

BATTLE FLEET IS READY TO STRIKE

Many Surprises Said to Be in Store for Germans in Case of Conflict.

LOCATION IS KEPT SECRET

President Prepared to Appear Before Congress Moment Overt Act Is Committed—Delay Gives America Time to Prepare.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Preparedness is the order of the day and even of the night in Washington. The Navy Department is equipping the fleet with everything it needs to repel attack. The Navy yards are receiving supplies and being placed in condition to repair any ships that may be damaged and to push to completion the vessels under construction.

The general board of the Navy, which has charge of all matters relating to strategy, is holding constant sessions to devise plans for the protection of the fleet from hostile submarines and its effective use at once if war should come.

Universal Training Advocated.
The general staff of the Army is not only studying the strategic employment of the Army with particular reference to Mexico and Cuba, where the German agents are reported to be at work, but with a view to the training without loss of time of hundreds of thousands of young men to fit them for military service. The Department is gradually turning around to the advocacy of universal training, which is understood to have gained the approval of the President.

The President is prepared to appear before Congress the moment an overt act is committed. He is in daily, hourly expectation of an incident occurring which will leave no other alternative than to ask Congress to authorize him to move against Germany.

Break With Bulgaria Not Likely.
He has no doubt that diplomatic relations will have to be severed with Austria-Hungary. Germany has adopted the methods of sea warfare inaugurated by the German government. So far as Bulgaria is concerned, it now seems that probably relations with her will continue and possibly also with Turkey. The situation with those countries in case of war would be similar to that of Italy which for months was at peace with Germany while engaged in war with Austria-Hungary.

Manifestly it would be against the public interest to reveal what the Navy and War Departments are doing. It is known for example that the battle fleet is in Cuban waters.

Attack by U-Boats Expected.
It is the belief of the naval strategists that German submarines will attempt a surprise attack upon the American fleet not only for the purpose of doing as much damage as possible, but for the moral effect on Germany and upon the neutral nations of Europe.

Precautions have been taken to prevent such an attack being successful. The most important is secrecy as to the location of the fleet. The next lies in the measures taken by the fleet to protect itself.

It is known that the ships are keeping a sharp watch for periscopes and that they are cleared for action. There has been a general public impression that the fleet is not at sea. It is known for example that the battle fleet is in Cuban waters.

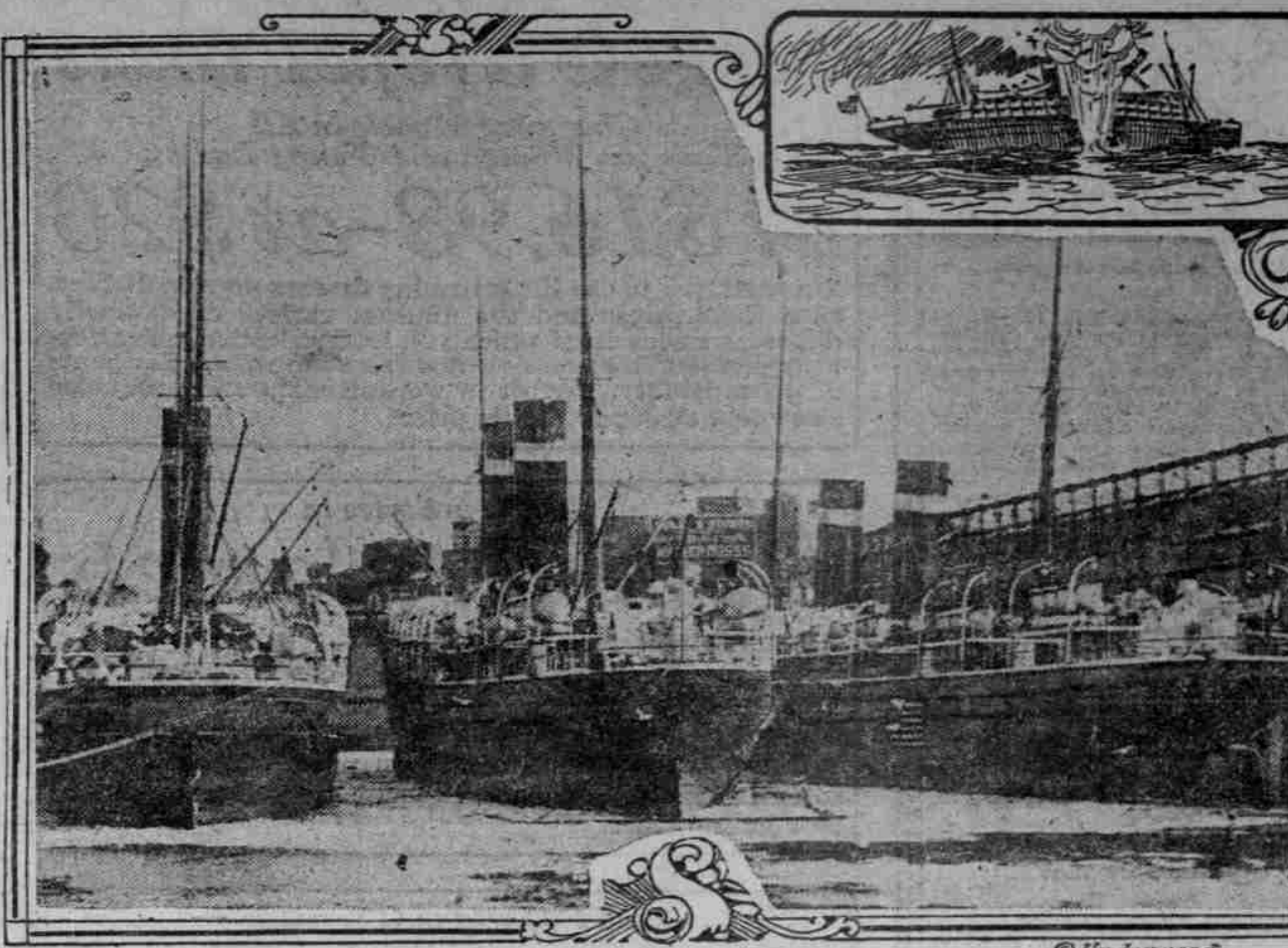
Fleet Has Surprises in Store.
Moreover, it has a number of surprises in store for the Germans should they care to come.

