



## BRITISH CABINET DIVIDED ON ISSUE

### Military Party Favors Further Reprisals.

### SOLUTION RESTS ON LONDON

### Washington Encouraged by Reports of Ambassadors.

### GERMAN PROMISE ASSURED

### Submarine Warfare on Merchant Vessels to Cease if Foodstuffs Consigned to Civilian Population Are Unmolested.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Encouraging reports from both Ambassadors Page and Gerard at London and Berlin, respectively, were received by President Wilson and his Cabinet today concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce from the dangers of submarines and mines, and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries.

Complete replies are not expected for several days, because the subject is still under consideration by England and her allies.

### All Eyes Turn to London.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the vexatious questions already has been made known informally to the United States and a formal acquiescence is expected in a day or two. All eyes now are turned on London, where the opinion is underfoot as yet to be impressed by the merits of the suggestions.

Some of the leading men in the British cabinet are said to favor in principle the American proposals as a means of solving the problem with as little inconvenience to neutral countries as possible. Another element, however, is said to be impressed by the military value of further restriction of supplies to Germany and more reprisals and there is some indication that when the final resolution on the American proposals is to be made the military faction will present strong opposition to them.

### Details Becoming Known.

The exact nature of the proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of the officials both here and abroad, but each day adds information on the subject. Briefly, this much of the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed. The United States has asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to the shipment of neutrals of conditional contraband destined to civilian populations and not the belligerent forces of an enemy, remain unaltered.

A system is suggested whereby proof can be furnished that the supplies will be used by the civilian population.

### Removal of Mines Proposed.

The removal of all floating mines by Germany as well as Great Britain is proposed, this not to apply, however, to mines used for protection of coast defenses and harbors, mines to be placed to guide neutral ships through such fields as remain.

Attention is called to Germany's promise that if foodstuffs are not detained when destined to her civilian population the submarine warfare on merchant ships will be abandoned.

### Method of Warfare Not Criticized.

The American proposals do not dwell on the attacks by German submarines on enemy merchant ships, as the position of the United States is understood, would not permit interference in the mode of warfare adopted by the belligerents toward each other, except where the lives of neutrals are placed in jeopardy. It is assumed, however, by officials that the proposal, as by Germany from an intention to abandon such warfare on merchant vessels and confine operations to those enemy vessels carrying troops and munitions of war would be fulfilled, if foodstuffs were to be given unrestricted passage to Germany.

The details of the proposals, it is felt here, can be readily arranged if there is a disposition on the part of both Great Britain and Germany to make concessions.

### Responsibility Cannot Be Fixed.

The destruction of the American steamers Carib and Evelyn continued to be talked about in official quarters and, while inability to fix the responsibility for the accidents has removed for the present the danger of complications with the belligerents, the hope of the American Government is that dangers from mines will be eliminated by an acceptance of some, at least, of the American proposals.

The State Department today received the following telegram from the Consul-General at London, dated February 25:

"Pilot station Dover discontinued 17th. Vessels that formerly took pilots, Dover now supplied in the Downs from Deal."

### Globe Democrat Editor Resigns.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—Captain Henry King today resigned as managing editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Captain King has been in poor health. He is 73 years old.

## DARDANELLES IS STILL UNDER FIRE

### FRENCH CRUISER ENTERS AND ESCAPES UNHARMED.

### Four Forts Silenced and One Seen to Be on Fire—Turks Say They Hit Three Britishers.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Athens correspondent of the Havas Agency sends the following dispatch regarding the bombardment of the forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles by the French and British fleets:

"News received from the island of Tenedos last night says that the bombardment of the Dardanelles continued with violence from 3 o'clock in the morning until 6 in the evening. The fire from the forts was intense during part of the day, but diminished and ceased before daylight.

"Four Erthogrol, Sedd-el-Bahr and Orhanic suffered a great deal, especially Sedd-el-Bahr, which was on fire, the flames being seen from Tenedos. One of the allies' cruisers entered the strait during the evening and bombarded the forts for an hour. It then withdrew safely.

"The result of the fire of the Turkish forts is not definitely known, but it appears to be established that none of the allies' vessels has been seriously damaged."

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company, in a dispatch dated Friday, says:

"The bombardment of the exterior forts of the Dardanelles has resulted in the destruction of forts Sedd-el-Bahr, Kum, Kale and Orhanic.

