

WILL CLOSE GERMAN PORTS.

FRENCH AND BRITISH FLEETS WILL NOT ALLOW ENTRANCE OF ANY COMMODITIES.

Hope to Win War by Starving Teutons Through Cutting off All Commerce by Sea—Still Considering American Proposals Says Premier in Statement.

London, March 1.—If the combined fleets of Great Britain and France can prevent it, no commodities of any kind except those now on the seas, henceforth until the conclusion of the war shall reach or leave the shores of Germany.

This is England's answer to Germany's submarine blockade, and it is to be effective forthwith.

Premier Asquith, reading from a prepared statement, made the announcement in the house of commons today at a session which will be historic. Studiously avoiding the terms "blockade" and "contraband" — for these words occur nowhere in the prepared statement—the premier explained that the allies considered themselves justified in attempting, and would attempt, "to detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership or origin."

The premier emphasized, however, that vessels and cargoes so seized were not necessarily liable to confiscation and begged the patience of neutral countries in the face of a step likely to injure them. He added that the measure had been adopted by the allies in self-defense.

"We are quite prepared," he went on, "to submit to the arbitrament of neutral opinion, and still more to the verdict of impartial history that in the circumstances in which we have been placed we have been moderate; we have been restrained from things that we were provoked and tempted to do, and we have adopted a policy which commends itself to reason, to common sense and to justice."

Every member of the house not at the front or unavoidably detained was in his seat and there was frequent cheering. The galleries were packed. When the premier concluded his set statement, and, turning to the speaker said, "That, sir, is our reply" immediately there was a tremendous outburst.

Curiously, the German reply to the American note seeking to solve the situation growing out of Germany's declaration of a naval war zone was handed to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin today and Premier Asquith, in his speech, said that Great Britain and her allies were still considering carefully the American note to them on the same subject. That the British government had rejected the proposal, he declared, was "quite untrue."

The tremendous cost of modern warfare, which the premier estimated now at \$7,500,000 daily to the allies alone and likely to grow to \$8,500,000 or more by April, was the theme of that part of the address not dealing with the blockade. The premier gave these figures in asking for a supplementary vote of credit, making a total of \$1,310,000,000 to prosecute the war to March 31, 1915, which the house unanimously granted.

The entire struggle with Napoleon cost England only about \$6,155,000,000 and the South African war only \$1,055,000,000, according to Mr. Asquith.

Before the premier had finished the newspapers were on the streets proclaiming "Our Answer to Germany" in big letters, and it was apparent everywhere that the entire nation had been chafing for reprisals against the sinking of merchant craft by submarines.

The statement is as follows: "Germany has declared that the English channel, the north and west coasts of France and the waters around the British Isles are a war area, and has officially notified that all enemy ships found in that area would be destroyed and that neutral vessels may be exposed to danger. This is in effect a claim to torpedo at sight, without regard to the safety of the crew or passengers, any merchant vessel under any flag. As it is not in the power of the German admiralty to maintain any surface craft in these waters this attack can only be delivered by submarine agency.

"The law and customs of nations in regard to attacks on commerce have always presumed that the duty of the captor of a merchant vessel is to bring it before a prize court where it may be tried, where the regularity of the capture may be challenged and where neutrals may recover their cargoes. The sinking of prizes is in itself a questionable act to be resorted to only in extraordinary circumstances and after provision has been made for the safety of all the crew and passengers. If there are passengers on board the responsibility of discriminating between neutral and enemy vessels and between neutral and enemy cargo obviously rests with the attacking ship, whose duty it is to verify the status and character of the vessel and cargo and to preserve all

papers before sinking or even capturing it. So also is the humane duty of providing for the safety of the crew of merchant vessels, whether neutral or enemy, an obligation on every belligerent.

