

GERMAN JUSTIFIES U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Berlin Declared Willing to Quit if British Will End Blockade on Food.

INTENSE BITTERNESS FELT

Professor Delbrueck Complains That United States Did Not Insist on Supplying Bread to Non-Combatants.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—(By wireless to the Associated Press via Tuckerton, N. J., Feb. 24.)—Professor Hans Delbrueck, head of the department of history in Berlin University and also an influential publicist, discussed the submarine situation today in answer to the request of the Associated Press regarding his views on the present campaign.

"For the great body of the German people," he said, "the intensified submarine warfare has never been anything but a terrible weapon of defense against the enemy's wanton breach of the law. The British government also has justified its naval measures as a reprisal against the German measures.

Test of Good Faith Applied.

"But the test of good faith was applied by America to both the German and English claims for acting only in reprisal. The joint note of February, 1915, asked both parties to forego the practice. Germany responded to the test by declaring her willingness; England refused. Had England accepted, there never would have died a non-combatant by starvation in Germany, nor would any have lost their lives on the high seas through a German submarine.

Blockade Also Frightful.

"We know that international commerce will automatically resume just as soon as the unlawful British blockade is raised," he replied. "The blockade seems less frightful to you than the submarine warfare; it is farther away and less dramatic.

"If there had been any outlook for peace on the lines suggested in President Wilson's address, our decision would have been different," Professor Delbrueck continued, "but we were confronted, under the entente terms, with dishonor and dismemberment.

"The rights of non-combatants at sea can only be respected if they themselves respect their duties as non-combatants. British merchantmen have sunk U-boats by putting up sham defenses and by misuse of neutral flags. These have not been isolated acts, but are the results of a policy announced by the British Admiralty. In this manner some of our submarine captains have paid with the loss of their vessels and crews for their efforts to safeguard the lives of non-combatants.

"Feeling toward America bitter. 'I feel that I ought to state very frankly how the German people feel toward America at this moment. 'They feel bitter and feel that they have been wronged. Hundreds of thousands have lost fathers, husbands and sons through American ammunition.

"In all wars the manufacturer of arms and munitions have supplied the belligerent nations, but the manufacturers of arms are not exponents of humanity. Never before were the industries of peace of a country not a belligerent in the war against it.

"Then we were to receive from you bread for our non-combatants. Our enemies interfered. You said their interference was illegal, but you did not make your protest effective.

"Our people are asking with growing bitterness the reason for this discrimination.

"Battle Will Be Fought Out. 'Our people were told that the principle of the freedom of the seas demanded that the war on the seas should be conducted that non-combatants on sea or land would be spared the sufferings of war. This our people patiently looked on, month after month, while a continuous stream of American ammunition poured into England and Russia unchecked by our submarines.

"Now we are going to fight out this battle. The German people had wished that it might be fought out as other wars had been—between enemy and enemy."

All Coal and Coke May Be Seized. AMSTERDAM, via London, Feb. 25.—A telegram from Berlin says that it is officially announced that the Bundesrath has authorized Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to claim and wherever necessary seize the whole production of coal, lignite, briquettes and coke in Germany.

