United States Army Officers
Say Germany Must Advance Through Belgium.

FRENCH FRONTIER STRONG

Division of Kaiser's Fleet Viewed as One of Weakest Places in Germany's Lineup—Strategists

Point Out Flaws.

Germany Officers

develops.

John Barrett, director-general of the Pan-American Union, who discussed mediation with the British Ambassador today, told him he could count on the hearty support of South American nations in forwarding mediation.

"Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and practically all of South America," said Mr. Barrett, "are hit harder by the war than any other section of the world, and the peculiar situation in South America may prove a powerful argument with the German Emperor in Causing him to listen to the President's proposal of mediation, especially on account of Germany's great commercial field in South America."

Another basis for hope was the fact that Inasmuch as the United States is in no way party to the European dispute, a rejection of her tender of good offices would be contrary to the spirit of The Hague convention, which specifically suggests that "in case of gerious disagreement or conflict, the signatory powers are to have recourse, as far as circumstances allow, to the good offices or mediation of one or more friendly powers."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5. - American Army officers think in the campaign through Beigium lies Germany's only marching her soldiers into Even allowing for the necessity of crushing the Belgian army,

cessity of crushing the Belgian army, the experts here regard this as the most feasible point of attack.

For nearly 40 years the French engineers, among the ablest in the world in scientific design, have been laboring like beavers constructing fortifications of earth and steel, even includant cations of earth and steet, even intuition in great revolving turrets like those of a dreadnought, that now practically cover every mile of the frontier between France and Germany and south of Belgium. In the estimate of Army engineers these defenses are invulnerable except as against an army vasily outnumbering the French forces behind the parapets and in the rifle

American Axiom Applied.

American axiom is that one soldier behind such defenses as the French have erected on this frontier is equal to four in the attacking army.

This ratio of effective defensive and offensive power might be greatly reduced by systematic siege operations, but this would involve the expenditure of that most precious factor in a camof that most precious factor in a cam-paign—time. Therefore, the beginning of the campaign in Belgium had been expected here and the outcome is be-

of the campaign in Belgium had been expected here and the outcome is being awaited with great interest by the general staff.

The belief is that the Belgians for the present will confine themselves to obstructive tactics in the German front, feinting and skirmishing and falling back so as to reduce the percentage of loss and losing no opportunity to harass the advancing German army and if possible to cut its line of communication.

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Germany's Weakness Cited.

Thus, it was suggested tonight, within one year of a century after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, the Germans and French and Belgians may come together again in a decisive battle in almost the same theater of this war.

Today's report of naval engagements in various places were regarded as precursory of many similar events in the four quarters of the globe. Naval strategists are quick to point the lesson of the dangers of a division of the fleet. Germany has weakened her position by clinging to the old practice of dispersing her aval vessels far and wide in time of peace, falling to guard against the outbreak of a sudden war that would make concentration impossible.

pute, should, on their own finitiative and, as far as circumstances may allow, offer their good offices or mediation to the states at variance."

None of the powers, it was pointed out, would suffer any disadvantage through the acceptance of mediation. Under The Hague convention the part to the mediator consists in "reconciling the opposing claims and appeasing the poposing claims and appeasing the poposing claims and appeasing the poposing claims and appeasing the acceptance of resentment which may have a risen between the states at variance."

The Hague convention the part to the mediator consists in "reconciling the opposing claims and appeasing the acceptance of resentment which may have a risen between the states at variance."

The first step which the United States would take in the event of a general acceptance of its proposal would be to suggest a suspension of hostilities. This suggest and appearing the acceptance of ac that would make concentration impos-sible.

