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er Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

CONTEND FOR MASTERY OF ADRIATIC

Montenegrins and Austrians in Struggle Near Town of Cattaro, Naval and Land Forces Being Engaged

Rome, Jan. 4.—A desperate and important struggle for mastery of the Adriatic is raging near the Austrian town of Cattaro, normal port outlet for Montenegro, by naval and land forces and the Montenegrins. The Austrians are determined to capture Mount Lowcen, "the Gibraltar of the Adriatic," on the Gulf of Cattaro, for its retention by the Montenegrins threatens the Austrian hold on Cattaro. This hold is important by virtue of the fact that since war started Austria has made Cattaro her naval base for operations in the Adriatic, Aegean and Mediterranean. The place is impregnable from the sea, while from land it can be attacked only from Mount Lowcen, where the Montenegrins a year ago installed heavy artillery.

For the past six days the Austrians have been attempting to drive out the Montenegrins. If the Montenegrins can hold their positions, they plan later, with allied assistance, to drive the Austrians from the base. But until the Austrian grip on this point has been loosened, the Teutons can continue to dispute allied naval supremacy in the Adriatic.

SIR JOHN SIMON RESIGNS PLACE ON ENGLISH CABINET

London, Jan. 4.—Premier Asquith today confirmed reports that Sir John Simon had resigned from the English cabinet. His announcement was made in the house of commons following a two and one-half hours session of the cabinet, from which Simon was absent. Despite contrary reports, the Chronicle today said positively that Ireland will not be included in the scope of the conscription bill the government is introducing this week.

Although reports have been current for several days that other members would quit as a result of forcing conscription on the nation, every other member attended the cabinet session.

Simon was a liberal who served as attorney general in the previous cabinet.

There was talk at the first of the war that he planned to quit because of his opposition to the struggle, but was deterred from this by reason of Germany's violation of Belgian neutrality.

GENERAL HUERTA IS NEAR TO DEATH AT EL PASO, TEXAS

El Paso, Jan. 4.—General Huerta, once Mexico's "iron man," is gradually sinking, and his death is momentarily expected.

A clergyman and his family prayed beside his bed this afternoon after a third operation had been performed on him and a quantity of pus had been removed from his body through an incision in his right side. Physicians are in constant attendance.

BERLIN "REGRETS" SINKING OF P.-O. LINER PERSIA

Berlin, Jan. 4.—Regret is almost universally expressed here over the sinking of the P. & O. liner Persia, while heroic efforts were in progress to repair Teuton-American relations.

No information concerning the nationality of the attacking submarine is obtainable and officials refuse to comment upon the incident until a report has been received from the commander.

The newspapers today carry English reports of the sinking, with English reports of the effect the incident has produced on America. The German papers, however, refrained from comment of their own.

UNITED STATES TO MODIFY VIEWS ON SHIP ARMAMENT

Washington, Jan. 4.—Secretary of State Lansing today informed German Ambassador von Bernstorff informally that the state department is considering modifying its position in regard to the carrying of guns on merchant vessels.

The gun issue arose with the torpedoing of the Lusitania. Germany at first contended she was an armed ship, though it was understood that she later withdrew this contention. When the German fleet had not been swept from the seas, America took the position that small guns might be mounted on merchant ships as a defensive measure.

Lansing told the ambassador that changes in naval warfare resulting from the extensive use of submarines and the absence of German warships from the sea had resulted in America's changed position.

It was unofficially stated in Teutonic circles that should it develop an Austrian submarine sank the Persia, Austria will insist the commander had a right to do thus, in view of the armed condition of the Persia. Moreover, it is understood Germany will back Austria in such a position.

An important phase of the issue hinges on the question whether a liner carrying guns is immune from attack by submarines without warning.

America's modified attitude is expected to meet the German objection to assuming responsibility for attacks on merchant vessels carrying guns up to the size of six-inch caliber.

SAYS SERBIA'S PLIGHT IS WORSE THAN BELGIUM'S

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—"Serbia as a nation can not die. Oppressed for hundreds of years by the Turks, even this war can not down her. She will rise again. Her people are the most wonderful human beings on earth."

This was the statement of Dr. S. O. Beasley, prominent San Francisco physician at the Lane hospital, who is home from Belgrade, where he served four months with the Red Cross unit.

"Serbia's plight is harder than Belgium's," said he. "Serbia is completely surrounded by her foes. She is cut off from her allies. She threw herself into the breach and sacrificed herself to save others."

Dr. Beasley said that great care should be exercised in American aid advanced to the Serbians. He said no American should contribute unless the supplies his money bought were consigned direct to the Serbians. Otherwise, Dr. Beasley intimated, they might be confiscated by her enemies.