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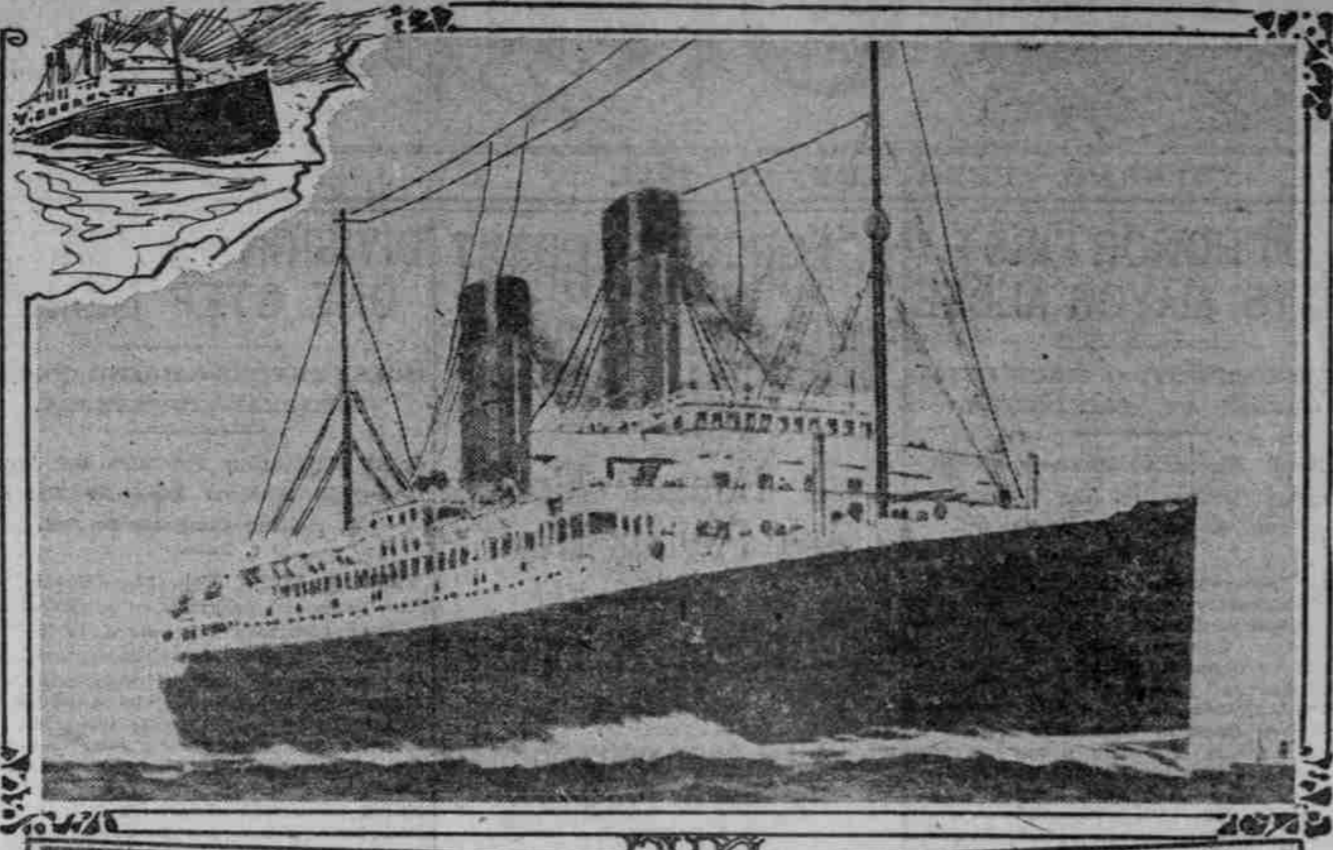
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CUNARD LINER TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING BY TEUTONS.



TOP—STEAMER LACONIA. BELOW, LEFT—DINING-ROOM INTERIOR AND (RIGHT) LOUNGE.

BIG CUNARD SUNK

Laconia, 18,099 Tons Gross, Is Victim of Submarine.

26 AMERICANS ON BOARD

Vessel Is Armed for Defense but Is Not Warned and Has No Opportunity to Use Guns—One Life Reported Lost.

(Continued From First Page.)

was sunk by a German submarine Sunday night. One casualty, as yet unidentified, was officially reported by the Liverpool agents of the line to officials here.

Names of American Passengers.

The names of the American passengers and their addresses as given by the line here and confirmed in part by relatives in the United States follow:

Floyd P. Gibbons, of the Chicago Tribune.

Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Frank E. Harris, United States Coast Artillery Corps, stationed at Fort Du Pont, near Philadelphia.

Arthur T. Kirby, Bainbridge, N. Y.

Mrs. Mary E. Hoy, Chicago.

Miss Elizabeth Hoy, Chicago.

Rev. James Wareing, registered from New York, but said to be from Norfolk, Va.

An American named W. White Thatcher, of San Diego, is said also to have been a passenger in the second cabin.

Crew Signed in New York.

