

# NOTE TO ALLES LETTERS PROTEST OF MAIL AFFAIR

## United States Sends Word That Abuses to Neutral Rights Must Be Permanently Stopped.

### AMERICANS ARE SUFFERERS "Lawless Practice" Has Had Disastrous Effect Upon Com- mercial Interests of America.

Washington, D. C., May 29.—The United States, denouncing interference with neutral mails, has notified Great Britain and France that it can no longer tolerate the wrongs which American citizens have suffered and continue to suffer through the "lawless practice" those governments have indulged in, and that only a radical change in policy, restoring the United States to its full rights as a neutral power, will be satisfactory.

This notification is given in the latest American communication to the two governments, the text of which was made public by the state department last night. The time in which the change must be effected is not specified, but the United States expects prompt action.

**Text of the Note.**  
The text of the communication addressed to the British and French ambassadors, to whom it was delivered Wednesday, follows:

"Department of State, Washington, May 24, 1916.—The Secretary of State, in honor to acknowledge receipt of your excellency's note of April 3, last, transmitting a memorandum dated February 15, 1916, and communicated in substance to the American ambassador in London, February 28, in which are stated the contents of the British and French governments in regard to the right to detain and examine parcel and letter mails en route by sea between the United States and Europe.

"After discussion of the use of the mails for transmission of parcels and of the limitations to be placed on 'inviolable mail,' the joint memorandum of February 15 closes with the following assertions:

"1. That from the standpoint of the right of visitation and eventual arrest and seizure of merchandise transported in post parcels, no parcel shall be treated otherwise than as merchandise shipped in any other manner.

"2. That the inviolability of postal correspondence stipulated by the 11th convention of The Hague of 1907 does not in any way affect the right of the allied governments to visit and if occasion arise arrest and seize merchandise hidden in the wrappers, envelopes or letters contained in the mail bags.

"3. That true to their engagements and respectful of genuine 'correspondence,' the allied governments will continue for the present to refrain on the high seas from seizing and confiscating such correspondence, letters or dispatches, and will insure their speediest possible transmission as soon as the sincerity of their character shall have been ascertained.

**Admissions.**

"In reply to the note of the United States desiring to state that it does not consider that the postal union convention of 1906 necessarily applies to the interference by the British and French governments with the overseas transportation of mails, of which the government of the United States is complaining. Furthermore, the allied powers appear to have overlooked the admission of the government of the United States that post parcels may be treated as merchandise subject to the exercise of belligerent rights as recognized by international law.

"The government of the United States does not admit that such parcels are subject to the exercise of rights of police supervision, visitation and eventual seizure which belongs to belligerents as to all cargoes on the high seas, as asserted in the joint note under acknowledgment.

**Mail is Inviolable.**

"It is noted with satisfaction that the British and French governments do not claim—and, in the opinion of this government, properly do not claim—that their so-called 'blockade measures' are sufficient grounds upon which to base a right to interfere with all classes of mail matter in transit to or from the central powers. On the contrary, their contention appears to be that, as genuine correspondence is under conventional stipulation, 'inviolable' mail matter, only other classes are subject to detention and examination.

"While the government of the United States agrees that genuine correspondence mail is inviolable, it does not admit that belligerents may search other private sea borne mails for any other purpose than to discover whether they contain articles of enemy ownership carried on belligerent vessels or articles of contraband transmitted under sealed cover as letter mail, though they may intercept at sea all mails coming out of and going into ports of the enemy coasts which are effectively blockaded.

"The governments of the United States, Great Britain and France, however, appear to be in substantial agreement as to principle. The method of applying the principle is the chief cause of difference.

**Deprived of Benefits.**  
"Though giving assurances that they consider 'genuine correspondence' to be 'inviolable,' and that they will, 'true to their engagements,' refrain 'on the high seas' from seizing and confiscating such correspondence, the allied governments proceed to deprive neutral governments of the benefits of these assurances by seizing and confiscating mail from vessels in port, instead of at sea. They compel neutral ships, without just cause, to enter their own ports, or they induce shipping lines, through the form of dures, to send their mails in ships via British ports, or they detain all vessels merely calling at British ports, thus acquiring by force, or unjustifiable means, an illegal jurisdiction. Acting upon this enforced jurisdiction, the authorities remove all mail, genuine correspondence as well as post parcels, take them to London, where every piece, even though of neutral origin and destination is opened and critically examined to determine the sincerity of their capture, in accordance with the interpretation given that undefined phrase by the British and French censors. Finally, the expurgated remainder is forwarded, frequently after irreparable delay, to its destination. Ships are detained en route to or from the United States or

## RENEWES VOWS TO DEAD WIFE

### Sworn Document Left in Coffin at Funeral in East.

Atlantic City, May 29.—Mourners at the funeral of Mrs. Annie Willis, 28 years old today saw a strange ceremony performed by W. Henry Willis, her husband.