SITUATION IS "GRAVE" SAYS PRESIDENT WILSON

Executive Summons Leaders to a Conference, and in a Statement Says That He Will Act Promptly When Details of the Sinking of the Persia Are Received, the Affair Having Complicated International Matters

Washington, Jan. 4.—President Wilson issued a statement today in which he admitted that the situation between Austria and America is very grave. He is co-operating with Secretary Lansing in an effort to get full facts as to recent submarine activities, and as soon as these are obtained he will act promptly. The statement, issued through Secretary Tumulty, said:

"The president and secretary of state are taking every means possible to obtain facts in this grave matter, and will act just as soon as information is obtained."

The grave matter referred to was the sinking of the Persia and other liners, following closely on Austria's reply in the Ancona case.

The president decided not to call the cabinet today, but he conferred with Chairman Stone of the senate foreign affairs committee and will confer with Secretary Lansing in an effort to gather all available evidence in the Persia sinking. That the situation is very critical, the White House admitted unreservedly.

After his conference with the president, Senator Stone declared that the administration, at present, lacks facts concerning the Persia, and that nothing will be done until these are obtained.

Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee, followed Stone to the White House and it was learned that the president had summoned both. From this it was assumed that he perhaps desired to take them somewhat into the confidence of the administration.

Officials do not regard evidence thus far at hand in the Persia case as conclusive of torpedoing. Navy authorities say that possibly she struck a mine, and in support of this theory they pointed to the fact that the quick plunge she took made the torpedoing theory somewhat doubtful.

The presence of guns aboard the Persia complicates future rather than immediate action. The main fact of no warning remains.

It is improbable that a submarine could see guns on the Persia; and whether these were for offensive or defensive action is a question for future discussion in the matter of technicalities.

The president, too, conferred with congressional leaders, including Chairman Stone of the senate foreign committee and Chairman Flood of the house foreign committee, and he called a meeting of the senate foreign committee for tomorrow.

While he decided not to call a cabinet session today, he summoned Stone and Flood to discuss the situation with them in order that he might have their co-operation in case a breach in relations with the central powers becomes necessary.

After these conferences, it was officially stated that no action will be taken until further details of the Persia case are at hand. However, the intensity and delicacy of the situation permeated the White House, the state department, congress and diplomatic circles. On every hand the talk showed that authorities looked at the recent torpedoing, following so closely on Austria's Ancona note, as presenting an ominous situation.

As a result of their conferences, Stone and Flood prepared to prevent discussion of international problems on the floors of congress.

Adjournment of the senate eased this task, inasmuch as several members were primed for a verbal explosion.

The president and chairmen discussed all eventualities, and the freest consultation and co-operation between congress and the White House was assured if breaking of diplomatic relations becomes necessary.

SURVIVORS VIEW HORRIBLE SCENE AS "PERSIA" PLUNGES WITH 300

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

London, Jan. 4.—Scenes of horror preceded the plunge of the P. & O. liner Persia, victim of a submarine, in the Mediterranean.

She turned turtle while lifeboats were getting away from her side. The waves washed more than a score of passengers from the deck. Then the giant ship dipped sharply, sending shrieking women and children slipping into the water. Before the eyes of survivors, she rolled over and went down while a score still clung to the decks.

The admiralty today abandoned hope that American Consul McNeely had been saved, although 11 persons, including Lord Montagu, were reported in late advices to have landed at Malta. Officials still estimate that from 250 to 300 persons perished.

Consul McNeely was in the cabin when the ship was hit, and was one of the last to reach the deck, survivors said. Most of the other passengers were at luncheon, without a thought of danger. Those on deck strapped on life belts while the crew worked with the lifeboats. Nearly 70 crowded into one boat; when it struck the water the waves lapped over it and threatened to sink it.

Thereupon some were transferred to another boat.

Many survivors leaped from the careening ship, or were washed from the deck before she sank. Several floated for hours, desperately clinging to bits of wreckage.

The sound of hymns rose from those in the lifeboats, above the screams of women and children, as survivors struggled in the water alongside the Persia, Charles H. Grant, of Boston, said today at Alexandria, according to press dispatches.

Grant was at luncheon, he said, when there came a sudden explosion as though the boiler had blown up. In orderly manner the passengers went off deck. The starboard boats could not be put overboard because of the listing. Grant himself slid off the ship, entangling his foot in a rope as he went overboard. He was picked up and then, after rowing around some time, was taken aboard by a British cruiser and taken to Alexandria. He indicated that the vessel sank with great rapidity.