The Americans among the crew were signed here to take the places of others whose terms of service had expired or who had failed to appear when the ship was ready to sail. The men were recruited mostly from shipping offices and gave New York and Brooklyn as their places of residence. They were stokers, coal trimmers, wipers and seamen.

While details of the cargo of the Laconia are withheld under a recent ruling of the Customs officials, it was learned at the office of the company that the following items were among the principal commodities carried:

One thousand bars of silver, 40,000 bushels of wheat, 2543 bales of cotton, 1408 boxes of fresh fruit, 3000 tons of shell casings and other war supplies, and 9000 tons of provisions. It was positively declared by officials of the line that there were no explosives on board.

5000 Bags of Mail Aboard.

In addition to cargo and passengers, the Laconia carried 5000 bags of United States and Canadian mail, 1300 sacks of which had been transferred from the American liner St. Louis.

SHIPS' GUNS READY

Navy, However, Cannot Spare Trained Gun Pointers.

ABOUT 100 MAY BE NEEDED

Men in Reserve Out of Practice, Naval Militia Cannot Be Drawn Upon—Only Experts Can Fight U-Boats.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Guns and mounts sufficient to arm any reasonable number of American merchant ships are now stored at Navy-yards, it was said officially at the Navy Department today, following President Wilson's appearance before Congress to ask authority to provide weapons and men should the need arise. Efficient gunners are lacking, however, unless they are to be taken from active ships, which can ill spare them.

Naval officers pointed out that men of special skill, trained to the minute, would be required as gun pointers for anti-submarine work. At best a U-boat is difficult to hit, as there is little exposed. Often a periscope, hardly visible at more than a few thousand yards, is the gunner's only target.

100 Ships Might Want Guns.

Recent figures show that 250 ships under American registry are engaged in trans-Atlantic trade, but it is estimated that not more than 100 would apply for guns and take the risk of crossing the German submarine zones. There will be no difficulty in furnishing that number of vessels with weapons, but supplying trained gun pointers for 100 guns would take just that many valuable men away from fighting ships.

Only Half of Reservists Trained.

Of the 1000 reservists, about half have been drilled in gun handling, other than pointing.

The available guns range up to six-inch caliber. Most of them are old models, but have ample range and power for the work desired. Range and rapidity of fire are vital factors in anti-submarine operations. It is important that the underwater craft be assailed before she gets into good torpedo range. The majority of cases reported show this to be 500 yards or less, and the skill of the gunners should be sufficient to make it dangerous for a U-boat to show herself at 500 yards.

The naval militia, more than 9000

strong, could not be drawn upon for gunners because of its militia status. The terms under which the men could be called out for active service are limited by the Constitution to suppression of insurrection, repelling invasion and enforcing the laws.

In addition to guns now held in reserve at Navy-yards, the Navy Department has many smaller weapons building under contract. These could be hastened to completion for need aboard merchant craft, but there is no present indication that they will be needed.

AUTHORITY FORM DEBATED

Bill Introduced in House Embodiment of President's Suggestion.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—After conferences with Democratic and Republican leaders, Chairman Flood, of the House foreign affairs committee, introduced a bill today authorizing the President to arm merchant ships and use "such other instrumentalities as necessary" to protect them on the high seas and providing for a special bond issue of \$100,000,000.

The bill was referred to the committee, which will consider it tomorrow. At the same time the Senate's foreign relations committee will consider the President's tentative draft of a similar measure, submitted by Chairman Stone.

Introduction of the bill in the House embodying the President's suggestions followed numerous conferences on the subject between Senate and House leaders.

Republican members of the foreign relations committee let it be known that when the committee meets tomorrow they will seek to modify the measure in several particulars. They want to eliminate from the first clause the qualification to the authorization to the President for arming merchant ships, reading, "should it in his judgment become necessary for him to do so," and to direct as well as empower the arming.

The second clause, which would empower the President "to employ such other instrumentalities as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary," they will seek to modify and make more specific.

Some of the Republicans object to the provision leaving arming of ships to the President's judgment, because they declare, this form of expression implies that the emergency for arming of ships does not yet exist, when they believe that it does now exist and has existed for some time.