"French cruiser penetrated the straits and remained an hour, bombarding the interior forts. It departed undamaged."

CONSTANTINOPLE, via London, Feb. 26.—It is given out here that one ship of the Angamon type and two other armored vessels were damaged by the fire from the forts on the Asiatic side of the straits.

### EMPLOYER ASKS BENEFITS

### Man Hurt in Own Mill Presses Suit for Pay Under Workmen's Act.

ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—Clarence Lang is entitled to benefits under the workmen's compensation act, although he is the owner and operator of the mill in which he was injured, J. E. Lang, of Dillard, has appealed from the decision of the State Accident Commission to the Circuit Court of Douglas County. The action will be tried here Saturday, with Attorney General Brown representing the state.

Mr. Lang was injured recently while at work in his mill, near Dillard. He filed his claim with the State Accident Commission. The Accident Commission held that Mr. Lang, as an employer, was not entitled to benefits under the workmen's compensation act, which provides for payments only to employees. Mr. Lang alleges that the state accepted his premium and as a result he is entitled to recover as insurance a sum compatible with the premiums for the injuries he received.

### WRITERS TO SEE BATTLES

### British War Office to Permit Short Tours Over Fields.

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 26.—A message from the British War Office to the Canadian government indicates that the war correspondent is soon to have a limited opportunity of seeing fighting. The cablegram received late today read:

"It has been decided to permit small batches of war correspondents to proceed to the front in a series of tours of about six days each, beginning March 1."

### AUSTRIAN PUPILS TO WORK

### Schools May Be Closed and Children Sent to Fields.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Vienna dispatches forwarded from Vienna to Reuters' Telegram Company say that the Austrian Minister of Education has authorized the employment of school children in the fields where labor is scarce, closing schools if necessary. It is also said that all of the schools will be closed for the summer holidays at the end of May, a month earlier than usual. According to an official report 122,432 families in Vienna are receiving assistance from the state.

### COUNTY MAY CHANGE NAME

### Senate at Olympia Makes It Grays Harbor Instead of Chehalis.

### OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 26.—(Special.)

The Senate tonight passed the bill changing the name of Chehalis County to Grays Harbor County, the only opposition coming from Senator McGuire, who complained that the new name was not sufficiently musical.

### PROSPERITY IS PREDICTED

### United States, Affected Less by War Than Other Nations, Says Speaker.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Representative Cordell Hull, of Tennessee, author of the income tax law, made a prosperity speech in the House today.

Business of the world had been depressed, disorganized and demoralized by the war, he said, but he predicted permanent prosperity in the United States. He declared the American people had fared better and suffered less than any other and assailed "prophets of evil."

## BATTLEFIELD IS VAST CEMETERY

### Still Gray Figures Dot Ground Everywhere.

### YPRES REGION IS IN RUINS

### British Eye-Witness Tells of Progress of War.

### LINES STRONGLY HELD

### Letters Found on Bodies of Soldiers Said to Indicate Germans, While Still Determined, Are Losing Optimism.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—"All the ground near the front line is plowed up with shells and furrowed with the remains of old trenches and graves. The whole place is a vast cemetery in which our trenches and those of the enemy wind in every direction." This statement is made by the British official "eye witness" at the front in a description given out here tonight of the recent battles southeast of Ypres and of the country in which the armies are fighting.

"In a sheltered spot," he continues, "there is a little graveyard where some of our own dead have been buried. Their graves have been carefully marked and a rough square of bricks has been placed around them. In front of the trenches German bodies still lie thick."

### Men Lie as They Fell.

"At one point of the brick fields recently some 50 men tried to rush our line. At their head was a young German officer who came on gallantly, waving his sword. He almost reached the barbed wire and then fell dead, and he lies there yet, with his sword in his hand and all his 50 men about him.

"It is the same all along the front in this quarter. Everywhere still, gray figures can be seen lying, sometimes several rows together and sometimes singly or in twos or threes.

### Ground Swept by Withering Blast.

"This description might serve with a few minor alterations for many of the localities along our front, where the fighting has centered around some wood, a village or line of trenches. It is as if each had been swept by a withering blast before which every object, whether a work of nature or of man, has crumbled into ruins or become twisted and deformed, and even the very ground itself looks as if it had been shaken by a violent convulsion of nature.

To the south of the Ypres-Comines Canal, says the "eyewitness," the ground, although there are some enclosures, is comparatively open. To the north of it, however, there are many woods and these have become a tangle.