The Navy and War departments are co-operating for the purpose of protecting ports. Submarine nets are being placed at strategic points of various harbors and they have been reinforced by stationary mines that will be exploded by electricity the moment contact is made by a ship.

As an indication of the way in which the Navy yards are being placed in condition to bear the strain of war, it is developed today that the electric equipment awaiting installation in public buildings has been turned over to the yards. By this policy the navy yards will be largely increased and it is estimated that the capacity of the yards and the gun foundries where the great guns are turned out for the Army and Navy will be doubled.

Federal Use of Wires Provided.
Plans also have been completed for the use of the telephone for the use of the companies being appointed officers of the Signal Corps and their men organized into signal companies.

THREE AMERICAN LINERS HELD AT PIERS AWAITING DECISION AS TO SAFETY AT SEA.



LEFT TO RIGHT—NEW YORK, ST. PAUL AND ST. LOUIS.
When the American liner New York arrived February 12 from Liverpool, three American liners were at their piers at the foot of West Twenty-second street, New York, for the first time since 1898.

It was learned, however, that the company was unable to obtain guns for the vessels, and that it would be impossible to do so unless the Government supplies them.

The American line has advised its agents throughout the country to discontinue bookings of passengers on the ships.

FOUR VESSELS SUNK

U-Boats Destroy Three and Fourth Is Mine Victim.

ALL FLY BRITISH FLAG

Two Killed, Five Injured and 19 Missing From Lady Ann—Three Meet Death on Queensland.

All Others Being Saved.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Four vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 7455 tons made up the total losses to merchantmen today as a result of the German submarine blockade. Three of these vessels fell prey to German submarines, while a fourth was sunk by hitting a mine.

Lloyd's announced the sinking of the British steamer Lady Ann, 1016 tons, which was lost by striking a mine. Two of the crew were killed and five injured. The captain and 18 men are missing.

The British steamer Queensland, 2701 tons, was victim of a submarine. Three men were killed and all others of the crew were saved.

The British steamer Marion Dawson, 2300 tons, Lloyd's announced, was struck by a torpedo from a submarine and destroyed.

The British steamer Marie Leonhardt of 1465 tons, was also a victim of a submarine, Lloyd's announced.

The steamer Marie Leonhardt is listed in the marine records as a German vessel owned by Leonhardt & Humberg, of Hamburg. She is one of the interned German ships requisitioned for service.

