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WILSON PUSHING DEFENSE PLANS

Congress Session May Be Advanced to April 2.

OCEAN PATROL ORGANIZED

Navy to Sink Submarines on Sight, but Will Not Risk Big Battleships.

PRESIDENT'S POWER GREAT

Important Announcement on Situation Now Expected Within 48 Hours.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.
WASHINGTON, March 20.—(Special.)—Preparedness, preparedness and, again, preparedness.

This is the policy of the Administration as determined at the meeting of the Cabinet today.

According to a statement made by the President, following the meeting, every aspect of the situation arising out of the unwarned destruction of American merchantmen by German submarines was discussed.

Important Announcement Coming.

It is said tonight that the President will make an important announcement within 48 hours dealing with the developments in our relations with Germany. The character of that announcement is not known. It may take the form of a decision to advance the date of the assembling of Congress, so that that body will be ready to transact business on April 2 instead of April 16.

The President, it is asserted, has not definitely made up his mind as to what to do in this matter. With one exception all his Cabinet advisers urged him today to get the two Houses in session as speedily as possible, so that a state of war might be declared to exist.

Why President Hesitates.

The one argument which is causing the President to hesitate against an earlier sitting of Congress than that arranged is that even though American ships have been sunk without warning, the situation has not changed beyond the point for which he made provision by authorizing the arming of merchantmen, and that it is desirable to wait to see how the armed vessels fare in dealing with German submarines.

If the armed vessels should escape, then, it is argued, there would be no reason for going beyond the state of armed neutrality. Moreover, if an armed ship should sink a submarine, the German government might take upon itself the onus of declaring war and this would be valuable for the effect it would have upon sentiment in various communities now classed as pro-German.

Leaving the White House, Secretary Daniels attended a meeting of the General Board of the Navy. That board is charged with the formulation of strategic plans in connection with the distribution and use of the American fleet.

Submarine Patrol Organized.

At the request of the Navy Department, The Oregonian refrains, except in a general way, from revealing what the Navy will do to meet the submarine menace. There is no intention, of course, to hazard the dreadnoughts and cruisers, which are essential for the defense of the Nation. All the American vessels available will be organized into a submarine patrol. They will operate on the western side of the Atlantic, prepared to sink any German submarine they may sight.

In other words, every effort will be made to prevent merchantmen from being torpedoed immediately after their departure from American ports, a not impossible contingency in view of the operations of the U-53 off Newport last fall. The allied submarine destroyers must provide for the protection of the merchantmen once they reach the other side of the water.

Scope of Insurance Extended.

To encourage the departure of merchantmen, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, following a conference with the director of war-risk insurance, announced that the scope of insurance

WILSON TO URGE ARBITRATION LAW

PRESIDENT SEES WAY CLEAR IN SUPREME COURT DECISION.

Compulsory Adjustment of Labor Disputes to Be Pressed With Increasing Vigor.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 20.—President Wilson, it is learned on good authority today, will strongly urge upon Congress, in special session, the enactment of a compulsory arbitration act, basing his demand on the decision of the Supreme Court in the Adamson case, which foretells that such a law will be held constitutional.

The President, according to those who have seen him since the decision, will be more vigorous in his demand than in the past two sessions, and will use the full power of the Administration in favor of a law similar to that of Canada. One feature will be an arbitration board. Another feature which the President probably will insist upon will make it unlawful for employees of interstate railroads to strike pending the arbitration of differences.

It is also learned from authentic sources that the leaders of the American Federation of Labor are deeply alarmed over the ruling of the Supreme Court as to compulsory arbitration, and fear that if this principle is rigidly applied by Congress labor unions will be deprived of an important and hitherto effective weapon.

NEW PEACE MOVE HINTED

German Embassies in Switzerland and Holland Sound Sentiment.

LONDON, March 21, 5:15 A. M.—A dispatch to the Times from The Hague asserts that a new German peace movement is on foot. The dispatch says that prominent Germans have recently visited Holland and Switzerland under instructions to try to ascertain what the present attitude of Great Britain is toward a possible cessation of hostilities.

embassy to Holland, disclaiming authority to make any such announcement, is quoted as saying that the Russian revolution has entirely changed the situation, since Germany could no longer claim that she wished to free the Russian Baltic provinces and could also consider handing back Poland to Russia under some form of autonomy. He is represented as adding that the revolution in Russia made it possible for Germany to discuss terms more favorable to the entente.

SHIP MARKINGS OPPOSED

Norwegians Say Unidentified Vessels Are Safer.