"It is upon this basis that all previous discussions of the law for regulating warfare at sea have proceeded. A German submarine, however, fulfills none of these obligations; she enjoys no local command of the waters in which she operates; she does not take her capture within the jurisdiction of a prize court; she carries no prize crew which can be put on board a prize; she uses no effective means of discriminating between a neutral and an enemy vessel; she does not receive on board for safety the crew and passengers of the vessels she sinks. The methods of warfare are, therefore, entirely outside the scope of any international instruments regulating operations against commerce in time of war. The German declaration substitutes indiscriminate destruction for regulated capture. Germany is adopting these methods against peaceful traders and the noncombatant crews with the avowed object of preventing commodities of all kinds, including food for the civilian population, from reaching or leaving the British Isles or northern France.

"Her opponents are, therefore, driven to frame retaliatory measures in order in their turn to prevent commodities of any kind from reaching or leaving Germany.

"These measures will, however, be enforced by the British and French governments without risk to neutral ships or to neutral or noncombatant life and in strict observance of the dictates of humanity. The British and French governments will therefore, hold themselves free to detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership or origin. It is not intended to confiscate such vessels or cargoes unless they would otherwise be liable to condemnation. The treatment of vessels which sail before this date will not be affected.

"This is our reply."

The reading of the statement was interrupted frequently with loud cheers.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford invited the premier to state whether Germans who engaged in submarine attacks or raids on unfortified towns and were captured would be tried for murder. Mr. Asquith declined to give any definite assurance, but he said: "No doubt the government will take into serious consideration what is the status under international law of persons engaged in this campaign."

Referring again to the proposed retaliatory measures, the premier said: "I may say that the suggestion which has been put forth from German quarters that we have rejected certain proposals or suggestions made to two powers by the United States is untrue. All we have stated to the United States so far is that we have taken this matter into careful consideration, in consultation with our allies."

Mr. Asquith ridiculed what he called the German theory of blockade and asked: "Where's the German fleet?" "It has been seen on the sea only twice since the war began, he said, and its object in both cases was "murder and wholesale destruction of property and undefended towns." He described the German campaign against British shipping as grotesque and puerile and said it was a perversion of language to call it a blockade.

"The gravity of our immense task increases each month," he continued. "The call for men has been responded to nobly, both at home and throughout the empire. That call has never been more urgent than today. We must draw on all our resources, both material and spiritual. We have not relaxed, nor shall we relax until the pursuit of every one of our ends is accomplished."

DISCUSS REPRISALS.

Neutral Diplomats Take Steps to Learn Details.

London, March 1.—The American Italian and Russian ambassadors and the Swedish and Danish ministers called on Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, today, it is presumed, to discuss Great Britain's policy of reprisals against Germany.

ANARCHISTS IN NEW YORK.

Make Attempt to Blow up St. Patrick's Cathedral.

New York, March 2.—Three anarchists were arrested today just after placing a lighted bomb near the altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The fuse was extinguished in time to prevent the explosion. Seven hundred people were attending early mass when the attempt to blow up the edifice was made. The anarchists had two other powerful bombs when arrested and it developed that they intended to destroy the homes of John Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie.

MANNING'S APPOINTMENTS.

SELECTS MEN FOR CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS COMMISSION.

Duties "Strictly Visitorial and Advisory Without Administrative or Executive Power"—To Improve Penal Institutions—To Elect Two Secretaries.

Columbia, March 4.—Gov. Manning announced yesterday the members of the State board of charities and corrections, who will have charge of the new department of the State government created by the last general assembly. His appointees are: Dr. George B. Cromer, member of the Newberry bar; Dr. Z. T. Cody of Greenville, editor of The Baptist Courier; Dr. D. D. Wallace of the Wofford college faculty; R. H. King, secretary of the Charleston branch of the Y. M. C. A.; L. O. Patterson, member of the Greenville bar. The board will begin its work on April 1. It will appoint a secretary and an assistant secretary.

