

WEATHER
Rain west; fair east portion;
moderate southeasterly gales
along the coast.

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HUMBLING OF NEUTRALS IS GERMAN AIM

U-Boats Begin Ruthless Campaign to Starve Northern Nations to Dependence on Teutonic War Lords

SINKING OF SWISS SHIP IS DELIBERATE

Energy Is Directed to Destroy Vessels for Use in After-War Trade

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Germany's latest campaign of ruthlessness against neutral shipping is attributed by the war trade board in a statement tonight to a deliberate plan for cutting off the north European nations from American and allied food supplies and thereby reducing them through starvation to a political and economic dependence upon the Teutonic war lords.

While the board makes no reference to the determination of the United States and Great Britain to take over Dutch ships in American and allied ports unless the Netherlands government accepts a pending economic agreement, its statement throws interesting light upon the situation which led to this decision. The hope is expressed that the neutrals will contrast the respective attitudes of the United States and Germany toward the problem of feeding them.

Following is the statement:
Humble Neutrals, German Aim.
"Germany's war leaders are using the submarine war weapon to prevent fulfillment of American agreements to feed and relieve European neutrals. A mass of cumulative evidence and indications in the possession of the war trade board show that Germany is employing the submarine menace to prevent neighbor neutrals receiving any food or favors at the hands of the United States and its associates in the war and to coerce these neutrals through starvation to political and economic dependence upon Germany quite as much as to strike at the communications of its opponents—Germany's

WILSON ONLY STATESMAN TO GREET RUSSIA

Robert Cecil's Statement Declared Unfortunate at Delicate Time

GERMAN MENACE TOLD

Mr. Balfour Points Out Danger Allied Cause Faces in Far East

LONDON, March 14.—Speaking in the house of commons today on the situation in the east Foreign Secretary Balfour expressed perfect confidence in Japan's absolute loyalty in carrying out any decision that might be reached and declared that in this question he had drawn no distinction between Japan and other allies.

H. B. Lees-Smith, Liberal, for Northampton, who several days ago, notified the house of his intention, asked Mr. Balfour whether he could give the house any information regarding the rumors as to the intentions of Japan in Asiatic Russia and what was the attitude of Great Britain on this subject.

Cecil Statements Disliked.
Lord Robert Cecil, he said, had made a statement on the question which was of a startling character and most unfortunate at the present time. There was not the slightest evidence, he declared, in support of the statement that a large number of German prisoners in Siberia had been armed and that a German general was on the way to organize them. There was no evidence that Germany was going to play into the allies hands and dissipate her forces by a mad expedition into Siberia. If the allies occupied Russia's eastern provinces, they could not at the peace conference be able to raise their voice on behalf of the world for Lithuanian or Rumania.

Wilson's Is Only Message.
He dwelt upon the fact that President Wilson was the only allied statesman to send a message to the Moscow conference, and declared that the avowed policy and language of President Wilson were quite at variance with those of Lord Robert Cecil, which contemplated a policy which would mean that Japan would have to make war on the soviet government of Russia, because if she

AMERICA TO SEIZE MANY DUTCH SHIPS

Million Tons of Ships to Be Used by Allies if Holland Does Not Agree Before March 18

ULTIMATUM DELIVERED BY UNITED STATES

German Pressure Blamed; Agreement Reached With Great Britain

WASHINGTON, March 14.—After months of delay and unsuccessful negotiations with The Netherlands, the United States and Great Britain have decided to take over on March 18 for allied use all Dutch ships in allied ports unless the Netherlands government accepts agreement to that purpose before that time.

This will bring practically a million tons of ships to the aid of the allies at a time when they are sorely needed.

Minister Makes Appeal.
The Netherlands minister, Augustus Phillips, had an engagement with President Wilson today and it was expected he would present from his government a final appeal that the action be delayed or at least modified.

There are no indications, however, that the allied governments will recede from their decision. In fact, a final communication is understood already to have been presented at The Hague by the British and American diplomatic representatives.

In addition to being recompensed for the loss of any of the ships, the Dutch are to receive liberal compensations in breadstuffs, which they need badly.

German Pressure Blamed.
German pressure is expected to deter The Netherlands government from accepting the agreement to the ships under international law is looked upon as a logical solution and not entirely an unfortunate one for Holland.

Officials and diplomats here have no fears that the taking over of the Dutch ships will force Holland into the war, as has been predicted in some quarters. They are certain that Holland will continue her policy of neutrality.