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## INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 53.2 degrees; minimum, 40.3 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain; southerly winds.

### War.

Region of Ypres is one vast cemetery. Page 2. German artillery fire increases in intensity on western front. Page 2. Federal grand jury investigating charges against vessels accused of carrying war supplies to Germany. Page 2. Viscount Bryce says it is error to suppose that witherers for German blood are pro-German. Page 2. Two hundred thousand engage in hand-to-hand battle in Carpathians. Page 2. Bombardment of Dardanelles forts continues. Page 1.

### Domestic.

Rock Island officials receive large sums to repair positions. Page 5. Get-together Club of Exposition holds first gathering at Oregon building. Page 11. Letter tells investigators farmer has nothing to say about price of wheat. Page 1.

### Sports.

Federals to open season four days ahead of rivals. Page 10. Portland Beavers in sad pickle with Catcher Murray out for season, probably, with bad eye. Page 10. Seal infeld is "great success in action." Page 10.

### Pacific Northwest.

Washington legislators practice prohibition. Page 1. One bill remains unsigned by Governor pending investigation. Page 12. Idaho Senate refuses to cut state officials' pay. Page 5. Business men ask Washington Legislature to submit new liquor bill. Page 11.

### Commercial and Marine.

Lack of export facilities cause weakness in local wheat market at Chicago followed by rallies. Page 15. Tons is variable in Wall street stock market, due to foreign conditions. Page 15. Idle schooners ordered here to load lumber. Page 12.

### Portland and Vicinity.

Total of 299 Y. M. C. A. members gained in 24 candidates. Page 9. Idaho Senate refuses to cut state officials' pay. Page 5. Shriners to have big time tonight initiating 22 candidates. Page 9. Rose buttons to be distributed to public school pupils Monday. Page 11. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 15.

### United States Now Controls.

Mr. Leiter said 75 per cent of the elevators were owned either by the big wheat operators or the railroads, while 25 per cent were owned by independent or small operators and farmers' cooperative societies. The United States has controlled the wheat prices of the world since September 1, 1914, and will continue to do so until another crop is raised, Mr. Leiter asserted.

### Girls Fined for Ragging

### Pendleton Judge Then Suspends Sentence During Good Behavior.

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—The seven Pilot Rock young ladies who were arrested for "ragging" at a lodge dance in that town were given a trial before Recorder Reynolds this evening. Each was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$5, but sentence was suspended during good behavior. The trial was behind closed doors and Judge Reynolds refused to allow the names of the girls to be made public.

Two of the nine accused young men were found to be innocent. Howard Bartel and Twig Hinkle served out the full amount of their fines, while Archie Mathews, Roy Michaels and Archie McFarland paid their fines.

### RUSSIA CALLS MEN HOME

### All Subject to Military Duty Are Ordered to Return by March 1.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Russian Consul-General here has issued a statement received from Petrograd announcing that Russians living abroad henceforth will be liable to military service and must return immediately to Russia.

Those belonging to the classes called to the colors who remain abroad after March 1 will be liable to punishment according to the Russian law.

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## FARMER NOT HEARD IN FIXING OF PRICE

### Wheat Market Control Usually in Liverpool.

### "INVISIBLE SUPPLY" LARGE

### Leiter Says Growers Are Becoming Chief Spe

### CROP OFTEN HELD LONG

### Once Noted Operator Tells Bread Investigators Cash Basis Would Place Whole Market in Hands of Speculators.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Joseph Leiter, long a famous wheat operator, testified today at the state inquiry into the cost of bread, that the farmer had nothing to say about the price at which his wheat should be sold. That, he added, was determined at the terminal market.

"The Liverpool exchange, which is the leading exchange of the world," he said, "usually fixes the price."

United States Now Controls. Mr. Leiter said 75 per cent of the elevators were owned either by the big wheat operators or the railroads, while 25 per cent were owned by independent or small operators and farmers' cooperative societies. The United States has controlled the wheat prices of the world since September 1, 1914, and will continue to do so until another crop is raised, Mr. Leiter asserted.

Mr. Leiter gave it as his opinion that the "invisible supply" of wheat, or that which is in the hands of farmers and not recorded in the Government report, has been a large factor in keeping down the price.