Secretary, but some of them told news-papermen afterwards they believed the situation had gone too far to be Ambassador Willa halted by mediation. nediation. The Austrian thought, however, that Ambassador thought, nowever, even if the offer were not accepted, a sudden turn in the military or naval aboard the Tennessee, returning to his aspect of the war might influence an post in Madrid from the bedside of his post in Madrid from the bedside of his sick daughter, Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt,

Move Carefully Weighed.

offer of the United States wa made after many days of careful con-sideration by the President and his Cabinet. The Cabinet almost unani-mously supported the proposal. From the first the idea had been in the minds of Administration officials, but as the President read dispatches from American diplomats reciting the failure of repeated efforts on the part of other powers to mediate in the dispute when it was confined to Austria and Servia, and later between Germany and Rus-sia, he was not encouraged.

As long as European nations themseives were endeavoring to adjust the situation. Mr. Wilson thought it was the traditional duty of the American Government not to interfere.

When practically all Europe suddenly became involved and the United States stood forth as the solitary power of solute neutrality, the President acted

Crisis Brings Quick Move. He wrote the brief note, sent it to Secretary Bryan, who promptly ap-proved, and late last night the mesproved, and late last might the measures were sent to Europe. It is believed the message to Emperor William was delivered before the cable to Germany was cut. One of the secretaries of the German embassy, however, said today he would in all events try to get the message to his government by

From the character of the inquiries made by American diplomats of their own initiative, the prospect for an actance by some of the European na was considered bright at House. Great Britain and White House. Great Britain and her allies, it is believed, will accept, but no assurance of any kind has come from Germany. Should the Emperor agree, it is thought the entire situation would be cattled by would be settled by pacific means and a great war averted.

Bryan's Influence Felt. The most recent example of media-tion was the adjustment at Niagara Falls by Argentina, Brazil and Chile of the international side of the Mexican tangle. Secretary Bryan has been an avowed champion of the principle of mediation and was instrumental in urging the American Government to accept "good offices" in the Mexican situation. The central theme of mediation which is to suspend hostilities without ceasing military preparations and discuss peace in a calm and conciliatory spirit, is embodied in 20 peace treaties drafted by Secretary Bryan, which were favorably reported by the Senate committee on foreign relations today. Action was taken on them at this time with the hope of exerting a moral influence for peace in the pres-ent situation. The treaties would provide an international commission to vestigate causes of disputes within period of six months or more before

The President and Mr. Bryan await-

ed tonight answers to their messages to Europe. Difficulties in communicato Europe. Difficulties in communica-tion may delay them several days. Some countries, it was pointed out, may purposely delay their answers until later in the conflict. The President's offer leaves it open to them to accept, if not now, at any time as the situation develope. TO REASSURE CHINA I John Barrett, director-general of the

Oriental Government Wants United States to Request Neutrality in Far East.

REFUSAL SEEMS LIKELY

Action Taken in 1870 During Fran co-Prussian Outbreak Not Viewed as Applicable Now in Light of Developments.

good offices or mediation of one or more friendly powers." Article three of The Hague conven-Article three of The Hague convention says:

"Powers, strangers to the dispute, have the right to offer good offices or mediation, even during the course of hostilities.

"The exercise of this right can never be regarded by one or the other of the parties in conflict as an unfriendly act.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—(Special.)—
The government of China today appealed to the United States to intercede with the warring powers for the purpose of assuring maintenance of peace in the Far East.

While this Government has not yet made its final answer to the Chinese government, there is every indication

BELGIUM IS KEY TO FRENCH BORDER; MAY BALK GERMAN PLANS.

The vital importance of Belgium in a war between France and Germany lies in the fact that unless Germany may move across Belgian territory, neutralized by treaty, an invasion of France would have to be through the heavily fortified French frontier proper. The entire to be through the heavily fortified French frontier proper. The entire northeastern frontier of France is, roughly, 440 miles in length, For a distance of about 250 miles these frontier lines separate France from Belgium and Luxemburg. The remainder, about 180 miles, separates France from German territory.

With the neutrality of Belgium observed the scene of action would

be reduced to the splendidly fortified Franco-German frontier proper. This line of defense runs, broadly speaking, from Verdun to Nancy, to Epinal, to Belfort and to Besancon. Each of these cities is the center of a group of fortifications extending northwest and southeast, and all facing the German border.