When the coffin was about to be closed he placed in his wife's hands a sealed letter containing his oath to continue his contract of marriage. He was carrying out a custom followed by his family for six generations.

Willis has been married three times and says the first two unions were unsuccessful, but the last brought him great happiness.

to or from other neutral countries, and mails are held and delayed for several days, and, in some cases, for weeks and even months, even though not routed to ports of northern Europe via British ports. This has been the procedure practiced since the announcement of February 15, 1916. To some extent the same practice was followed before that date, calling forth the protest of this government of January 4, 1916. But to that protest the memorandum under acknowledgment makes no reference and is entirely unresponsive.

**No Jurisdiction.**  
"The government of the United States must again insist with emphasis that the British and French governments do not obtain rightful jurisdiction of ships by forcing or inducing them to visit their ports for the purpose of seizing their mails, or thereby obtain belligerent rights as to such ships than they could exercise on the high seas; for there is, in the opinion of the government of the United States, no legal distinction between the seizure of mails at sea, which is announced as abandoned, and their seizure from vessels voluntarily or involuntarily in port. The British and French practice amounts to an unwarranted limitation of the use by neutrals of the world's highway for the transmission of correspondence. The practice actually followed by the allied powers must be said to justify the conclusion, therefore, that the announcement of February 15 was merely notice that one illegal practice should be abandoned to make place for the development of another more onerous and vexatious in character.

**Based on Rule.**  
"The present practice is in violation not only of the spirit of the announcement of February 15, but of the rule of The Hague convention upon which it is concededly based. Aside from this it is a violation of the prior practice of nations which Great Britain and her allies have in the past assisted to establish and maintain notwithstanding the statement in the memorandum that as late as 1907, the letters and dispatches themselves could be seized and confiscated. During the war between the United States and Mexico, the United States forces allowed British steamers to enter and depart from the port of Vera Cruz without molesting the mails intended for inland points. During the American civil war Lord Russell endeavored to induce the United States to concede that 'Her Majesty's mails on board a private vessel should be exempted from visitation or detention.' This exemption of mails was urged in October, 1862, in the case of British mails on board the Adige. On October 21, Secretary Seward announced that 'public mails of any friendly or neutral power duly certified or authenticated as such shall not be searched or opened, but be put as speedily as may be convenient on the way to their destination.' In accordance with this announcement the government of the United States in the case of the British steamship Peterhoff, which had been seized with her mails against the protest of her majesty's government, had her mails forwarded to destination unopened.

"The same rule was followed by France, as I am advised, in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870; by the United States in the Spanish-American war of 1898; by Great Britain in the South Africa war, in the case of the German mail steamer, Bundesrath and General; by Japan and substantially by Russia, in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904. And even in the present war, as the memorandum of Great Britain and France states, their enemy, Germany, has desisted from the practice of interfering with neutral mails, even on board belligerent steamers. This is illustrated by the case of the French steamer Florin, captured by the auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich cited by the British and French governments in support of their argument regarding parcel mails. In this case, the letter mails of the Florin, amounting to 144 sacks, were forwarded to their destination by the command of the French steamer Florin, captured by the auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich cited by the British and French governments in support of their argument regarding parcel mails. In this case, the letter mails of the Florin, amounting to 144 sacks, were forwarded to their destination by the command of the French steamer Florin, captured by the auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich cited by the British and French governments in support of their argument regarding parcel mails.

**Must Cease.**  
"The government of the United States, confident in the regard for international law and the rights of neutrals which the British and French governments have so often proclaimed and the disregard of which they have urged so vigorously against their enemies in the present war, expects that the present practice of the British and French authorities in the treatment of mails from or to the United States to cease, and belligerents' rights as exercised to conform to the principle governing the passage of mail matter and to the recognized practice of nations. Only a radical change in the present British and French policy, restoring to the United States its full rights as a neutral power, will satisfy this government.

"I have, etc., Robert Lansing."

**HEALERS ARRESTED.**

Los Angeles, Cal., May 27.—Prince August Schratler, associate of "King" Francis Schratler of New York, both alleged "divine healers," was arrested today on a federal indictment charging use of the mails to defraud.

