

tation of certain goods and that therefore, its proclamation to this effect was invalid and illegal. The judgement is considered one of the most important ever rendered against the Government. The case in which the decision was given concerning the importation of pyrogallol acid from the United States, the acid having been seized on its arrival. The proclamation referred to was issued this year under a section of the customs confederation Act of 1876 providing that importation of "arms and ammunition, gunpowder or any other goods may be prohibited by proclamation or an Order in Council". Justice Sankey held that the words mean "singular" goods. Leave to appeal was granted by the Court.

London, Dec. 18th.—That importance is attached to Justice Sankey's decision in the prohibited imports test case, is shown by the fact that nearly all the morning papers, allude to it, editorially and generally in approval of the Judge's rulings. The "Times" declares the decision appears to be unimpeachably good sense and that if the proclamation attempted to distinguish between imports from the Dominions and foreign countries, as correspondence in the case implied, it is all the more satisfactory that the Court should forbid such procedure without full and open consent of Parliament. The "Morning Post" heads the comments: "State Illegality" and says the case illustrates the singular fatuity of the methods of the Government in dealing with International Trade. Both the "Daily News" and "Daily Mail" condemn the resort to war regulations for Government powers instead of to the House of Commons.

London, December 18th.—The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners has recommended to its members who employ 150,000 operatives a grant to the operatives of a bonus of from one to three pounds per month during the first quarter of the New Year. The estimated cost to the Federation is £140,000. The explanation of the action is that huge profits have been made by the master cotton spinners, while the operatives have been hampered by an agreement from asking for an advance in wages until next March. The Executive Committee of the Operatives Unions met at Manchester last night and adopted a resolution that the master cotton spinners offer, in every respect is unsatisfactory. They add: "The offer was not voluntary as supposed, but in response to a prolonged agitation".

London, December 18th.—Recent predictions that a general election will be held in the near future are revived by several morning newspapers in connection with rumours in the Parliamentary lobbies yesterday. Parliament will be prorogued next week until the second week in February, when, according to widespread belief, the Government will prepare for a dissolution of Parliament

and an election to test the country's evidence in the Coalition Cabinet. Members of the Labour Party, it is stated, are convinced this is the Government's intention and are pushing plans to put four hundred candidates in the field. The sole plan of the party, it is said, will be the rationalization of coal miners, although one section asserts this to be a mistake, claiming there would be a better chance in presenting a definite programme for social and political reform. Lobby gossip further attributes to the Government a realization of the Labour parties supposed mistake, and it is said to be satisfied to meet labour on this issue at the polls. In the meantime the Labourites are arranging to stump the country energetically during January in the interest of the nationalization question.

Washington, Dec. 18th.—Rejection by the House and Military Committees for the War Department proposals for a regular army of 576,000 officers and men appeared practically certain tonight when Chairman Wadsworth predicted that the Senate Committee would fix the strength of the force at about 270,000. The House Committee has already agreed tentatively on an approximately similar programme.

Paris, Dec. 17th.—Vienna will have bread for Christmas, it is hoped, as a result of the measures taken yesterday by the Supreme Council for the relief of Austria. An effective peace by Christmas is the hope of the Supreme Council, following the consideration of the German Note on the signing of the protocol. The arrival of the German technical experts in Paris and the substance of the German reply, are considered as justifying their hopes, as little now remains to be settled except technical details which, it is considered, may easily be arranged by experts.

Rome, Dec. 17th.—Hungry Austrian children to the number of 2,300 have already arrived by special train from Vienna and others are on their way to accept the hospitality of northern Italian cities which have offered food from their limited supplies to the starving offsprings of their recent enemies.

Washington, Dec. 17th.—"Starvation faces from fifteen to twenty million persons in Central Europe outside of Germany, unless some quick means can be discovered for their assistance", Mr. Herbert Hoover, former Food Administrator, said today, in a formal statement. Unless relief is quickly furnished, he predicted a breakdown of stable government in the countries affected and "creation of another cesspool like Russia". To meet the situation, Mr. Hoover proposed that the "surplus of wheat and flour" held by the Grain Corporation should be sold on credit to Poland, Finland, Austria and other nations of Central Europe. The Grain Corporation, he said, could extend the

credit out of the capital it already possessed without a call for special appropriations by Congress. The question of export of breadstuff in this particular case, said the former Food Administrator, "does not influence the price of supplies to the American people. It is purely a question as to whether out of the material which we will export, in any event we should credit in order to prevent starvation as a wholesale scale, or, on the contrary, to deal only with those who can pay cash".

London, Dec. 17th.—A weekly airship service to America is contemplated by a combination of aviation firms which are credited with the intention of acquiring the R34 and her sister ship R39. These are being altered to meet passenger and cargo requirements.

Paris, December 18th.—The Sub-Committee of the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies enquiring into the election of Deputies for the third district of Paris, have decided that the following men have won their seats: President of the Chamber, Ex-Minister of War, M. Painleve, M. Ferdinand Bisson, Commissioner of Merchant Marine, M. Paul Aubriot, Labour Member, and M. Levesseur and Mr. Roser. The recent Board recently questioned the re-election of these deputies.

Annapolis, M. D., Dec. 18th.—Admiral Sir John Jellicoe will visit the United States Naval Academy the first week in January, according to an announcement today. He is to be the guest of Rear Admiral A. H. Scales, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Scales.

Lille, Dec. 18th.—An infernal machine containing several pounds of high explosives was found in a goods truck which had been returned here from Germany while it was being unloaded today. Time fuses which were removed from the machine exploded an hour afterwards. An investigation is being made by the military authorities.

Chicago, Dec. 18th.—Liquor interests estimate their losses, as a result of the enforcement of the war-time prohibition law at \$400,000,000, according to Levy Mayer, Chief Counsel for the distillers in the Middle West. He announced that suit to recover approximately this sum from the United States Government will soon be filed in the Court of Claims at Washington. He will go to New York next Monday or Tuesday to confer with certain legal authorities on liquor interests with regard to the filing of the suits. Mr. Mayer explained this action is entirely apart from the proceedings attacking constitutional prohibition, to be submitted to the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Woolf, a distiller's agent, announced today the sales of 100 barrels and 30,000 cases of whiskey for immediate export. The bulk will go to Hamburg, Germany. Small consignments will be sent to Switzerland, Holland and Norway.