Both the Lunenburg sector and that of Toul have been much occupied with snipers today, as well as last night. In the former sector one sniper was detected in a tree after a period in which he had done fairly effective work.

One of the American sharpshooters crawled cautiously forward to a point in No Man's Land and opened up on him. The second shot hit the German, whose body dropped to the enemy wire where it hung for the rest of the day.

German Listeners Driven Off.
Northwest of Toul rifle fire and grenades dislodged a German former sniper's post in a shell hole and also

(Continued on Page 2.)

AMERICANS RUIN BIG GAS ATTACK FROM GERMANS

Four Groups of Gas Projectors Are Blown to Pieces by Artillery

NO YANKEES ARE KILLED

Listeners Driven Off Near Toul; Germans Are Busy Behind Lines

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Tuesday, March 12.—Four groups of German gas projectors already reported destroyed have been discovered and likewise blown to pieces by the American artillery. Probable German plans for gas attacks on a comparatively large scale against the American positions north west of Toul have thus been upset.

The American artillery on this front has been more active than ever in the past fifteen hours and its shells also found lodgement in a number of ammunition dumps which were blown up.

Americans in Raid.
Details of the recent raid have just developed and show that while numbers of Germans were killed by shell fire when the box barrage was in effect and others later by the creeping barrage, there were also a few of the enemy shot here and there during the time our men were in the trenches. There were many Americans among the raiding party of four officers and seventy men who did not see a single German soldier. All the men in the raid seemed particularly impressed with the way the American barrage worked.

"It worked like a clock," said one soldier whose home is in Texas. "It made you feel you could go right on to Berlin behind it. The only trouble at this show was we didn't see enough of Fritz. He must have beat it like a rabbit, because I did not see a single one all the way back to the second line, although some of the other fellows did."

No Casualties Suffered.
The men went in 150 yards on a 500 yard front. None of the Americans was killed and none is missing. It is certain that five Germans were killed in the fighting.

Artillery fire of quite a lively character also is continuing in the sector east of Lunenburg. So far as is known the Germans have not recaptured their first and second lines there.

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CONGRESS TO BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS

Administration Embarks on Policy of Keeping Legislators Daily Posted on Fighting Front in Europe

INQUIRIES WILL BE MADE UNNECESSARY

Army Men Fully Answer Questions; Improvement in Shipping Noted

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The administration formally embarked today on a policy of taking congress completely into its confidence as to the progress of war preparations and developments on the fighting front in Europe. At the invitation of Acting Secretary Crowell, members of the senate military committee were in session at the war department for nearly two hours with the full membership of the war council, and beginning next week will meet with that body every Saturday morning.

Members of the house committee will meet with the council tomorrow and a similar arrangement for weekly meetings will be made with that committee. Probably a large room will be obtained later so that the committees of both houses may be received in joint session.

Quick Information Is Aim.
Thus the war department meets the insistent demand of congress for a greater share in the conduct of the war and removes the real cause which led the senate committee's prolonged investigation of the army with its attendant bitter criticism. It was pointed out today that members of congress now would know first hand about current developments, instead of getting information months late through the examination of witnesses, and could make their criticisms at a time when they would count.

Movements for the creation of a joint congressional committee on the conduct of the war have been suppressed by President Wilson's unalterable opposition to interference with the powers and duties entrusted to the executive by the constitution. Through the conferences now being held, however, it is suggested that the regular committees acting in full harmony with the executive officials will be able to accomplish all and probably more toward keeping congress in touch with what is going on that would have been possible under the special committee plan.

Questions Fully Answered.
Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, who has led in much of the senate criticism of the war department, was ranking Democratic member present today in the absence of Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, the chairman.

"The session today was very satisfactory," Senator Hitchcock said. "The department has reduced everything to diagrams, showing the present status in each branch and progress being made."

Senator Hitchcock added that all questions asked by the senators had been answered fully by the men who are in direct charge of the work, frankly disclosing every element of the war work in which the department was behind schedule and the steps being taken to remedy the difficulty.