To increase the volume of sound from a photograph a Parisian has invented an instrument that will play three records simultaneously.

**HEAT KILLS ONE.**

Chicago, May 27.—The first fatality resulting from heat prostration was reported here today in the death of Charles E. Cobald, of Cathagen, Ohio, who was overcome yesterday.

Several other prostrations were caused by yesterday's sudden rise in temperature. The mercury climbed 32 degrees in 10 hours and the maximum temperature of the day was 90.4 degrees.

**HILLES IN CHICAGO.**

Chicago, May 27.—Charles D. Hillis, chairman of the republican national committee, arrived in Chicago yesterday and will remain until after the national convention of the party, June 7.

## SEEKING PRESIDENCY OF THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS; ONE IS FOR PREPAREDNESS; OTHER FOR PEACE AT ANY PRICE



Mrs. Samuel B. Sneath (left) and Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles.

The question of national preparedness is playing an important part in the fight for the presidency of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, now in session in New York city. Mrs. Samuel B. Sneath, candidate from Ohio, is an ardent believer in preparedness. Her opponent, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles of California, is an ardent pacifist and believes in peace at any price. Both are well known suffragists.

## ITALIANS ADMIT ANOTHER DEFEAT

### Give Up Advance Position Because of Austrian Attack— Claim Repulses In Other Regions.

Rome, May 27, (via Paris, May 29).—The abandonment of another Italian advance position on the Astico river, under the pressure of an overwhelming attack by the Austrians, is announced tonight by the war department. The Austrians are stated to be making their main effort toward the Arsiere basin, in the hope of reaching the valleys which run between the Astico and Orleto rivers down to Vicenza. The bulletin said that the Austrians have been repulsed everywhere except at the one advance point, which was surrendered for strategic reasons.

**ROME MESSAGE CLAIMS REVERSE FOR AUSTRIANS**

Rome, May 29.—(via London, 7:27 a. m.).—A reverse for the Austrians in the Lagarina valley is announced in an official statement issued by the war department today. The statement follows:

"In the Lagarina valley the enemy continued yesterday its impetuous attacks on our line along the Adige river and the Arsa valley and met with another sanguinary defeat. After the usual violent artillery preparations masses of infantry in close formation began at attack upon us at Coni Sugna and Col de Buoles. They were exterminated."

"Between the Arsa valley and Posa the situation is unchanged. Between Posa and the Astico river after an intense concentrated bombardment by the enemy, our troops have repulsed one attack.

"In the Asiago sector fighting continued during the day and was still proceeding at night, the enemy attacking our position east of the Arsa valley.

"In the Sugana valley the enemy made several attacks on Monte Cison, but were repulsed each time with heavy losses. One of our columns of infantry and Alpines by a brilliant surprise attack, drove the enemy from the approaches to our positions on the left bank of the Maso."

**AUSTRIAN STATEMENT SAYS SUCCESSES ARE SCORED**

Vienna, (via London) May 27.—Twenty-five hundred Italians, four guns, four machine guns and a quantity of war material have been captured by the Austrians who stormed an extensive mountain ridge on the Trento front, according to an official statement issued by the war department here.

The statement follows: "We have gained a new great success on the Italian front, capturing the entire mountain ridge from Cornocampio Verde to Masta. The enemy suffered sanguinary losses. We captured over 2,500 prisoners, four guns, four machine guns, 300 bicycles and much other material."

**NUMBER MEAL TICKETS TO AVOID RIOTING**

London, May 27.—The Commune of Griedenau, near Berlin, has decided to number all meat tickets as a measure to check rioting outside butcher shops, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company which quotes the Berlin Tagblatt. Holders of tickets must take their turn at the butcher shops according to number and those unable to go on the specified date will get no meat for that week.

## WOMEN BARRED FROM PARADE

### Fear G. A. R. Procession Will Resemble "Suff" March.

Denver, May 29.—Denver's G. A. R. veterans have put up the bars against women participating in their Memorial day parade, although this is one of the great equal suffrage states. The reason is that there are too many women's organizations in connection with the G. A. R. and with the few veterans left it is felt the parade would look more like a suffrage pageant. The Denver women's drill team offered its services in the parade, but it was refused.

"We just can't have the women in the parade," apologized Department Adjutant W. H. Comstock, "because if we had one team all the other women's organizations which have grown from the men's organizations would insist on taking part."