### Farmers Are Large Speculators.

"The farmers have become the largest speculators in the country; they will hold crop after crop, sometimes for so long as four years," he said. "In a year such as we are having we find that there is an enormous lot of wheat that isn't covered by the Government records. If it wasn't for this fact the price today would be much higher."

"There isn't anybody left in the speculative market now," Mr. Leiter said. "The speculators got out after the price passed the \$1.40 mark—the small trader was forced out and the big one was frightened out. The rise would have come much sooner had it not been for speculation."

Cash Dealing Opposed. Mr. Leiter was asked if it would be a detriment to the country to place dealings in grain on a cash basis.

"That would make a fine business," he replied. "The business would become highly speculative immediately. It would be taken out of the hands of millers and elevator men and placed in the hands of speculators."

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## Friday's War Moves

THE continued progress which the French are said to be making in the Champagne district and the pressure which the allies, without attempting any great offensive, are declared to be bringing to bear on the German line in the west have, according to news received from Holland, induced the Germans to make another effort in the west before the allied forces reach their maximum strength.

By day and by night, say the Dutch newspapers, big motor cars loaded with German soldiers are hurrying through Belgium to the western front, and the troops which had been sent to Northern Belgium are going back to the trenches. The fact that some of the troops now passing through Belgium come from the eastern front suggests to the military observers that the Germans have decided that they are able to hold the Austrians in their present positions while the Germans are carrying out their new offensive in the west.

The silence of the German general staff, which today simply said that there had been no change of each front, is taken in London as confirmation that some big move such as that suggested by the French is under way. It is declared that the allies are displaying no uneasiness. They believe that the softness of the ground must prove a great disadvantage to the Germans and although not all the new troops of the allies are ready yet that they will be able to repel any new attack.

During the last couple of days the British have slightly improved their positions in the region of La Bassée, while the French report further progress by their troops in the vicinity of Perthes and in the Argonne and repeated successes by their artillery in destroying German guns and trenches.

In the east a big battle along the Russian fortress line, which follows rivers almost the whole way from the Baltic to the Carpathians, is still undecided. The same is true also of the battles in the Carpathians and in Bukovina. Petrograd dispatches, however, assert that the Russians are more than holding their own in North and Central Poland and that in the Carpathians they are making such a steady advance that not only the Hungarians, but the Austrian armies fighting in Bukovina, are threatened.

No further news has reached London of the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts by the allied fleet, but it is believed there that the warships will now continue their attacks until the straits are forced. Having destroyed the outer fortifications, the entrance to the waterway is being cleared of mines preparatory to an attack on the inner forts.

One effect of the preliminary success of the allies in the Dardanelles was the dropping today of the price of wheat, which went down several points on the Liverpool exchange.

A serious invasion of German South Africa forces is now under way. The troops, which landed in Walvisch and Ludert's Bay, are advancing along the railways from those ports to the main line, which runs north and south through practically the whole length of the colony, while another force is concentrating in Northern Cape Colony to advance from the north.

General Botha himself is leading the forces which advanced from Walvisch Bay and is directing their operations. In a speech to his troops General Botha said the campaign would continue until the German colony was conquered, and he assured them also that the rebellion in the Union was being quelled. He said his troops would be joined by strong reinforcements, which would make their success certain.

Premier Anquith is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons Monday outlining the steps which the allies have decided upon in retaliation against Germany's sea war zone.

## FRENCH DESTROYER LOST

### Dague, Escorting Provision Ships, Strikes Austrian Mine.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The destruction of the French torpedo-boat destroyer Dague in the Adriatic Sea was announced today by the French Ministry of Marine. The official announcement follows:

"The French torpedo-boat destroyer Dague, while escorting provision ships with provisions for Montenegro, struck an Austrian mine off the port of Antivari (Montenegro) on February 24 and sank. Thirty-eight of the crew were killed. The accident did not hinder the finishing of the work of provisioning and the return of the convoy."

The Dague was 256 feet long and had a displacement of 290 tons. She was built in 1911 and rated at a speed of 31.1 knots. Her complement was 81 men. She was armed with two 2.9 inch guns, four nine-pounders and four 18-inch torpedo tubes.

## HOOKEWORM ALL TO BLAME

### Scientist Absolves Overwork From Responsibility in South.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 26.—Hookworm and not overwork or industrial conditions is responsible for the "pitiable physical condition of the children in the cotton mills of the South," Dr. Charles W. Stiles, of the United States Public Health Service and scientific secretary for the Rockefeller Commission for the Eradication of the Hookworm Disease, said in an address before the Knife and Fork Club here tonight.