The Christensen-Graydon act, creating the State board of charities and corrections, provides that its duties shall be "strictly visitorial and advisory without administrative or executive power." Either as a whole or by committee or by its secretary or assistant secretary, the State board of charities and corrections is required to visit and inspect once a year or oftener "State, county, municipal and private institutions which are of an eleemosynary, charitable, correctional or reformatory character or which are for the care, custody or training of the defective, dependent, delinquent or criminal classes, except that the hospital for the insane, the penitentiary and the reformatories shall be visited as often as once in six months and by at least two members of the board."

The board must make reports on the inspections of institutions under its supervision to officials having direct charge of them. In addition officials of State, county and municipal charitable and correctional institutions must make quarterly reports to the board in such form as it may provide.

Plans for new jails, almshouses and similar buildings must be submitted to the board by county and municipal authorities for suggestions and recommendations before they are adopted.

The State board of charities and corrections is authorized to appoint local boards in cities and counties. On these boards is to be a member of the board of health of the city or county. One member may be a woman.

Besides its duties of inspection and supervision, the State board must collect statistics on dependent, defective and delinquent classes both in and out of institutions and such other data as may be of value. Annual reports to the governor, to the clerks of court of the counties and monthly reports to the State board of health must be made by the board of charities and corrections. The governor may call upon the board to make inspections of any institution at any time.

Immediately after its organization, the State board of charities and corrections is required through one or more of its agents to investigate the financial condition of inmates now in the State Hospital for the Insane or hereafter committed to the institution. An investigation must also be made of the financial resources of relatives of inmates liable for their support.

The board is to submit its findings to the board of regents of the asylum. No payments will be required of inmates or their relatives prior to May 2, 1915. In ascertaining the financial resources of inmates of the asylum to determine whether they are able to bear the whole or part of the cost of their treatment at the State hospital the board is cautioned to consider other members of the family who depend for support on the estates of inmates.

The act creating the board provides elaborate machinery for making investigations of the financial resources of patients at the State hospital. The board is authorized to employ two agents prior to January 1, 1916, to make these investigations and one agent for this purpose after this date.

St. Helena is Flouted by Tug.

Norfolk, Va., March 3.—The Belgian relief steamer St. Helena was floated early tonight by the wrecking tug Rescue from the bar off the Currituck (N. C.) coast guard station, while bound from Charleston, S. C., for Rotterdam via Norfolk. She apparently was undamaged and proceeded for Norfolk. Divers will examine her hull after her arrival here.

The St. Helena, which is a British ship, left Charleston Sunday with 7,000 tons of foodstuffs and clothing contributed by the people of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia to the suffering Belgians.

Some Facts About Potash

POTASH is higher than last year because of scarcity brought about by war in Europe and recent decree by Germany entirely prohibiting further exports, but the increased cost, if proportioned to the amount of fertilizers used per acre, is a small item.

For Potash in mixed goods, our charge at this time is at the rate of \$1.50 per unit potash (present market price \$2.50 to \$3.00 per unit)—in comparison with \$1.00 per unit last season. A difference of only 50c. per unit. This increased cost, per acre of land, is insignificant, as you will see by the following:—

2% POTASH GOODS—Increase 50c. per Ton for Potash

200 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 5 c. more than last year.
300 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 7½c. more than last year.
400 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 10 c. more than last year.
500 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 12½c. more than last year.

3% POTASH GOODS—Increase \$1.00 per Ton for Potash

200 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 10c. more than last year.
300 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 15c. more than last year.
400 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 20c. more than last year.
500 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of potash 25c. more than last year.

This is a very small increase in charge for Potash when you consider that Murate of Potash is now selling at about \$125.00 to \$150.00 per ton (equivalent to \$2.50 to \$3.00 per unit of Potash) at ports, for cash in large quantities, whereas our present charge of \$1.50 per unit is for goods delivered, time payment.