## WAITE GUILTY SAY JURYMEN

New York, May 29.—Dr. Arthur Warren Waite was today found guilty of the murder of his father-in-law, John E. Peck, the grand Rapids, millionaire.

"Guilty of murder in the first degree," was the verdict of the jury returned after it had been out of the court room one hour and 25 minutes. Waite was remanded to the Tombs to await imposition of sentence on June 1.

New York, May 29.—Alienists sworn by the defense in behalf of Dr. Arthur Warren Waite testified yesterday that the defendant was sane at the time he killed his father-in-law, that the young dentist was a "moral imbecile" and an "immoral monster" who had only an insane knowledge of right and wrong.

The defense rested its case upon the testimony of the mental experts. Waite's wife was in the court room and heard the medical witnesses for her husband testify that he had told them he married her only for her money. The prisoner himself appeared to doze while a long hypothetical question designed to show that he was sane at the time he killed his father-in-law was read to the alienists. The jurymen seemed bored by the testimony of the experts.

Dr. Morris J. Karpas and Dr. Allen Rose Diefendorf testified that Waite was a moral imbecile and declared they had arrived at their conclusion without consultation together. Both admitted Waite knew what he was doing when he was plotting the death of Mr. Peck, but they declared he had no moral sense. Both asserted they did not want the prisoner set free, and Dr. Diefendorf said he should be kept in an insane asylum as long as he lived. Dr. Karpas declared that while moral imbeciles had no moral sense, they appeared like rational men. He said he believed criminals should confess their crimes because they owed it to society to do so.

## JEW PROTEST OVER JACOB SCHIFF VIEWS

New York, May 27.—The recent statement by Jacob H. Schiff, that the persecution of the Jews in Poland and Russia was largely due to the fact that Jews failed to adopt the civil customs of those countries and kept themselves as a separate people, has caused an outburst of indignation among the various Jewish leaders and newspapers. In an interview for the Jewish Daily News, Rabbi Jaffe brands Schiff as a man absolutely irresponsible for his words, and ignorant of the history of the Jews in Russia and Poland.

A. Borchow, socialist writer, calls Schiff's statement mere slander, made by a man whose leadership the American Jews have refused to accept.

Several German chemists are endeavoring to find economical processes for the recovery of combustible material from coal ashes.

## GERMANY WILLING FOR SECOND TRIP OF PEACE WORKER

### Berlin Papers Print Report That If Colonel House Appears Again, Change Will Be Seen.

### WASHINGTON INTERESTED

### Belief Is Expressed That President's Representative Will Leave After Conventions.

The tide of battle at Verdun has again turned in favor of the French, according to this afternoon's official bulletin from Paris, which says French troops have recaptured part of the village of Cumieres. Trenches northwest of the village were also reclaimed in the French attack, which took place on the opposite side of the Meuse River claims the repulse of a German effort to gain further ground in the neighborhood of Fort Douaumont.

Vienna announces another success for the Austrians in the Trentino. They have captured an entire mountain ridge and have taken more than 2,500 prisoners.

Rome officially reports the Italians making a determined stand which held the Austrians in check in all but one sector of the front. An Italian retirement from an advanced position on the Astico river is admitted.

Washington, May 29.—The definite statement in the Berlin press dispatches that Germany would welcome peace was read with deep interest by officials here.

The only comment made was that President Wilson's speech tonight before the League to Enforce Peace would make plain his position.

Officials said they knew of no intention on the president's part of asking Colonel House to go back to Berlin.

Berlin, Tuesday, May 23, (via London, May 23).—Another visit by Col. E. M. House to Europe would come as no surprise to the initiated in official quarters here. The rumors to this effect are regarded as having a certain basis in fact, although the exact date prevails that the trip would naturally be postponed until after the national conventions.

It is hoped here that should Colonel House pay such a visit he will come this time as a harbinger of peace, or at any rate to prepare a possible foundation for a peace proposal, difficult as this task is recognized to be.

During his last previous visit to Europe Colonel House made no effort and conducted no investigation in the direction of a peace—in Berlin at any event—having perhaps found absolute adverse conditions in capitals of nations hostile to Germany. Presumably, also, he had previous information that American mediation was not desired and it would not be accepted as long as the United States continued to supply Germany with munitions, shot, shell, cartridges, powder and 1,000 other requisites for waging war against the central powers. Moreover, no intimation had been given at the time of this visit that irascibility in high quarters here on the munitions question was in any way abated.