Shipping Is Improved.
In some respects, the senator said, notably in the aviation program there has been great delay and the war council has initiated an investigation to determine the cause. Another member of the committee said

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JAPAN EXPECTED TO ACT AFTER SOVIETS MEET

Faint Hope Held Russian Factories Will Unite to Fight Germany

SPIRIT BADLY CRIPPLED

Trotzky's "Iron Discipline" Is Believed to Have Come Too Late

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Japan's avowal of her intention to intervene in Siberia and the announcement of the courses to be taken by the United States and other governments aligned against the central powers, are expected to follow closely upon the adjournment of the Russian congress of soviets, called to meet tomorrow at Moscow. Official Washington and diplomats here still retain faint hope that the warring factions of Russia may yet reject the German peace terms signed at Brest-Litovsk, but almost all information that has reached here indicates that the fighting spirit of the disorganized people is too wounded to resist.

The state department tonight was still without official knowledge that the president's message of sympathy and promise of aid addressed to the Russian people through the congress had reached Moscow, but that it had been taken for granted. Word that the soviets actually had convened also was lacking.

Some little encouragement was found in the altered attitude of Trotzky, former Bolshevik foreign minister, as reported by Ambassador Francis. The ambassador said Trotzky had been quoted as saying that he favored putting the army under "iron discipline" and continuing the fight against Germany. His change of mind, however is believed to have come too late.

Failure of the soviets to endeavor to muster the strength of Russia against Germany probably will bring to an immediate conclusion the negotiations concerning Japanese intervention.

Prince Lvoff, Former Russian Premier, Arrested

PETROGRAD, March 14.—The Russian Telegraph agency announces that the former Russian premier, Prince Lvoff, has been arrested by the commander of the northern front.

It was reported from Irkutsk March 9 that Prince Lvoff had set up a new Russian government in the far east and was awaiting the landing of Japanese troops at Vladivostok in order to enter Siberian territory with them.

Aviator Loses Lower Half of Face in Fall

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 14.—When an airplane he was attempting to start at Kelly field No. 2 this morning suddenly lurched forward, Corporal Cyril J. Favreau, 29, of Indian Orchard, Mass., was caught in the whirling propeller blades and the lower half of his face torn away. At the base hospital, Fort Sam Houston, it was said tonight Favreau will live.

Bold Pasha's Appeal Is Denied by France

PARIS, Wednesday, March 13.—The appeal of Bolo Pasha from the sentence of death imposed by court-martial for treason, was rejected today by the court of revision, which confirmed the original judgment.

RESUMPTION OF WAR PLAN OF TROTZKY

Ex-Foreign Minister Advocates Reorganization of Army for Defense; Ratification Is Opposed

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS SEE GRAVE MISTAKE

Russian Policy Has Played Brilliant Game for Allies Is View

(By The Associated Press)
The former Bolshevik foreign minister, Trotzky, has asserted that he will oppose the ratification of the peace treaty with Germany and advocate the reorganization of the army for the defense of Russia. Meanwhile influential newspapers in Germany already are beginning to see the loss of Germany's prestige in the far east because of her machinations in Russia and to point out that Germany's Russian policy has "played the game brilliantly" for Great Britain, the United States and Japan.

Turks Harass Armenians.
Meager advices from Constantinople indicate that with the evacuation by the Russians of sections of Turkish Armenia the Turks are again harassing the Armenians, but that the Armenians are offering resistance. Erzerum, the principal city in Armenia, already has been reoccupied by the Turks.

Another case of "frightfulness" by German submarine commanders is chronicled in a report of an attempt to send the British hospital ship Guilford Castle, with 450 sick or wounded soldiers on board, to the bottom. Notwithstanding plain markings of the hospital ship, two torpedoes were launched against it. One of the missiles struck the vessel's bow, badly damaging it, but she was able to make port with difficulty.

On the major battle fronts the operations continue, as for weeks past, mainly of artillery duels, trench raids and intensive aerial activity by the opposing forces. In the operations on land the American troops continue to locate and blow to pieces with their artillery gas projectors in the Toul region, which the Germans recently have been attempting to set up in large numbers in preparation, it is believed, for a gas attack on a huge scale.

American aerial observers have been doing splendid work spotting plain markings of the hospital ship, two torpedoes were launched against it. One of the missiles struck the vessel's bow, badly damaging it, but she was able to make port with difficulty.

German Batteries Silenced.
Not alone are the gas throwing implements coming in for attention by the American gunners, but German batteries, trenches, wire entanglements and points of military concentration and munition dumps also are being given practical demonstrations of the accuracy of aim of the men behind the American guns. Additional batteries have been silenced by them, trenches and wire entanglements have been torn to pieces and ammunition dumps blown up.