Behind this line of fortifications France has a second line of defense, running parallel from Rheims to Chalons and to Verdun and from Chalons to Langres to Dijon and to Besancon. This second line of protection is from 80 to 120 miles from Paris, and the first frontier line of fortifications is, roughly speaking, from 140 to 220 miles from the French capital. The French frontier from the Strait of Dover to German territory, the line which separates France from Belgium and Luxemburg, also is well protected.

Thus a German advance through Belgium is, in effect, "going around the end."

signatory powers recommend that one informed shortly that the United States or more powers, strangers to the dis-does not consider it advisable or prac-pute, should, on their own initiative tizable to take the step requested. and, as far as circumstances may allow, It is possible, however, that the

Reassure British Ships.

AMERICA OFFERS TO HELP

(Continued From First Page.)

and French embassies and Belgian legation called at the department.

Mr. Bryan delivered the message to a representative of the legation of The Netherlands and other countries not directly involved, but as a matter of information to their foreign offices. The diplomats expressed no opinion to the diplomats expressed no opinion to the that German cruisers were lying in of their respective enemies in China,

> Ambassador Willard Returns. RICHMOND, Va., July 5 .- Joseph E

Dardanelles and Bosphorus Closed. CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 5. - The Dardanelles and the Bosphorus were closed today in order to preserve the neutrality of Turkey.

"Independently of this recourse, the that the Chinese government will be

ticable to take the step requested.

It is possible, however, that the United States will undertake to make representations to European belligerent ents with a vie wto securing exemption of foreign concessions in China from becoming the scene of conflict. Provisions in the treaty of 1868 between the United States and China afford a basis for such restricted representation to the powers by the United States, but it is not believed China's broad proposition will be viewed favorably.

Action in 1870 In Basis.

The request of the Chinese govern-ment was made by Yung Kwal, secre-tary of the Chinese legation. He based his request on action of the United States Government in 1870, during the

States Government in 1870, during the war between France and Prussia. At that time Secretary of State Fish brought about an agreement among the respective belligerent governments and also between respective naval commanders in Chinese waters to refrain from hostilities in those waters. The basis of Secretary Fish's appeal and the reason for its success at that time was his representing that fighting between French and Germans in Chinese waters might provoke them

would pay any attention to proposals that they refrain from striking at their enemies in that part of the world any

more than in Europe.

Neither is it now considered that hostilities between the European belligerents, with the possibility of Japan taking a hand in favor of her ally, England, will arouse China to antiforeign outbreaks. The fear of such outbreaks was the chief reason advanced to Secretary Fish and the basis on which French and Prussians then consented to them.

Great Britain imports more than 20,000, 00 bottles of mineral waters annually.

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with Germany was communication stopped today.

The German Atlantic cable lines from New York to Emden, via the Azores, pany. were cut about 1:30 A. M., at some were cut about 1:30 A. M., at some point east of the Azores, possibly by British warships. The Commercial Cable Company, which operates the American end of this line, made the announcement of the cutting today, and refused to accept messages for Germany. It was denied that the lines had been cut by British warships on this side of the Atlantic. The cable was working, according to announcement,

working, according to announcement, as far as the Azores.
Charies P. Adams, second vice-president of the Commercial Cable Company, said there was no trouble with the regular Commercial Cable Company's lines, which run from New York to Nova Scotia and thence to points on the English Coast. Communication with England over these lines was still being maintained. No hope was held out, bewere for any immediate restore. however, for any immediate restora-

and any German news that did make its way to Southeastern Europe through Austria-Hungary would not be transmitted over the lines of this com-

News of the cutting of the lines between Germany and England may be expected at any moment. Already these lines are in the hands of the military authorities, where they

land on British territory.