**Would Welcome Peace.**

The situation, it may be said, now has changed. Apparently there is no harm from either a political or a strategic standpoint in saying that Germany would welcome peace. As Arthur von Gwinner, the managing director of the Deutsche Bank in Berlin, stated to the Associated Press correspondent recently, Germany is in the position of a poker player who has gathered in all the money on the table and naturally is willing to break off an all night session and retire with his winnings, when the other persists in continuing in the hope of recouping some of their losses. The cards, however, to continue the simile, are running strongly in the Germans' favor, it is pointed out, as shown in the renewed postponement of the long heralded Anglo-French offensive with cannon, steady, though slow progress of the crown prince at Verdun, the victories of the Turks and finally the crushing results of the Austrian offensive in the Trentino.

Whether these events are enough to induce the entente allies to resign from what is looked upon here as a losing game, and whether the changed tone of the utterances of Premier Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, and what is considered a disavowal of their intention to crush Germany as a nation and a commercial rival, or to dismember the empire, are indicative of receptivity towards reasonable peace proposals, is an uncertain factor in the reckoning.

**Can't Take Berlin.**

The best posted neutral observers here, particularly diplomats in touch with the sentiment in both camps, are inclined to give a negative answer to these questions and to hold that something further must occur to convince the entente allies that the expulsion of the German armies from occupied territories and the completion of the "on to Berlin" campaign are impossibilities even with the aid of the blockade and economic pressure. As one possible means of bringing about this receptive attitude in entente capitals, one of these neutral diplomats who is not suspected of partiality for either side, recently suggested the presentation of evidence gathered by neutral impartial agencies of Germany's ability to continue the struggle indefinitely despite the food situation and other effects of the blockade.

**Colonel House Silent.**

New York, May 27.—Col. E. M. House said tonight that he had no plans for returning to Europe. When told of press dispatches indicating that he would be welcomed there as a harbinger of peace, his only comment was that he was very much flattered. He and President Wilson had a conference here Wednesday, when it was indicated that the chief subject of the conversation was peace prospects in Europe.

When Colonel House went to Berlin several months ago on a mission for the president the submarine issue was understood to have been the principal subject discussed by him. He returned with the impression that at that time there was little prospect of peace.

Colonel House is the president's personal confidant and has seen the European peace situation and it has been understood that if Mr. Wilson thought it advisable to send a representative to the European capitals on a peace mission he undoubtedly would select Colonel House.

## TWO DIE IN FIRE AT PENN COLLEGE

### Business Manager of College One of Victims—Property Loss Is Estimated at \$100,000.

Oskaloosa, Ia., May 29.—Two men were killed two probably fatally injured, and property damage wrought of about \$100,000 early today by fire in the main building of Penn college here.

Robert S. Williams, business manager of the college and state secretary of the prohibition party, and Harry Oakley, a freshman, were killed.

George Minear and Howard Kelley, students, are in the hospital and may die.

The fire broke out in the biological laboratory on the second floor of the building and reached a 40-gallon tank of alcohol, which exploded, scattering liquid fire in all directions. Insufficient water pressure hampered the efforts of the fire department.

Williams and Oakley were killed while attempting to save the college records. The fire reached the cupola and the four-ton college bell crashed down through the building, wrecking the front wall and burying the victims under tons of debris.

Minear and Kelley were cut and bruised and are believed to have suffered internal injuries. They were hurt while rescuing the S. M. Byers art collection, which hung in the chapel hall. The collection is said to be worth \$50,000.

Defective electric wiring is believed to have started the fire.

## RIGGS VERDICT IS 'NOT GUILTY'

### Washington Bank Officials Are Freed of Perjury Charge— Jury Deliberates Only Nine Minutes.

Washington, May 29.—The three Riggs bank officials on trial here for perjury, were today found not guilty after the jury had deliberated nine minutes.

## EIGHT JURORS CHOSEN TO HEAR ORPET CASE

### Twelfth Day Gives Promise of Completing the Preliminary Work.

Waukegan, Ill., May 27.—With eight men already sworn as jurors, two others tentatively accepted by both sides, hope was entertained that the jury in the case of Will Orpet, university of Wisconsin student charged with the murder of Marian Lambert, might be completed today. This was the 12th day devoted to jury selection and 671 veniremen had been examined up to the close of court yesterday.

**PRICE ON RAILROAD.**

San Francisco, May 27.—United States District Judge Maurice T. Dooley fixed \$18,000,000 as the "upset" price for the sale of the Western Pacific railway today in the foreclosure suit brought by the Equitable Trust company of New York.