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DR. RITTMAN



Dr. Walter F. Rittman, the young government expert who discovered a way to increase production of gasoline.

BRIEF WAR NEWS

Heavy weather is declared by the allies to have been responsible for the small advance of the week in the attack on the Dardanelles, but it is probable more efficient gunnery by the defenders is also a factor.

A British attack made, according to London reports, by 100,000 men on the German outer lines guarding Lille, succeeded during the week in winning two and one-half miles of trenches and shoving the Germans back three-quarters of a mile. This gain is the most important made by the allies in northern France during the winter.

Parliament granted the British government power during the week to take over the plants capable of turning out war supplies.

The British Admiralty issued a report showing that of 88 British vessels sunk or captured by hostile action, from the commencement of the war until March 10, 22 were victims of submarines.

In a long official communication, the French war office announces a series of minor successes in Belgium and on various parts of the war front in France. This communication, however, admits the blowing up by the Germans of four of the French advance trenches near Pont-a-Mousson. At this point the Germans gained a foothold, but two of the trenches and part of another were recaptured by the French.

In the eastern war zone the concentration of troops and preliminary operations for an engagement on an extensive scale in Poland are proceeding, but the fighting of late has been of the advance guard order. In the Carpathians neither the Russians nor the Austrians seemingly have been able to gain any decisive advantage.

In the region of Przasnysa, Russian Poland, the great battle has not yet been fought, and what fighting there has been each of the contenders maintains is turning in his favor. The Russians are claiming hard-earned progress all along the line; the Germans just as stoutly assert that the Russian attacks have been repulsed.

Germans Destroyed 125 Merchantmen.
Amsterdam, Holland.—The Mittag Zeitung, of Berlin, has published a list of merchantmen said to have been destroyed by the German navy since the beginning of the war. According to it, German vessels have sunk 111 steamships, with a total tonnage of 460,000; four auxiliary cruisers, with a total tonnage of 32,500; one sailing vessel, one schooner, eight minesweepers and one troop transport.

Both Sides Win in East.

London.—Victories by the Germans in North Poland, by the Austrians in west Galicia and by the Russians over the Austrians in east Galicia are featured in the official communications received from the capitals of the three nations involved in the eastern war zone.

Great Russian Statesman Dead.

London.—Count Sergius Julovitch Witte, former prime minister of Russia and by many regarded as her leading statesman, died from pneumonia in Petrograd. He was 65 years old.

Indiana Repeaters Get \$1 Votes.

Indianapolis.—One dollar for every time a "repeater" voted at the Terre Haute election last fall appeared to be the regular scale of pay, according to witnesses testifying here. The evidence was given in the trial of Mayor Roberts, of Terre Haute, and 27 others for conspiracy to corrupt a federal election.

Prohibition for Alaska Proposed.
Juneau, Alaska.—A bill providing for prohibition throughout the entire territory of Alaska was introduced in the lower house of the territorial legislature.

WILSON TO ENFORCE DEMANDS IN MEXICO

Respect for Foreigners to be Compelled, is Text of Notes Sent to Carranza.

Washington.—President Wilson has determined that all the rival factions in Mexico shall be compelled if necessary, not only to respect the lives and property of foreigners, but to insure freedom of commercial communication between the United States and its southern neighbor.

This policy, enunciated in the last two notes sent to General Carranza concerning the situation at Mexico City, was further developed by the dispatch of a communication informing the Mexican chief that unless the gunboat Zaragoza was recalled from its attempted blockade of the port of Progreso, the president of the United States "would be constrained to issue instructions" to the commander of the armored cruiser Des Moines "to prevent any interference" with American ships going to or from that port.

The purpose of this note apparently was achieved before it reached Vera Cruz, for the navy department received word that the Zaragoza had put back to Vera Cruz "on account of the stress of the weather." The opinion of officials is that there will be no further attempt to blockade.

Will Vitalize New Discovery.

Washington.—It is announced officially that two large companies have arranged to take advantage of the discoveries recently announced by Secretary Lane that revolutionize the manufacture of gasoline and make the United States independent of Germany in the manufacture of toluol and benzol, used in making explosives and dyes.

VESSEL SINKS IN 5 MINUTES

British Auxiliary Cruiser Bayano Torpedoed by German Submarine.

Ayr, Scotland.—Graphic description of the sinking of the British auxiliary cruiser Bayano by a German submarine was given by survivors of the disaster. Of the 220 men on board, 194 perished, as the cruiser sank so rapidly that the men had scarcely a chance for their lives. She was a converted merchantman.

Lieutenant Commander Gay, one of the survivors, said: "The Bayano went to the bottom five minutes after the German torpedo struck her. Of the 220 persons aboard, I am certain that only 26 were picked up by the steamers Balmorino and Tara, which came to our rescue. All the others were killed by the explosion or were swirled down in the vortex."

Vermont Will Vote Upon Prohibition.

Montpelier, Vt.—Governor Gates signed the prohibition referendum bill. As a result the voters will decide at the municipal election in March, 1916, whether to substitute state-wide prohibition for local option.

GERMANY EXPECTED TO REPUDIATE ACT

Washington.—Germany probably will repudiate the action of the captain of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich in sinking the American ship William P. Frye, loaded with wheat consigned from Seattle to Queenstown, and make reparation for the loss of the vessel and cargo, in the opinion of German officials here.

Captain Thierichens, of the Prinz Eitel, stated that his only guide while at sea and for months out of communication with his government was the declaration of London. This would permit the destruction of a neutral prize if carrying a cargo more than half of which could be proved to be contraband, provided it was impossible to take the vessel to a home port without endangering the captor warship.

Since the outbreak of the war the German government has defined its views on shipments of conditional contraband and has argued that food-stuffs must be proved without any doubt to be bound actually to a belligerent force of an enemy before they can be seized.

Thaw is Acquitted.

New York.—Harry Kendall Thaw was acquitted of the charge of conspiracy to escape from Matteawan asylum for the insane, but that did not mean freedom. As soon as the verdict was announced Thaw was given into the custody of Sheriff Griffenhagen, of New York county.

Hood River Board Votes to Secede.

Hood River, Or.—The board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers' association recommended that the Hood River association withdraw from the North Pacific Fruit Distributors.

Final action, however, rests with the members of the local association.

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