CHRISTIANIA, via London, March 20.—It is probable that the neutrality markings on Norwegian vessels soon will be removed.

Agitation for their removal is being conducted by the ship owners' and seamen's organizations, as it is pointed out, these markings not only do not any longer protect neutral ships, but make them an easy prey for submarines, which now boldly attack neutral vessels but are more careful to keep at a safe distance from unmarked ships.

HAY SELLS AT \$65 A TON

Livestock Losses Not as Serious in Montana as First Reported.

HELENA, Mont., March 20.—While livestock losses in Montana have been above the average this winter, they have not been as severe as reported, according to information received by the State Livestock Board. However, the supply of feed is running low, and unless winter breaks up inside of the next few weeks there will be additional losses.

Inspectors also fear there will not be enough feed on hand to carry the herds until green grass comes. One inspector reported sheepmen paying \$65 a ton for hay.

FOUR DIE FROM GREENS

Claude Richards Succumbs and His Father Is Low, but May Recover.

BOISE, Idaho, March 20.—Claude Richards, aged 23, member of the Richards family, of Carey, poisoned last week by eating canned greens, died this morning. He is the fourth victim to succumb, his mother and two sisters having died Sunday and Monday.

The father, Samuel P. Richards, is very low, but his physician now entertains some hope for his recovery.

D. F. Frennell, a hired man, who also ate some of the poisoned herbs, is considerably improved and will recover.

BITTERS PUT UNDER BAN

Druggists Warned Not to Sell Alcoholic Stomach Medicines.

Stomach bitters containing a high percent of alcohol have been ruled against by District Attorney Evans, who warned druggists yesterday that further sales would be made at their peril. Well-known brands of bitters contain as high as 25 per cent alcohol, and about 35 percent cases of drunkenness have been reported by the police to have been "bitters jags."

One man arrested admitted that he drank one bottle of bitters a day, not for stomach trouble but for the "kick."

Gunboat Is Destroyed.

LONDON, March 20.—A German gunboat in the harbor of Tsing Tau, China, has been blown up and sunk, says a Reuter dispatch from Hongkong.

GERMANS GETTING FOE OUT IN OPEN

Berlin Forecasts New Form of Warfare.

ENTENTE VICTORY IS DENIED

Previous Strategic Retreats of Hindenburg Pointed Out.

NEW POSITIONS STRONG

Giving Up of Portion of Front Declared to Put End to All of Allies' Finely Laid Plans for Spring Offensive.

BERLIN, March 20.—(By wireless to the Associated Press from a staff correspondent, via Tuckerton, N. J.)—The German evacuation of Bapaume, Roye, Noyon and Peronne is but part of a great strategic undertaking which promises to revolutionize warfare on the entire western front and constitute one of the most decisive moves in the war.

Just as a month ago the Germans evacuated an important sector on the Aisne, but kept the fact secret for a week while the British bombarded the empty trenches, so today's report shows the most important development of 1917 on any front.

Deception Is Complete.

The sector including the evacuated cities virtually covers the great Somme battle front. Reports from this section of the front tell of effective work of destruction carried out before the occupied land was given back to the French and the British, so that it will avail them nothing as captured soil, according to views expressed here.

"With the fronts as long as they are in this war, and with the enormous amount of territory held by our troops," said a high German military authority today, "there is no particular military significance attached to any special section of the enemy's territory. Therefore we can give up a portion of the western front, secure our troops that freedom of movement needed and end trench warfare. That is what this really amounts to. We are now getting the enemy out of their trenches."

Plans for Offensive Balked.

"The giving up of this portion of our front puts an end to all their finely laid Spring offensive plans. Ever since November hundreds of thousands of men have been at work building trenches, munitions depots, railroads and cable lines to prepare for the biggest Spring offensive of the war. Now at one blow all that is gone for nothing. In the face of our withdrawal all this is useless. Four months' work of millions upon millions of dollars in value have been rendered valueless."

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GALE-DRIVEN SNOW HITS GRAYS HARBOR

SEVEN INCHES FALLS IN DAY IN HUMPTULIPS DISTRICT.

Summer Resorts on Beach Covered by Four Inches and Rain Is Reported Elsewhere.

HOQUIAM, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—The Grays Harbor district was hit hard today by the equinoctial storm, which brought with it one of the latest snowstorms on record in this section, and tonight a southwest gale was raging over the Harbor, accompanied by heavy rain gusts.

Snow began falling in the Grays Harbor district early this morning and continued steadily until after noon. Late reports say, about seven inches of snow fell in the Humptulips district, and about four inches at summer resorts along the beach.

