cotton and other crops have been worked out by the federal reserve board. In a letter addressed to the board, the federal reserve board has pointed out how the crop movement could be financed.

It is shown by the board that no staple commodity is subject to greater variations in prices than cotton. "Sudden and violent fluctuations" say the board, "are clearly to the advantage of neither the loaning banks, the producer, the manufacturer nor the consumer. They offer on the contrary an inviting field for the speculator."

The reservation of storage space is urged. "While there is not sufficient warehouse capacity in the South," says the statement, "to provide storage at any one time for the entire cotton crop, it is believed that there are ample facilities for the proper storage of all cotton that is likely to be pledged as security for loans."

The normal movement of the cotton crop warehousemen at concentrating points estimate that the maximum storage required will not exceed 20 per cent. of the total receipts for the season.

The federal reserve board advises that although there seems "no reason to believe that the world's present and potential supply of cotton is out of proportion to requirements during the next twelve months, it is nevertheless important because of our lack of adequate storage facilities as well as restrictions brought about by the war upon free exports to all countries, that ample means be provided for the proper handling and effective marketing of cotton."

The statement dictates special attention to the marketing of the cotton crop. "While the yield of corn wheat and other cereals promises to be large, there is every reason to expect that these products will find a market in an orderly way. Cotton, however, is peculiarly sensitive to abnormal conditions such as now exist in our export trade and it is clearly in the common interest that credits based upon this crop be protected as far as possible from the danger of demoralization such as existed during the cotton famine of 1917."

No staple commodity is subject to greater variations in price than cotton, which during the past twelve years has shown, according to figures based upon official quotations on the New York cotton exchange, an average annual fluctuation of 5.33 cents per pound, the maximum price range during any year of this period being 10.4 cents per pound in 1904, and the minimum range 2.65 cents per pound in 1906.

It should be noted, however, that with two exceptions, there has been no great difference in the average price of cotton for each of these twelve years, the exceptions being the year 1905 when the average price during the year was 9.25 cents per pound, and the lowest of the twelve-year period, and the other being the year 1910 when the average price per pound was 16.45 cents; but the average price for the entire twelve-year period was twelve cents per pound.

Sudden and violent fluctuations are clearly to the advantage of neither the loaning bank, the producer, the manufacturer nor the consumer. They offer on the contrary, an inviting field for the speculator, and the normal federal reserve system, in making possible the more normal movement of the crop, be a contributing factor in reducing these fluctuations, it would have accomplished a great public good."

The statement concludes: "The board will be prepared from time to time to pass upon such special phases of the crop moving problem as may be presented to it by the federal reserve agents, who are brought into contact with the special conditions prevailing in the various sections of the country, and it will adapt existing regulations to such conditions as may be required for facilitating the normal and economic movement of the staple agricultural products of the country."

papers are again laying the blame for the trouble on Lord Northcliffe, it being claimed that he is trying to force a claim against our office, so that Lloyd George may take the premiership. The London reports say that Asquith is keenly annoyed over the squabbling and is doing all he can to bring peace in his official family.

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# SHOTS OFF COTTON

## SOUTHERN STAPLE MAY SOON BE MADE CONTRABAND

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During First Year of War Cotton Men, Including Shippers, Lost Nearly \$235,000,000—President and Administration Concerned Over Plight of the South.

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British troops are now in Serbia fighting with the Serbians against the Austrians, so it was stated at Liverpool on Thursday by Crawford Price, the British eyewitness to the Serbian front. He said that the British army authorities had permitted him to make this announcement.

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American travelers who have reached Greece from Turkey state that the native Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman empire, the Armenians, are being driven from their homes by tens of thousands, driven to distant places, and given the choice between accepting Islam or being put to the sword. Their houses and property are seized by Turks. Able-bodied men are being sent to the Turkish army. Many Armenians, who are faring somewhat worse than the Greeks, have been massacred.

Gold is flowing into the Bank of France from private hoards, in response to the request of the government. In two days more than 10,