

them with machine guns. Immensely these operations are, they probably of sheer utility take a second place to that the German Air Service has been under the essential assistance which is derived from it to the German Headquarters. The placing of the position artillery of the front was so long a business as a preliminary advance, that, no doubt, the full advantage of the spotting powers of the German; but since the advance they had no need the British pilots have been able to drop bombs on German "high velocity" in term by the way—and to range the ally unchecked, so far as the enemy are concerned, though the attacks on the ground was no perilous undertaking.

Douglas Haig's Reply to President Wilson.

Douglas Haig has cabled to President Wilson:—"Your message of generous appreciation of the steadfastness and valour of our the great battle now raging has greatly pleased all. Please accept our heartiest thanks. I believe in the justice of our cause, and am determined to fight on without counting the cost, for the freedom of mankind is safe."

Five Million Americans

Washington, Monday. A message from Washington today says:—Major-General Leonard Wood, in evidence before the Senate's Military Committee, in which he said it was absolutely essential that the United States should send a force of 5,000,000 men, and send half of them to the French front as quickly as possible, in secret session, and little of what he said to the Committee had been allowed to be published. The Senators present said they realized that the United States was in the necessity of throwing its entire weight into the war, and that country today stands on the threshold of a tremendous victory before which victory might be expected. Wilson's message to Sir Douglas Haig is a precedent in American history. His reply was widely and very favourably commented.

Submarine Warfare.

Weekly returns of British vessels sunk by submarines show that for the week ended March 16, 18 vessels (including one in previous week) were lost, compared with 11 for week ended March 9, and 15 for week ended March 2, 1,600 tons, 12 (including four sunk in December and January), 6 and 3 respectively. Unsuccessfully attacked 19 (including 11 and 8 respectively for week ended March 16) 11 and 8 respectively. British fishing vessels sunk 1 (during week ended March 16) 2 and 1 respectively. Arrivals: 2,471; sailings: 2,098 and 2,317 respectively for week ended March 16, and 2,046, and 2,000 respectively for week ended March 9.

Italian Losses

Italian losses were:—Three steamers above 100 tons, two sailing vessels over 100 tons, and one steamer was unsuccessfully attacked.

in London on the direct State debt of Russia and on securities having the State guarantee of that country. They have taken this course hitherto, though under no obligation to do so, but in view of the present conditions in Russia they can no longer continue this course.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer gives notice, therefore, that as from April 1st, 1918, holders of securities above specified must no longer look to the British Treasury for the provision of funds to meet the interest due to them from Russia.

Japanese Shipping for America

A Reuter telegram from Washington says:—Negotiations for the transfer of 150,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the United States have been completed, on the basis of two tons of steel plants for one ton dead weight ship capacity.

CITY DROWNING TRAGEDY.

A sad fatality occurred in the Shannon, near St Michael's Boat House, yesterday afternoon, the victim being John H James, 18, a member of the clerical staff of Mr W M Kidd, 49 George street. The deceased had been strange in his demeanour for some time, and yesterday afternoon while in that state he threw himself into the river at St Michael's Boat House. He was a son of Mr H James, Howley's Quay, and the circumstances attending the tragedy were investigated by Mr J F Barry, J.P., City Coroner, to-day at Lower Ceoil street.

Mr P J Henihan, B.C. was foreman of the jury, and the inquiry was conducted by Sergeant Heffernan, Dock Police Station.

Evidence of identification was given by Hugh James, father of the deceased, whom, he said, he last saw alive yesterday morning. The boy was rational as far as he could see while in the house, but on Saturday last and since he had not been at business, as Mr Kidd considered he was suffering from nervous affection, and advised him to rest.

Peter Keane, living in the Windmill, deposed to being near St Michael's Boat House yesterday afternoon about three o'clock. He saw the deceased on the beach, and half an hour later standing on the boat house slip. The tide was on the flow at the time, and just as a vessel was passing he saw young James jump into the river and disappear.

John Hanley, a clerk in Mr Kidd's employment, stated he noticed the deceased somewhat peculiar in his manner for some time past. On Saturday he was sent home to rest by Mr Kidd and advised to see a doctor. In order not to overtax his brain he was taken from clerical work and given lighter duties.

Dr P F Graham stated that he examined the body of the deceased, which contained no marks of violence. He attributed death to drowning.

The jury found that the deceased met his death by drowning, brought about while temporarily insane.

The Coroner said he was satisfied, and so were the jury, that Mr Kidd did everything possible for the deceased.

A Paris telegram states that a court-martial has sentenced to death a Spaniard named Ascencio Evarista, who was arrested in October, 1916, on a charge of having had relations with the enemy, through the intermediary of German secret service agents at Barcelona.

day.

TIMBER MERCHANTS' FEDERATION

A general meeting in Dublin of the N Timber Merchants' Federation elected the following:—President, Mr R G H Russell, Portlough; Vice-President, Mr W Kirkpatrick, Duncannon; Council—Messrs D Alesbury, Edenderry; Crooks, H Fletcher, and R Dawson, Dublin; McDonagh, Galway; G Thompson, Waterford; Farrell, Youghal; J Barry, Fermoy; J Billin, Wexford; J O'Regan, Clare; A M'Phelan, Monaghan; R Redmond, Down; M Flanagan, Ballinasloe; F Murdoch, Louth; and J Deane, F Rowland, Wicklow. The five first-named members of the Council, with the President and Vice-President, were elected an Executive Committee.

COAL RETAIL PRICES.

The Board of Trade are arranging to regulate the retail prices of coal, and an intimation has been received by the Corporation conveying instructions as to how supplies are to be dealt with in the exceptional circumstances which have arisen. A conference will, it is understood, be held between a Committee of the Corporation and the local traders as to how it is best to deal with the matter.

DEATH OF MR FREDERIC JAMES BALL.

The death occurred yesterday at his residence, Sandon, Castle Avenue, Clontarf, of Mr Frederic James Ball, in his 67th year. Mr Ball, who for a period acted as Assistant Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary at the Depot in Dublin, had previously served in various parts of Ireland as District Inspector, and afterwards as Chief Inspector.

TRESPASS ON CLARE LANDS.

In the Chancery Division, Mr Gerald F (instructed by Mr J O'Connor) applied on behalf of the C.D.B for an interlocutory injunction to restrain the trial of the action, restraining three defendants, Patrick McGee and Timothy Delahunty, of Clontarf, and Patrick Trol Rossanure, Feakle, Co. Clare, and Patrick Trol Rossanure, Feakle, from trespassing upon C.D.B's lands at Kilbarron, containing about 100 or 5p, statute, which they had purchased for the benefit of the local inhabitants. His application was granted on an interim injunction which would expire on Friday. Mr Costello (instructed by Mr J B Lynch), who appeared for the defendants, said they had been led to believe the Land Inspector that the matter was about to be settled. He suggested that the action should be remitted to the County Court.

Mr Justice Ross granted the injunction accordingly.

COAL SHORTAGE.

The deputation appointed by the Dublin Corporation (the Lord Mayor, High Sheriff, Mr Byrne, M.P., and Mr L Sherlock) in connection with the coal shortage was informed by Mr Justice Ross that he will place the situation before the appropriate authorities. He held out a hope that the coal shortage will be met by smaller vessels.