With the return of good weather many airmen daily are to be seen over the battle lines dropping bombs or in aerial combat. The British, French and German air services all are claiming numerous victories for their aviators in fights in the air. During the first ten days of March, British airmen are credited with accounting for 79 German planes, while the German war office asserts that on Wednesday 17 enemy machines and three captive balloons were destroyed by German airmen along the Franco-Belgian front.

The situation in Russia and Siberia apparently is still far from being settled. Although the Germans and Austro-Hungarians still control territory from Finland to Odessa on the Black sea, it is not certain that the Russians will not again take up arms against them.

Kieckhefer Scores But Cannelax Still in Lead

CHICAGO, March 14.—August Kieckhefer of Chicago, scored 54 points while Robert Cannelax of St. Louis, was making 59 in tonight's block of their match for the world's three-cushion billiard championship, but Cannelax still leads, 100 to 96, because of the eight-point lead he gained last night.

Woman Is on Trial for Murder of Orchardist

VISALIA, Cal., March 14.—The defense in the case of Mrs. Orlean E. Howe, on trial here for the murder of Will H. Brooks, wealthy orchardist in a Porterville hotel last November, was virtually completed when court adjourned late today. Only one witness remained to be called.

Do You Realize That You Have Only 16 Days in Which to Prepare for Easter Sunday

which will be on March 31st this year. Of course you'll want a dress for the occasion which will be in accord with present fashions.

You should examine our NEW SPRING SILKS

We are showing a complete line of weaves for you to choose from in all the popular colorings.

TAFFETA SILKS IN NOVELTY PLAIDS
TAFFETA SILKS IN NEW BROAD STRIPES in a great variety of color combinations
TAFFETA SILKS IN GINGHAM PATTERNS
PLAIN TAFFETAS IN A FULL COLOR RANGE
SILK SERGED IN STRIPES AND PLAIDS
NEW FOULARD SILKS in the most approved patterns
NEW TUB SILKS
ALL DESIRABLE WEIGHTS OF SHANTUNG PONGEE SILKS
HEAVY SILK CREPES FOR COATINGS
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We can match almost any shade in our high grade GEORGETTE CREPE now used so extensively in combination with other fabrics. The quality of our merchandise is better for the price because our profits are figured on the spot cash basis and our economical plan of business.

Bairnes Cash Store
E. T. BARNES, PROPRIETOR

Our store closes at 5:30 every evening except Saturday at 8 o'clock.

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EIGHTEEN KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK

Pennsylvania Crash Is Caused by Landslide; Many Are Injured

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 15.—Pennsylvania railroad train No. 19, the Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Chicago express westbound from Philadelphia was wrecked east of Elizabethtown near here today. It is reported to have been buried under a landslide.

A relief train with nurses and physicians will start from Harrisburg for the scene as soon as it can be made up. According to reports at division headquarters many persons were injured and probably several killed.

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Reports received at the general offices of the Pennsylvania railroad here were that a huge boulder rolling down the mountain side had struck train No. 19, wrecking three or four sleepers. The Masonic home at Elizabethtown has been thrown open for the care of the injured whose number has not yet been ascertained. Neither is it known whether any one was killed.

Traffic on all four tracks was blocked by the wreck.

LANCASTER, Pa., March 15.—Reports received here state that eighteen persons were killed and about forty injured in the wreck of train No. 19 on the Pennsylvania railroad near Elizabethtown. The train is believed to have run into a landslide in the west cut above the station on the westbound track.

NEW SALEM BRIDGE WILL BE IN USE BY JULY 4, NUNN BELIEVES

All But Three Carloads of Steel Have Arrived and Structure Will Be Finished Ahead of Contract Time—Contractors Are at Work on Piers, Two of Which Are Finished—Inspector Comes From Portland.

The new Marion-Polk county steel bridge at Center street will be finished ahead of contract time, declares Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, and probably will be open for traffic by July 4. All but three carloads of the 680 tons of steel to be used in the construction have arrived and the three cars are on the road. Twenty-three cars were required to bring the steel.

The contractors are now working on the foundation. Two of the six piers have been completed, one is nearly complete, and the base is finished for one other. The concrete approach on the east end has been finished and also the wood approach on the west end with the exception of the railing.

T. T. Buell arrived yesterday from Portland to take up the inspection part of the job to take the place of J. J. Brooks. Buell is in the employ of the state highway department.