

DUTCH PROTEST U. S. SEIZURE OF MERCHANT SHIPS

Statement Says Dutch Nation "With Painful Surprise" Has Taken Notice of President's Proclamation.

(By Associated Press.)
The Hague, April 1.—The seizure of the Dutch merchantmen in American ports is characterized by the Dutch government, in a statement in the Official Gazette, as an act of violence which it will "oppose with all the energy of its conviction and national feeling."

The statement says the Dutch nation, "with painful surprise," has taken notice of President Wilson's proclamation, and that the seizure of a neutral mercantile fleet is unjustified. The statement declares: "According to President Wilson's proclamation, the Netherlands, owing entirely to German pressure, failed to observe the preliminary arrangement which was proposed for the purpose of leaving no longer idle the Dutch tonnage in American ports and furnishing an opportunity for making voyages within a period of 90 days, pending a definite agreement on Dutch tonnage and rationing. This is distinctly incorrect."

"It is equally as incorrect as the allegation that Germany had threatened to sink two ships which were to sail from Holland with America's approval and that Germany had made increasing threats to permit both the observance of such a preliminary arrangement and the conclusion of a permanent one. The real facts of the case are:

"After the (American) war trade board had insisted that Dutch ships in American ports make trips pending a definite arrangement, the Netherlands government proposed that some of the ships should make voyages for the commission for relief in Belgium, which Holland has always fostered sedulously for the benefit of distressed Belgium and northern France. When information was received that Germany objected to America's demand that a Dutch ship sail from Holland each time in exchange for a relief ship sailing from America, the Netherlands government deemed it a duty imposed by good faith to inform the American authorities thereof immediately, so that a ship which was then on the way toward Argentina, could be given a different destination. The direct consequence was that those ships were kept moving, which was ordered immediately in consonance with the provisional agreement."

"Respecting sailings to Cete (France), a Swiss interest with which Holland sympathized warmly, the ship owners agreed thereto completely as soon as France gave assurances that the ships would not be detained at Cete. Accordingly, several ships were chartered for this service. The chartering and sailings of all these ships were not sensibly delayed by the aforementioned objections, neither did Germany attempt to influence the execution of the provisional agreement, which affected traffic between trans-Atlantic ports. What did seriously interfere with its execution was the fact that cable messages to and from ship owners were extremely slow in transmission and some times never were delivered. The cause of this remains unexplained."

"The fact is that a majority of the ships had been chartered under the provisional agreement through the war trade board and part were already sailing to South America, but were stopped enroute by the American authorities, while in the Pacific, ships lying between the western coast of the United States and the Dutch East Indies, made regular voyages without any impediment, direct or indirect, by the Netherlands government. The ships now in British ports, in and outside Europe and in the Portuguese port of St. Vincent, were prevented from sailing by the British and Portuguese themselves."

"As shown by the foregoing, the allegation that the Netherlands, owing to German pressure, was powerless to observe the provisional agreement is contrary to fact. That the president was incorrectly advised is proved conclusively on a point of greater importance; namely, where the statement mentions the new demand that Dutch ships would have to enter the war zone, and the seizures which followed Holland's reply."

"After the incorrect allegation that Holland was unable to observe the provisional agreement," the statement continues, "Great Britain on March 2 made Holland a final proposal, whereupon Holland came forth with a counter proposal which was unacceptable."

"The statement says further: 'Even had the arrangement been concluded, Holland would have been unable to keep it in actual practice, for which reason the seizure was determined upon. This reasoning, strange though it may seem, lacks one important link, which is indispensable to place the matter in a proper light. What were the facts?'"

"On February 22, the Netherlands, in view of the food shortage threatened in the coming summer, asked America to advance 100,000 tons of wheat on account of 400,000 to be definitely arranged for. It is true that the associated governments on March 6 replied affirmatively regarding the 100,000 tons, without giving a definite reply about the 400,000, but to that apparent acquiescence they attached the onerous condition, that they were to obtain immediately the disposal of all of that part of the Dutch merchant fleet to which, according to the projected London plan, they would eventually become entitled."