E. P. Anthony, a hide dealer of McMinnville, has been in the city for several days looking up local business.

OREGON SUNDAY BLUE LAW HELD CONSTITUTIONAL

Portland, Jan. 4.—The Sunday blue law probably will be enforced throughout Oregon next Sunday. A sweeping decision handed down by three federal judges declares the statute constitutional and entirely within the police power of the state. For the present Portland will be exempted from the operation of the law, for a temporary injunction has been issued by a local court preventing its enforcement.

The law was passed in 1884 and slumbered on the statute books until six months ago. Under its provisions theaters, butcher shops, bakers and livery stables are the only places that may remain open on Sunday. Garages, groceries, confectioneries, and every other sort of a shop must close. Newspapers are not exempted.

BRITONS FAIL TO RESPOND TO CALL TO TAKE UP ARMS

London, Jan. 4.—Scarcely more than half of England's men of military age came forward to the call of "Your King and Country Need You," while Lord Derby's conscription campaign was on. Figures obtained today showed 2,829,261 enlisted out of 5,011,441 subject to service.

This means that only 52 per cent of England's available fighters volunteered. These figures, announced officially, were given out to show the failure of the Derby scheme and to prove that conscription is necessary. At the same time, the cabinet completed its conscription bill to force an increase in England's enlistments.

Attention was called to the fact that 651,160 men can be added by drafting only unmarried men, not urgently needed in other occupations.

It was understood, however, that the government will not draft married men for the present. It is probable that it will call upon a part or all of the 651,160 unmarried above mentioned.

TROUBLES AHEAD WORRY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TODAY

Washington, Jan. 4.—A cloud—the foreign situation—hung today over the reassembling of congress after its holiday recess. With vital national problems ahead, the gravity of members over the international situation was pronounced. Committee consideration and speeches on international problems impended. It was tacitly understood that there would be no effort to curb oral effervescence and hence sharp attacks on Teutonic submarine warfare and on the allies' commercial interference with our trade were certain.

Numerous vital subjects were before the senate foreign relations committee, including the Smith and Lodge resolutions to investigate the British orders-in-council, submarine warfare and anti-ally bomb plots.

Preparedness and revenue plans were all asked. Opposition to both is growing.

Chairman Padgett's house naval committee will begin preparedness hearings tomorrow with minor officials from the yards and docks bureau of the navy department, testifying. Army preparedness hearings will start Thursday, when Chairman Hay will call Secretary Garrison as the first witness.

The rural credits program was launched by joint introduction of a bill for farm land banks under a farm loan board.

CRIMES ARE PROBED BY GRAND JURY

No Indictments Have Yet Been Returned by Official Investigators, But Report Is Expected Wednesday

The grand jury is now busy with its probe, and a number of indictments will probably be returned tomorrow morning. No report has yet come from the grand jury room, but it is known that the cases of a number of parties held in jail for action by the grand jury have been considered. Among those who will have to run the gauntlet of the grand jury inquisition are St. McClung, Seth Bailey, W. C. Jackson and W. H. Pitchock, who are now in the county jail awaiting disposition of the complaints against them. Of this number, Bailey has been in for several weeks past, having been arrested charged with the obtaining of money under false pretenses. His arrest followed the coming to light of a number of checks which were found to be worthless, and upon which he had obtained goods or cash.

St. McClung will answer to a charge of larceny, having been implicated in the taking of various articles from Bunch Brothers' warehouse. Oregon Jones, who was charged with the same offense in connection with McClung, has already been sent to the reform school for a term of years. McClung is past the age for sending to the reform school and if convicted will face a term in the penitentiary.

The grand jury is investigating a charge of assault and battery against W. C. Jackson, it being charged that he assaulted Wm. Scroggins, the affair having occurred in the Dry Diggins east of the city.

Loren Donnelly, now held by the city authorities for a violation of the liquor laws, will be investigated by the grand jury upon a charge of the illegal sale of booze.

A number of cases have been considered by the grand jury that had not been remanded to it by the courts of justice, and the offices and county institutions will be investigated by it.

HUNT CAUSE OF RISE IN GASOLINE PRICE

Chicago, Jan. 4.—Federal District Attorney Clyne admitted today he is probing the rise in gasoline prices at the order of Washington authorities.

DISASTROUS FLOOD DOES DAMAGE TO S. F. SUBURBS

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—Three square miles of the manufacturing district bordering Islals creek are flooded as a result of Sunday's storm. Fifty thousand dollars' worth of property has been damaged and several large manufacturing concerns are closed down, unable to reach their plants without boats.

The California Glue works, the Patrick Tanning company and the Norton Tanning company are among the sufferers from the water. Each firm owns several buildings in the flood district, where water is now standing from two to fifteen feet deep.

The board of public works was appealed to today for relief. It is believed that a cut will be made in the Evans street trestle of the Southern Pacific main line cut-off to allow the waters' outlet.