BERLIN, Feb. 16.—(By wireless, via Tuckerton, N. J., to the Associated Press, Feb. 17.)—One German submarine returning to her home base reports that during a period of 24 hours, she sank merchant ships aggregating 50,000 tons. Another German submarine has a record of sinking a total tonnage of 55,000 in five days.

Progress of the War.

ATTACKING in force the German lines on both sides of the River Ancre, in France, British troops on Saturday penetrated about 1000 yards on a front of one mile and a half, south of the stream and gained ground on the northern side.

The latest success follows upon the British capture of Grandcourt, a village on the southern bank, and brings them within a short distance of both Miraumont and Petit Miraumont, northeast of Grandcourt. Field Marshal Haig's forces also carried an important German position north of the Ancre on a front of about 1000 yards north of the Bailleucourt farm.

German counter-attacks were withstood successfully by the British, who report that they inflicted heavy losses on the Germans. The British also captured at least 250 prisoners, including a number of officers, and a large quantity of arms and munitions.

Continuing their advance on Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, British troops have taken more positions from the Turks, and prisoners captured Thursday number nearly 2000 including 39 officers. On the right bank of the river Tigris the British seized important strategic positions. Belated Turkish official statements admit retreats in this region.

FOE NOT BELITTLED

Earl of Derby Says Crisis of War Will Soon Come.

NEED FOR MEN IS ACUTE

British Cabinet Officer Declares Germany Has Enormous Reserve Power and Will Make Mighty Effort to Win.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War, speaking at Balton today, expressed the opinion that the critical period of the war would occur in the next few months.

"I would be a false friend," he said, "if I did not warn the country that the war is going to be long continued and a struggle even more bitter than in the past. It can only be won by everyone doing his utmost. The three things most vital are money, men and munitions. Money and munitions are being supplied in large quantities. Men we want and must have. The nation will have to make greater sacrifices in the way of giving its manhood to fight its battles. You will not win the war by saying you have won it."

"I am confident as anyone of the eventual result, but do not be led away into the too great optimism of thinking that the end is near. There is nothing that pleases us more than to hear that the German nation is at its last gasp. I do not think it is true. I believe we are going to see the critical period of the war in the next few months. We must face it with a resolution to investigate charges which Representative Callaway, of Texas, inserted into the record February 9 that 25 American newspapers had been subsidized by English money under the direction of J. P. Morgan & Co. and others."

"Doesn't the gentleman think," asked Mr. Adair, "that enough money has been wasted on investigation of matters which had no foundation whatever?"

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Rev. Rhys Gwynn, who died at Puyallup, Wash., Feb. 3, was once an expert boxer, and although he scarcely tipped the scales at a hundred pounds, he made some of the most sensational arrests known to the annals of the

Portland police records of years ago. He had the slatowest head, which at that time was the toughest in Portland. Old timers still remember how he whipped a prizefighter from Australia who couldn't get a fight in Portland until Mr. Gwynn volunteered, entered the ring and won. Withal he was a deeply devout man, and said he was "thankful to God, for he gave me strength to wield my arms."

Mr. Gwynn was born in Pontpool, Monmouthshire, Wales, Great Britain, August 20, 1834. He was a pioneer to Oregon in 1852. In the early days he was a circuit rider, with headquarters at Silverton, Or. He had preached in every county in Oregon, except the ones recently formed; studied in Palestine, and written a mission book on "Sunday as the Real Seventh Day."

Rev. Mr. Gwynn married Sophia Russell at Oregon City, before Isaac Moore, December 30, 1861. Six children survive—Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. E. T. Russell, Springfield, Mo.; R. R. Gwynn, Toledo, Or.; C. C. Gwynn and W. E. Gwynn, of Puyallup, Wash., and Mrs. J. E. Peterson, Silverton, Or.

On the Franco-Belgian front infantry fighting was resumed near the Ancre River. The activity in the Champagne, where the Germans suddenly delivered an attack on Thursday, seems to have decreased somewhat, but fighting still is taking place there. Berlin chronicling the reputation of a French attack. The afternoon report of the French War Office referred only to artillery actions.

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is the task of a skilled, experienced person. Every case presents its own problem. We have made this branch of our calling a specialty for many years. When one of our trusses has been fitted for your particular need by one of our expert men or women fitters, you will enjoy a sense of security and comfort. Thousands of men and women can testify to the merit of our service in this particular line. If desired, will fit you at your home.