Many of the minority say there can be no criticism of the President for asking broad powers in the emergency, because there are many precedents for it in the history of the country. Authority was given McKinley to employ

COAST IS REPRESENTED

SEVEN PORTLAND EDUCATORS AT KANSAS CITY CONVENTION.

Northwest Delegation of 18 Joins Throng—Oregon Scenic Attractions Are Exploited.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 25.—(Special.)—The Pacific Northwest has a delegation of 18 here for the superintendents' division of the National Education Association, opening tomorrow. Portland representatives numbering seven arrived today and opened headquarters. Each member of the delegation will wear a rose throughout the week.

A Portland booth will be opened in the convention hall. The city is overwhelmed with educators. An attendance of 6000 is indicated. Sleeping cots are at a premium tonight, every hostelry being packed.

With Kiser's art display in two good museums, Lancaster's two lectures with Columbia Highway views and films before the Ad Club and the convention, also D. C. Freeman's talk with the film "When the Mountains Call," before the transportation club, Portland's interests are being well looked after.

Announcement of the National Education Association convention rate to Portland in July of \$67.50 is enthusiastically received and promises a large attendance.

The Northwest delegation paused an hour in Denver last night, and were entertained by an hour's drive over the line by P. W. Hill, formerly of Portland.

Cougars Slain in Cellar.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Jack Gordon, an Upper Valley rancher, killed two cougars this morning under his back porch.

Attracted by the barking of his collie, Mr. Gordon, when he saw the animals from a window, threw them down the stairs. On descending into the basement under the porch and receiving a snarl from one of the big cats he barred the basement door and lost no time in getting his rifle.

Mr. Gordon shot at the glare of the cougar's eyes and put the bullets through the heads of both. Mr. Gordon is 70 years of age and has a net worth of \$50,000.

Suffrage Lost in Delaware.

DOVER, Del., Feb. 25.—The Delaware state today rejected the woman suffrage amendment, 8 to 6. Three members were absent. Twelve votes were required to pass the amendment.

The Store That Undersells Because It Sells for Cash

Hundreds of Women Are Taking Advantage of Our Greatest Silk Sale

You Have Choice From Thousands of Yards of Rich Lustrous Silks—All in High-Class Qualities, Both Plain and Novelty Weaves, Shown in the Most Popular Plain Shades and in Gorgeous Color Combinations.

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No Mail or Phone Orders, None Exchanged or Sent C. O. D. and No Samples Cut at This Sale. Shop in the Morning if Possible.

Just Received by Express New Metal Bands Undervalued at 69c Yard

Beautiful goods, in great demand for hat and dress trimmings—four to nine-inch bands in gold, silver, black, blue, etc., as well as in combinations, floral and conventional patterns on fine silk nets—bands made to sell regularly at one-half to one-third more than the price quoted for this sale. Remember the advantages of an early selection.

Store Opens at 8:30 A. M. Saturdays at 9 A. M.

New Scrims and Marquisesettes at 25c Yard

Fancy border styles in white, cream and ecru—also plain styles—all new goods. Nottingham Curtains at 95c Pair. Styles with plain or figured center—45 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards long—both white and ecru. Pretty New Cretonnes at 35c Yard. A complete assortment of styles and colorings—goods of standard width and quality.

Store Closes at 5:30 P. M. Saturdays at 6 P. M.

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broad powers and methods before the Spanish War, the Republicans admit, but they say that this situation is more grave than that which confronted the country in 1915.

What Senator La Follette will do is disturbing Administration leaders, who would like to have the bill passed at once. They fear that he may conduct a filibuster against it, even should it be modified to meet objections of all other Senators.

Senator Simmons, one of the Democratic leaders, said tonight he feared the Republicans would filibuster on the measure to the extent of forcing it over March 4.

Most of the House Republican leaders were extremely reticent about discussing the President's speech. The most generally voiced objection was against giving him the right to "use other instrumentalities" not clearly defined. Virtually no objection was heard to his proposal to protect merchant ships. Most of the demands in the

House have come from the Republican side.

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