Likewise it was the hookworm, he asserted, and not starvation or ill-treatment that caused the death of 15,000 of the 40,000 Union soldiers held at the Confederate prison at Andersonville during the Civil War.

## All of Evelyn's Crew Safe.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Minister Van Dyke, at The Hague, cabled today that the entire crew of the American steamer Evelyn, sunk by a mine, was safe at Bremen. The fate of Captain Smith and one boatload has been cloaked in mystery.

## LEGISLATORS DRY IN FACT AS IN THEORY

### Time-Honored Brewery Excursion Omitted.

### OLYMPIA MEMBERS SERIOUS

### Washington Prohibition Legislation Is Intricate.

### SPECIAL ELECTION CERTAIN

### Measure Assured of Place on Ballot Next November Not Popular and Real Contest May Be Postponed Until 1916.

BY RONALD G. CALVERT. (Special Correspondent.)—Public sentiment has had a noticeable effect on one phase of legislative life in Olympia.

Time was when the session meant a harvest for the saloons. Not that the average member was a bonzer, but the collective thirst, added to that of the third house, and augmented by freedom from home restraint, meant business and profits for the liquor dealers. Last November Washington voted to put the saloon out of business January 1, 1914. Just now it is not considered good form for a legislator to be seen frequenting a saloon.

Liquor Lobby Lies Low. Moreover, the liquor lobby, with more at stake than ever before, is not so strongly in evidence as in former years. A lobby is maintained and headquarters are open, but invitations to frequent the rooms are said to be extremely rare. The member who visits his headquarters voluntarily is welcome, but he is not urged or solicited to come.

Once upon a time the first general election taken by the members was to the brewery at Tumwater, nearby. This year the structural company will not realize extra profits from operating its line to the little village at the extreme upper end of Puget Sound. A person who examined the roster of visitors at the brewery the other day found the names of only three members.

Legislators Men of Serious Mien. Still it may be admitted that the fact that the state has voted to go dry a few months hence is not the only factor in the case. Washington has elected an unusually serious and business-like body of men to the Legislature. Possibly a difference would have been noted anyway.

The preliminary remarks lead up to the statement that the prohibition issue is not settled in Washington yet. It will be voted on again in November, 1916. All details on which the people will vote are unsettled as yet, although as told in previous dispatches from Olympia, one bill overturning the prohibitory law and substituting a restrictive measure is assured a place on the ballot.

Liquor Interests Lose Chance. The initiative and referendum law in Washington differs from that of Oregon. Here an initiative petition may be presented to the Legislature. One with the required number of names has been offered and has been rejected. That means that it will be submitted to the people at the next regular election. The bill places scarcely anybody, it was originally the handwork of one man.

The hotelmen and others interested in bars failed to recognize the opportunities offered by the initiative until too late to present to the Legislature an initiative bill likely to receive the united support of those opposed to prohibition. They did recognize the opportunity in time to help get the names for the one-man bill presented and they did so because presentation of one initiative measure opens the way for the Legislature to submit an alternative measure in the event it rejects the original proposal.

Weir's Case Not Too Bright. The anti-prohibitionists first sought to induce the Legislature to call a special election in November. In a way they have failed, although they were not given up hope. A resolution declaring against the special election idea has been adopted, but it is ambiguous in that it may be construed to relate wholly to initiative measure No. 18, as the unpopular measure now assured a place on the next election ballot is known.

The bill that now has the backing of the liquor interests and a certain substantial business element is ingenious in form. It provides for levying immediately an excise tax on alcoholic beverages ranging from one cent to 30 cents per quart. The revenues raised by this method up to November 2 next are to be used to pay the expenses of a special election at which an alternative liquor measure is to be submitted.

Heavy Revenue Provided. The alternative measure continues the excise tax prescribed in the first measure and directs that the revenues shall be applied to road construction. The tax, it is estimated, would produce \$1,000,000 a year. The bill permits manufacture and also the sale by wholesale liquor stores, and the service of liquors by hotels and restaurants, but prohibits bars.

The assertions of friends and opponents of these bills are contradictory. About three weeks ago when the resolution concerning initiative measure No. 18 was adopted the effort to obtain

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LOOKS LIKE A SPRING CLEAN-UP ON THE DARDANELLES.



GET THE RUSS DIDN'T BRING ANY SOAP