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DOCTOR TELLS HOW TO STRENGTHEN EYESIGHT 50 PER CENT IN ONE WEEK'S TIME IN MANY INSTANCES

A Free Prescription You Can Have Filled and Use at Home.

Philadelphia, Pa. Do you wear glasses? Are you a victim of eye strain or other eye weaknesses? If so, you will be glad to know that according to Dr. Lewis there is real hope for you. Many whose eyes were failing say they have had their eyes restored through the principle of this wonderful free prescription. One man says, after trying it: "I was almost blind; could not see to read at all. Now I can read everything without any glasses and my eyes do not water any more. At night they would pain dreadfully; now they feel fine all the time. It was like a miracle to me."

A lady who used it says: "The atmosphere seemed heavy with or without glasses, but after using this seems clear. I can even read fine print without glasses. It is believed that thousands who wear glasses and who are card them in a reasonable time and at a regular rate will be able to strengthen their eyes so as to be spared the trouble and expense of ever getting glasses. Eye troubles of many descriptions may be wonderfully benefited by following the simple rules. Here is the prescription: Go to any active druggist and get a bottle of Bon-Opto tablets. Drop one Bon-Opto tablet in a fourth of a glass of water and bathe the eyes two to four times daily. You should notice your eyes clear and perceptibly right from the start and inflammation will quickly disappear. If your eyes are bothering you, even a little, take steps to save them now before it is too late. Many hopelessly blind might have been saved if they had cared for their eyes in time."

Note: Another prominent Physician to whom the above article was submitted, said: "Bon-Opto is a very remarkable remedy. Its constituent ingredients are well known to eminent eye specialists and widely prescribed by them. The manufacturers guarantee that Bon-Opto will strengthen eyes in one week's time in many instances or refund the money. It is one of the very few preparations I feel should be kept on hand for regular use in almost every family."—Adv.

LAND SCANDAL CHARGED

Speculators Said to Have Profited on Soldiers' Homestead Rights.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—By a new construction of the law relating to soldiers' additional homestead rights, announced today by Secretary Lane, heirs and administrators of estates of Civil War veterans, other than widowers or minor children and their guardians, are excluded from the right to acquire public lands.

Speculators are said to have made large profits by securing letters of administration on the estates of soldiers and, says a statement issued by the Interior Department, the same persons have acquired the proportions of a scandal.

PRESS PROBE MOVE LOST

Resolution Not Considered by House of Representatives.

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Years of Experience Have Made Me an Absolute Master of My Trade!

Dentists came and go, but the ELECTRO PAINLESS will always be with you.

All Work Guaranteed 15 Years! Open Nights

Most any dentist can pull a tooth—and not hurt you. It doesn't take much of a mechanic to drill out a small decay in your grinder and fill it up. BUT let me tell you this: If you want a full upper or lower bridge, with only two or three teeth left for attachments—it takes a man with experience in that particular branch of the profession—or you will be sadly disappointed—in appearance of it, in the wearing quality and in the most important feature of it all—the chewing service it should give you.

REMEMBER, anyone can cut prices, but it takes BRAINS to turn out better work.

Remember MY GUARANTEE GUARANTEES:

- (1) That the Dentist doing the work is a registered, qualified, competent, experienced operator, capable of doing his work in a first-class manner.
- (2) That he understands Asepsis and Antiseptics, and uses every precaution to prevent infection; that instruments are carefully sterilized and the hands and linen are scrupulously clean.
- (3) That the materials used are of standard quality, exactly as represented, and as good as or better than is used on similar work by other first-class Dentists charging the same or often double the prices.
- (4) That the mechanical work, plate, crown and bridge, is made carefully and accurately by qualified mechanical Dentists who do nothing else, and that perfect fit is assured.
- (5) That I am personally ready, able and willing to make right at any time any work done in this office that proves unsatisfactory or faulty, if material or workmanship were at fault.

That is all the public asks or expects. It is as little as the Dentist should give, if he is fair, square and competent. To do less is to acknowledge inability to do good work or unwillingness so to do.

MY PRICES FOR GUARANTEED WORK—

Electro Whalebone Plates....	\$15.00
Flesh Colored Plates.....	\$10.00
Ordinary Rubber, All Red.....	\$5.00
Porcelain Crowns.....	\$3.50 to \$5.00
Gold Fillings, from.....	\$1.00
22-K Gold Crowns.....	\$3.50 to \$5.00
22-K Gold Bridge.....	\$3.50 to \$5.00

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