All the land lines from Germany in every direction except to Austria-Hun-

gary have been severed. Any cable from Germany to Norway and Sweden which may still be in operation is comparatively valueless, for the reason that news, to reach the out-side world would have to be relayed to England.

MAPS IN DEMAND

Books on Lands Involved in War Are Readily Sold by Stores.

Bookstores in Portland simply have been stripped of war maps of all kinds and there has been a demand for books on the countries involved in the present war that threatens to call for rush orders to the Eastern houses to keep

orders to the Eastern houses to keep up with the demand.

"Maps have been sold ranging all the way from 25 cents to \$75, to persons of every nationality interested in the struggle," said J. T. Hotchkiss, manager of the book department of Gill's yesterday. "One man bought a colos-

sal map for \$75.

"The call is steadily increasing.
have wired two orders for maps a it begins to look as though book orders will have to follow. Books on the Kaiser and on Germany are most in de-mand, although histories of all other ountries involved are in demand Public Library has experiences a startling war activity. Miss has issued orders for a special "Library" to be compiled.

CANADA BUYS SUBMARINES

Dominion Takes Two Vessels Just Finished for Chile.

SEATTLE, Aug. 5 .- Two powerful submarine vessels just completed at a Seattle shippare for the Chilean navy have been sold to the Canadian government. They proceeded to Victoria. B. C., under their own steam last night. They are each \$50 feet long and of 420

The Chilean government was to have paid \$500,000 for the submarines, which had been christened Iquique and Antofagasta, and it is supposed that the Canadian government paid this sum in cash. There had been a controversy between the builders and the Chilean government over whether the boats ful-filled their promise in the contract.

THE LUSITANIA SAILS AWAY

Under Cover of Darkness Big Liner Puts Off; No Hostile Ship Seen.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—The big Cu-narder Lusitania, which sailed under the cover of darkness early today, was to the eastward of Nantucket this afternoon and proceeding on her course.

There were no hostile warships in the vicinity, as far as could be learned.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 5 (Via London.)—The Russian Ambassador in Berlin, M. de Sverbew, and his staff are blow on the head which cut his scalp. He is said to be under special treatment much abuse after the declaration of war. Some of the members of the Amwas hit on her back and shoulder by

COMMUNICATION WITH EMPIRE IS PRACTICALLY DEMORALIZED.

Hritish Vessels Thought to Have Severed Line From Agores—Warring Nation Well Hemmed In.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—Direct cable communication with Germany was and any German news that did make to filter through be and any German news that did make to filter through and the Eastern communication with Germany was to the communication with the Meditor and the Meditor

both men and women with sticks and

bassadorial suite, including Princess an old, well-dressed man, and other Belosselsky, who was Miss Susle Whit-persons in the crowd spat at her-tier, of Boston, and First Secretary of Other members of the party are de-Embassy Charovitski are alleged clared to have been similarly treated, actually to have been struck by persons in the crowd, which followed their toms of the autmobiles in order to pro-



1—Guernsey, Channel Islands, Near Which French Warship Captured German Steamer. 2—Dover, England, Off Which Firing Was Reported. 3—London, Where There is Greatest Activity in Mobilization. 4—Hull, England, Where Several German Steamers Were Seized by Great Britain. 5—Calais, France, Off Which French Torpedo Bonts Captured Two German Vessels. 6—Namur, Belgium, Scene of German-Belgian Clash. 7, 8, 3, 10, 11—Brussels, Belgian Capital, and Liege, Verviers, Stavilor and Spa, Belgian Cities, Around Which Fighting Raged. 12—Tutburg, Holland, Selzed by Germans. 13—Hamburg, Germany, Base for Operations of North Sea Fleet. 14—Nancy, France, Around Which German Invaders Are Fighting French Defenders. 15—Gibraltar, British Fortress and Naval Base for Operations in Mediterranean. 16—Algiers, Off Which French Fleet Saak German Warship and Captured Two Others. 17—Dardanelles Straits, Closed by Turkey, Imprisoning Russian Black Sea Fleet.