"The Netherlands government, under the stress of circumstances, prepared to accept this condition as soon as the certainty could be had that the fullest reliance could be placed not only on the 100,000 tons, but also on the full 400,000 as the basis of definite regulation. The government was in a position to accept because at the deliberations in London and afterward it was understood strictly that Dutch ships would be employed only outside the danger zone and that, therefore, they would in no cases undertake services for a belligerent"

which would be an infringement of neutrality.

Wilson Unsubstantiated.
"Suddenly, the aforesaid London engagement was broken on March 7, when the cardinal point, that ships given in exchange for the advance of 100,000 tons of grain—ships with tonnage amounting to about half a million—were not to be used in the danger zone, was revoked. The onerous character of this change lay not in the fact that the Dutch ships were to be sent into the danger zone—for this has nothing to do with neutrality—but because it was evident that to enter that zone, situated as it is, around the associated countries in Europe, would amount to a large extent to the transportation of troops and war materials from America to the European co-belligerents. Moreover, the Dutch ships, if armed, would run the risk of armed conflict with German warships, Holland, as a neutral country, could not, therefore, consent to the use of its ships in the danger zone unless the associated governments could guarantee that the ships would not be armed and would not transport troops or war materials. "In the light of the foregoing, the reasoning of the presidential statement, that the seizure was held to be necessary because Holland would be unable to observe the contract, cannot be sustained."

CANUCK TROOPS CALLED TO QUELL RIOTS AT QUEBEC

Quebec, April 1.—Three persons were wounded tonight in a battle between troops and a mob of anti-conscriptors. The clash occurred while soldiers were removing firearms from hardware stores to the citadel to keep them from falling into the hands of rioters. The precaution was decided upon after the pillaging early this morning of a store handling firearms and ammunition.

The actions of the troops was resisted by the anti-conscriptors, who began pelting the soldiers with missiles. The persons wounded, two of whom were young women, were some distance from the scene. None were seriously injured. One hardware store was fired by the rioters, but the building was saved.

Every building in the city likely to be attacked by the mob was strongly guarded tonight. Companies of soldiers with fixed bayonets were stationed at the points where crowds opposed to the military service act have been accustomed to assemble.

An appeal by Cardinal Beugin before a cessation of the disturbances was read today in all the Catholic churches. The mob raiding the hardware store was advised by Armand Lavigne, the national leader, who declared the military authorities had promised that troops from outside the city would be removed.

Several regiments from different parts of Canada reached Quebec today to supplement the local forces.

Grave Charges Made Against Philadelphia Police Force

Washington, April 1.—Philadelphia's police force is flayed charged with corruption and partnership in crime, by the commission on training camp activities in a report which Secretary Daniels has forwarded to the governor of Pennsylvania, and the mayor of Philadelphia with the urgent request that they accept the co-operation of the navy and marine corps, "for such a cleaning up in Philadelphia as is imperatively demanded."

Thousands of young men are in training for the navy and marine corps in Philadelphia, and according to the commission no other city in the country has so failed to meet the requirements of the army and navy as to moral conditions.

Lists of alleged disorderly houses with street addresses and other items of specific information are given in the training camp commission's report, made public tonight. It was submitted to Secretary Daniels by Chairman Raymond E. Fosdick, after an extended investigation.

U. S. TO TAKE OVER FULL CONTROL OF MEAT INDUSTRY

Hoover Advises Wilson Has Found Himself Powerless to Please All Branches of Packing.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, April 1.—Determination of a national policy governing meat production, sale and distribution during the war, which may include virtual price-fixing and definite control or actual federal operation of the big packing houses, has been entrusted by President Wilson to a special commission of five prominent government officials.

This step, announced today, was taken at the recommendation of Food Administrator Hoover, who advised the president that he found himself powerless to protect properly all branches of the cattle industry, and that the government's course is "almost intolerable in criticism from both producer and consumer."