From the East end of the county and the higher districts in the north, reports were that the fall of snow was quite heavy. On the Harbor, while the snow was heavy, it melted as fast as it fell. Thus far no damage was reported.

Southwest storm warnings displayed at Grays Harbor and the mouth of the Columbia River at noon yesterday, were extended to all Washington ports at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and to Coos Bay at 6:10 o'clock last night. A marked disturbance had reached the Strait of Juan de Fuca at that hour.

COAST GUNNERS READY

Forty-Eight Companies, 12 in Oregon, Prepared for Service.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 20.—Forty-eight companies of Coast Artillerymen of California, Oregon and Washington, comprising organizations of the National Guard, are ready for immediate service, according to an announcement made today by officers of the Western Department of the Army. California has 24 companies and Washington and Oregon 13 companies each.

The war strength of the organized National Guard in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Utah is 25,814, comprising infantry, cavalry, field artillery, signal corps, field hospital corps, ambulance companies and engineer corps, according to Army officers.

CUBAN REBELS DEFEATED

Force of 1500 Flee, Leaving 27 Dead at Arroyo Hondo.

HAVANA, March 20.—Victory in a 40-minute battle with a concentrated rebel force of 1500 under Angel Castillo is reported from Arroyo Hondo by Colonel Pujol.

The rebels fled, leaving 27 dead.

FIELD FIGHTING IS BEGUN IN FRANCE

British Cavalry Surprises Germans.

SOME VILLAGES ARE SAVED

Programme of Thorough Destruction Is Interrupted.

WELLS ARE CONTAMINATED

Prisoners Are Bewildered by Extent of Retirement, and Report Depression When Strong Positions Were Abandoned.

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, via London, March 20.—The pursuit of the Germans by the British troops continued on at places sharp fighting ensued today.

This was particularly true near Croisilles (northeast of St. Leger), which is still strongly held by machine gun companies. The armies have been in such close touch at other places that field fighting tactics have been employed, the men firing from skirmish lines.

Cavalry Drive Is Surprising.

Wherever the British troops penetrate territory formerly held by the Germans they encounter the same conditions of destruction and devastation as in Bapaume and Peronne. Only a few villages have escaped, the Germans in these instances having been compelled to leave before their plans to lay waste could be carried out.

The drive of cavalry by the British and French seems to have taken the Germans by surprise, upsetting some of their calculations. In one village supplies were abandoned, together with much ammunition, and in other places newly opened boxes of high explosives were found, with which the Germans had planned to destroy the villages before leaving.

German Thoroughness Shown.

That the wholesale destruction was characteristic of German thoroughness was shown by captured orders on the subject. These directed the blowing up of all houses, wells and cellars except those occupied by rear-guard outposts, the rear-guard being held responsible for making their shelters uninhabitable before falling back. All farming implements were burned or destroyed. Wherever a building was spared it was first rendered filthy. The orders also directed the assembling of filth at all wells to contaminate the water.

The destruction of fruit trees now apparently covers the entire belt of evacuated territory, even those clinging to the walls having been stripped off. In one abandoned position a large black

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POLICE AND NEGRO BATTLE; 3 KILLED

VANCOUVER CHIEF FALLS IN ATTACK ON HOUSE.

Two Others Are Wounded in Effort to Capture Man, Whose First Victim Is Boy, Aged 9.

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 20.—(Malcolm B. MacLennan, Chief of Police; George Rolph, a 9-year-old boy, and Robert Tait, a negro, are dead and two police officers are wounded, as a result of an attempt tonight by the police to capture Tait.

The Chief and the boy were both killed in the first rush on the negro's house early in the evening. The police effected an entrance at 11:10 P. M., four hours late, only to find the negro dead.

The call for Tait's arrest came from his landlord, who declared that the negro, who was said to be a drug habitué, and well known to the police, had assaulted him. As the Chief and his squad came in sight of the house at the corner of Jackson avenue and Harris street, the negro opened fire, his first shot striking the Rolph boy, who died half an hour later.

When the police, led by the Chief, attempted to rush the house, the negro continued firing and the Chief fell wounded inside the doorway, while two of the others, Detective Cameron and Constable Johnson, were wounded about the head. They withdrew, remaining in ignorance whether the Chief was alive or dead. He was found on the second assault on the house with his head half shot off.

The dead negro was found armed with a shotgun and an automatic pistol. It is uncertain whether he committed suicide or was killed by shots of the attackers.