Our price per unit of Ammonia delivered is \$3.25 against \$3.50 last year. A reduction of 25c. per unit, although Cotton Seed Meal is now selling approximately at the rate of \$3.40 to \$3.50 per unit of Ammonia. Our charge per unit for Available Phosphoric Acid is the same as last year,—60c. per unit.

If you want Fertilizers containing Potash, write or apply to our nearest Sales Office.

V-C SALES OFFICES

- Durham, N. C.
- Winston-Salem, N. C.
- Charleston, S. C.
- Columbia, S. C.
- Richmond, Va.
- Norfolk, Va.



V-C SALES OFFICES

- Atlanta, Ga.
- Savannah, Ga.
- Columbus, Ga.
- Memphis, Tenn.
- Montgomery, Ala.
- Shreveport, La.

Ordinarily you would not risk growing your Crop without Potash. Why do so this year when the cost per acre is so little more than in previous years? Can you afford to take such a chance?

EXPRESS RATES REDUCED.

Railroad Commission Issues Order Affecting Commodities.

Columbia, March 4.—The railroad commission yesterday issued an order reducing express rates on certain commodities, effective within the next 30 days. The commission also changed the present express tariff indicating that the class rate applicable to business moving between rate block No. 1746, in which Charleston is located, and rate block No. 1644, in which Columbia is located, shall take scale No. 8, 90 cents first class, 68 cents second class for 100 pounds instead of scale No. 11, taking \$1.05 first class, 79 cents second class for 100 pounds.

The commission has also reduced the rate on bananas, pine apples, grapefruit, lemons, oranges and tangerines to a rate equivalent to 60 per cent. of first class on a parity with other fruit and vegetable produce rates instead of 75 per cent. of first class as formerly on the above commodities. The rate on cabbage was reduced to a rate equivalent to 60 per cent. as formerly.

The express classification on fish has been changed as follows: To provide that the rate upon fish shall be charged as defined in scale 0 subject to the following provisions: Fish, fresh, frozen, smoked, dry, salted, pickled or otherwise preserved or cured must be charged for on basis of gross weight except that fresh or frozen fish shipped with ice, which is necessary for its preservation, must be charged for on the basis of 25 per cent. added to the net weight of the fish unless gross weight is less at time of shipment.

WHITE MEN LYNCHED.

Clarendon, Ark., March 3.—Jeff Mansel and H. M. Candy, white fishermen, accused of stealing hogs, were taken from officers and shot to death by a mob near Clarendon yesterday, according to reports made to the sheriff here today.

The men were being taken to a boat through a narrow bayou to jail when the mob, on the bank of the stream, ordered that the prisoners be landed. The men were heavily armed, the officers declare, and the command was complied with. Later the bodies of the fishermen, riddled with bullets, were found by a searching party.

Efforts tonight to secure information as to the identity of members of the mob were unsuccessful.

In the Police Court.

From The Daily Item, March 3. Sallie McDonald was tried in the Recorder's court this morning on the charge of storing whiskey. She was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$75 or serve 30 days.

DR. Z. F. HIGHSMITH—Eyeglass specialist of Florence, S. C., is in Sumter every Monday at No. 105 West Hampton Avenue to examine eyes and fit glasses.

Lumber, Lime, Cement,
BUILDING MATERIAL GENERALLY
AND FEED OF ALL KINDS.
Booth-Shuler Lumber & Supply Co.
Successors to Booth-Harby Live Stock Co. and Central Lumber Co.
Geo. Epperson's Old Stand Opp. Court House

LIVE AT HOME!

It seems now as everything in the provision line is going to be high this Spring. We are in heart sympathy with the "Live at Home" movement that is sweeping the country. We believe a good garden will very materially reduce your living expenses.

Irish Potatoes

On your table three times a day will save you many barrels of flour. To have enough to eat and some to sell depends on the seed you select.

To plant our carefully selected

Irish Cobbler and Red Bliss

Will help you forget the war. You can't plant too many.

O'Donnell & Co.