Mr. Hoover asked that the president intend to meet the policy initiated in steel, copper and other commodities, which are sold at prices fixed on the basis of conferences between producers and the government.

Want National Policy.
The food administrator suggested, and President Wilson now has approved the plan, that a national policy be determined by the following officers, acting personally or through authorized delegates: The secretary of agriculture, representing the viewpoint of the producer; the chairman of the federal trade commission, representing the influence of trade conditions; the chairman of the United States tariff board, representing economic thought; the secretary of labor, representing the viewpoint of the civilian consumer, and the food administrator, who has to carry out any policy adopted.

Mr. Hoover submitted his proposal to the president in a letter, outlining at length the trials of his organization in seeking to stimulate production, and at the same time to prevent the robbery of the average citizen by profiteering. He declared some change in the government's present course was necessary for the protection of the producer and civilian consumer, and to insure the increased production required to meet the growing needs of the army and the allies.

Direct Large Packers.
This change in policy may take the form of more definite and systematic direction of the large packers as to the course they are to pursue from month to month, "or may even take the form of operation of the packing establishments by the government."

Since the United States entered the war allied purchases of meat for both civilian and military purposes have been consolidated, and it is becoming necessary for this government to coordinate them with orders for the American army and navy to prevent conflicting execution. The result, Mr. Hoover said, is practical domination of prices, which was recognized in pork last September by rough assurance to swine producers of a minimum of \$15.50 for their product. Present indications are that beef purchases will be increased soon to the point where they may affect prices materially.

Opposes Price Increase.
Pointing out that increased quantities needed for export must be obtained either by greater production or by reduction in civilian consumption, Mr. Hoover expressed the opinion that reduced consumption can be had most equitably by voluntary sacrifice, and moderate restraints such as meatless days, and emphatically disapproved any attempt to lessen consumption by increasing prices to the public.

Mr. Hoover said three courses were open in the matter of the control of meats:

- To abandon direction of war purchases and conservation measure because they affect prices, and thereby to stimulate profiteering and speculation.

Careless Use of Soap Spoils the Hair

Soap should be used very carefully if you want to keep your hair looking its best. Most soaps and prepared shampoos contain too much alkali. This dries the scalp, makes the hair brittle and ruins it.

The best thing for steady use is just ordinary mulsified coconut oil (which is pure and greaseless), and is better than the most expensive soap or anything else you can use.

NEBRASKANS RETURN EXCESS WHEAT FLOUR

Individuals Holding More Than Permitted Gladly Give It Back; 115,000 Pounds Already Turned in.

Individuals who have been holding more wheat flour than is permitted under the rules of the food administration, have lately been turning it back rapidly. More than 115,000 pounds of wheat flour have been returned in three counties. The report was made to the federal food administration of Nebraska by the county food administrators of Kimball, Seward and Madison counties.

Householders in Kimball county have returned 4,000 pounds, while Seward county has checked up a total of 35,000 pounds returned. Madison county is the banner one, reporting to date with a return of practically 75,000 pounds.

This flour has been put back in the regular channels of trade by the food officials.

Reports from other counties will be as good as these, says the Nebraska food administration. "Nebraskans are realizing that we have a duty to perform in making wheat flour available for our associates in the war," says Food Administrator Wattles. "To go without wheat entirely would be no serious handicap with our wonderful supply of substitutes. When we think of the great armies fighting for us on the

GERMAN STAFF VISITS TOUL LINE; MUCH ACTIVITY

(By Associated Press.)
With the American Army in France, April 1.—Even more activity was observed behind the German lines opposite the American front on the Toul sector today. An entire battalion was seen on the march this morning. Infantry was being shifted about while the cavalry also was seen again. Numerous automobiles of members of the German staff made their appearance behind the lines.

Throughout Saturday night signal lights were flashing from Montsec. Three American patrols penetrated the enemy's lines last night. One patrol went in until electrically charged barbed wire was encountered. This was cut. Enemy sniping posts took warning and opened fire on the Americans, who were forced to retire. No casualties were suffered.