Frankie Russell, a negro woman who is said to have lived with Tait as his wife for the past four years, was found in the house uninjured and was immediately taken into custody. She is held on a charge of murder. Both she and Tait are said by the police to have been crazed by drugs at the time of the shooting.

GERMAN RIOTING REPORTED

Echo of Russian Revolution Said to Reverberate in Several Towns.

LONDON, March 21.—Some of the morning newspapers give prominence today to wireless reports received from Switzerland saying that the news of the Russian revolution has started serious agitation in some of the German industrial towns.

Among these towns are Leipzig, Dresden and Munich, where strikes and other disturbances are said to be taking place.

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EX-CZAR MAY QUIT HIS NATIVE LAND

French or Swiss Residence Likely.

MOTHER GOING TO DENMARK

Members of Imperial Suite Favor New Government.

REFORMS COME RAPIDLY

Soldiers to Address Superiors as "Mister" Instead of "Excellency" and Ban Against Smoking in Streets Is Off.

PETROGRAD, via London, March 20.

—The former Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna, who was at Kiev, went to meet her son, former Emperor Nicholas, as he was returning after his abdication. She had long resented the influence over Nicholas wielded by the Empress Alexandra, Gregory Rasputin, the mystic monk, and Mademoiselle Grubava, lady-in-waiting to the Empress and Alexandra's best friend, who had introduced Rasputin to the Empress.

Marie Feodorovna saw Alexandra only when court functions required. Since early in January she had been at Kiev and had refused to come to the capital. Her meeting with Nicholas was said to have been affecting.

Nicholas May Leave Russia.

The object of her visit to him was to advise with him as to her future residence. It is reported that she intends to go to Denmark, her native country.

It is expected that Nicholas Romanoff, as the former Emperor is now known, will eventually go to Switzerland or France, his stay in the Crimea being temporary. Most of the members of his suite have acknowledged the new government.

Most of the Grand Dukes in the military service will retain their posts at least temporarily.

Promises Made Workmen.

The new minister of trade and industry is in communication with the workmen and promises to develop plans for workmen's unions, which were formerly prohibited, abolish criminal penalties for strikes, regulate hours and conditions, work and promote workmen's insurance.

Among the reforms in the army which have been indicated by Minister of War Guehckoff in a formal order to the troops are that soldiers shall be addressed as "you" instead of the familiar "thou," that soldiers shall address their superiors as "mister" instead of "excellency," and that the ban on soldiers' smoking in the streets, entering public places and streetcars, and participating in political organizations shall be abolished.

Last Hours Dramatic.

The dramatic story of Nicholas' last hours as ruler of Russia is told by a correspondent of the Outing Rosati, of Moscow. It is said that none of the telegrams about the revolution sent by President Rodzianko, of the Duma, had reached the Emperor. Every effort was made to keep him in ignorance of these affairs. General Zabel protested, declaring that the others refused to inform the Emperor, he would do so. Nicholas was awakened at 2 o'clock in the morning. He went to the dining car and demanded that Admiral Nilloff tell him what had happened in Petrograd. He was told that a crowd of students, hoodlums and young soldiers had terrorized the Duma, but that a few detachments of troops would be able to put them down. Just then Commander Voykovoff, of the imperial train entered with a telegram saying that the St. George Cavalry were on the way to Tsarskoe-Selo to present a cross to the Emperor and had arrived at the nearby station of Dno, headed by General Ivanoff.

Czar Told He Is Deceived.

"Your Majesty," said Voykovoff, "it is enough that you appear at the Tsarskoe-Selo in the midst of these heroes and with the Tsarskoe-Selo garrison go to the Duma. All the troops will remember their oath. It will be easy to overcome these young soldiers." "It is a lie, your majesty," shouted General Zabel. "You are deceived. Read these telegrams. Here is the order: 'To the imperial train at Vlasheva: Do not send the train to Tsarskoe-Selo, but to Petrograd.'"

The Emperor arose and exclaimed: "What does this mean? Is it revolution? Is Grekoff (who signed the order to divert the train) commander in Petrograd?" Then General Zabel spoke out, saying, "There are 50,000 troops, with officers backing the temporary government. Your majesty has been declared deposed. It is impossible to go further."

Nicholas, completely nonplussed, exclaimed:

"Why was I not told before? Why tell me now when all is finished?"

Nicholas Is Fond of Flowers.

After a moment he added with a gesture of helplessness: "Let it be so. Thank God. I will abdicate if that is what the people want. I will go to Livadia (the estate of the Russian imperial family on the south coast of the Crimea), to my gardens. I am so fond of flowers."

The train moved toward Bologoe.

At Dno a telegram was received stating

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