Another patrol inspected German line trenches, but did not encounter a single German. The third patrol penetrated the enemy's wire field to a French airplane which fell there last week. The engine of the plane was found to have been removed. The American artillery has kept up a harassing fire on the Germans, effectively shelling work parties and still targets.

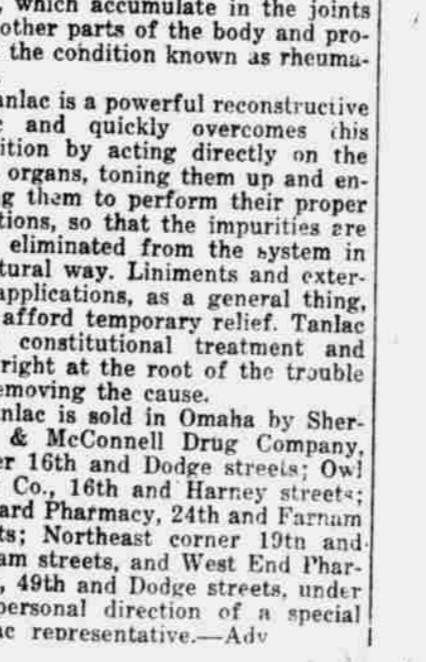
ALL EXTERNAL PAINS SUCCUMB TO SLOAN'S

It penetrates without rubbing, bringing prompt relief.

The next time an attack of Lumbago, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Muscular soreness, Joint-stiffness, or the thousand and one external pains and bruises humanity is heir to, assaults you, try Sloan's Liniment.

It is the biggest selling liniment in the world, a popularity due entirely to its ability to bring prompt relief.

Sloan's Liniment is clean, soothing, effective, economical. Leaves no untidiness, no skin-stain. Generous sized bottles at all druggists. No increase in price, 25c, 50c and \$1.00.



Sloan's Liniment KILLS PAIN

One-Minute Store Talk

"It's a tonic and an inspiration to see this great store making such notable progress; to come here and see the crowds of people you are serving," said a customer.

We appreciate such comment. It's an inspiration for us to keep on forging ahead, building an ever greater store.

Glimpse the new second floor annex and its modern equipment. Do so at your earliest convenience.

Orders Issued to U. S. Army Now of French Origin

(By Associated Press.)
With the American Army in France, April 1.—The acceptance by France of General Pershing's offer of all American men and material for the present emergency has in effect virtually resulted in a unified army command so far as the French army and American forces are concerned. This is shown by the fact that the orders issued to the American troops are of French origin.

Men Particular About Their Clothes

Men who know highest class tailoring, find it ready-to-wear in
BRANDEGEE-KINCAID HAND-TAILORED Suits and Top Coats

THIS greater store is making clothes history with wonderful exhibits of world's best ready-to-wear spring clothes for men and young men; among the many lines

We Direct Special Attention to **Brandegee-Kincaid Clothes**

Because they offer excellence of tailoring and quality in fabrics that merits every man's consideration who is in search of maximum value—and all men are these days.

Special Models for Business Men. Young Men's Exclusive Styles—Stout, tall, short and stub models.

Your size is here, every model and every proportion, in every conceivable new fabric from conservative worsteds to military tans!

Spring Suits, \$20 to \$45
Top Coats, \$15 to \$35

Men's and Young Men's Clothing—Second Floor.




Nebraska Clothing Co.

SEE OUR WINDOWS TODAY

COMPARE OUR VALUES ALWAYS

CORRECT APPAREL FOR MEN AND WOMEN



Omnipresent

When the U-53 showed one morning in an astounded Newport—
When Kerensky of Russia was suddenly forced to pack his bag and go—
When Halifax Harbor exploded into the air—
Who was there, eternally on the job—to give the news to the world?
The Associated Press.

News has neither time nor place.
And the Associated Press has neither boundary nor office hours.
It is easy to get some news. But to get all the news, all the time, from all the world—that is a record which belongs exclusively to

The Omaha Bee

is a member of the Associated Press and prints its complete dispatches.