

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

London reports few unemployed, but recruiting is active.

The Japanese government has passed a bill for a war fund of about \$25,500,000.

The Italian cruiser Piemonte has been recalled from Somaliland, East Africa.

The British are reported to have beaten a force of 400 Germans in Nysaland, Central Africa.

English authorities announce the British casualty list at 19,000, exclusive of the last three days' fighting.

One hundred and ten Chinese students, including ten girls, arrived at San Francisco en route to various American colleges.

German authorities announce that the British cruiser Pathfinder was destroyed by a German submarine, instead of by a mine.

The French government is furnishing free transportation to all who will leave Paris, and it is estimated that over two million have gone.

The burgomaster of Louvain says the Germans have promised to cease hostilities against the city, and that residents may safely return.

The steamer Isthmia this week sailed from Pacific Coast ports to New York via the canal with 500 tons of wood pulp for paper making.

The sinking of a fishing trawler, which struck a mine in the North Sea, is reported. The skipper and a fireman were drowned. Ten others were rescued.

A dispatch to the London Star from Newcastle says that the tramp steamer Ottawa struck a mine off Northumberland Saturday and went down. So far as is known, none of the crew of 25 men was saved.

A dispatch to the London Post from Paris says that a French military biplane, caught in an air pocket above Bois de Vincennes fell, killing two aviators and four persons in the street. Four other persons were severely injured.

Prince Friedrich of Hesse, eldest son of Prince Carl of Hesse, and an officer in the Hanan Uhlans, has been seriously wounded in France, and Colonel Ernest Moritz von Arendt has been killed, according to a Copenhagen dispatch.

Minister of War Millerand has sent a circular note to the generals commanding the several districts of France ordering them to institute a vigorous search for all persons who have failed to respond for military service as required.

The declaration was made by the foreign office at Tokio that there was no truth in the report circulated in Tokio and elsewhere that Japan had been in negotiation with Great Britain concerning the dispatch of a Japanese army to Germany.

A dispatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Copenhagen announces that a German squadron of 31 ships, including battleships, cruisers and torpedo-boat destroyers has been observed at various points along the Gulf of Bothnia, steaming east.

The Rome Tribuna's Vienna correspondent says 6000 wounded arrived in Vienna on Tuesday, 5000 on Monday and 9000 on last Sunday. About a third of these are Germans. Budapest and Prague also report the arrival of large numbers of wounded.

A dispatch to the London Exchange Telegraph company from Ghent says: "It is estimated that from 30,000 to 40,000 German sailors have arrived during the past two days at Brussels. This indicates that the German reserve is completely mobilized."

China officially notified the state department at Washington of its inability to participate in the naval rendezvous at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Conditions arising because of the war were given as the reason and the Chinese foreign office expressed its deep regret.

The elements have delayed unexpectedly the Japanese advance on Tsing-Tau. Floods cover the surrounding country and are spreading and beyond Wei-Hsien. It is said it may be months before the Japanese can begin their investment of the stronghold, which now can be reached only by boat.

That German prisoners be pressed into the service in the highly hazardous work of sweeping the North Sea mines was a suggestion made in the House of Commons. Great Britain now has many small boats engaged in this task, and German prisoner crews under British officers would handle such craft if the plan outlined were adopted.

"The cost of shoes is going up," according to a statement issued in New York by a committee representing the delegates to a conference of the National Shoe Wholesalers' Association and the National Retailers' Association. This statement places the blame on the European conflict, which has seriously curtailed the importation of hides and skins.

Peace Must Be Permanent Declares English Official

Washington, D. C.—Two developments of the highest importance in connection with preliminary peace negotiations which have been in progress here have taken place.

First—President Wilson received a communication direct from the emperor of Germany protesting against the use by the allies of practices contrary to the laws of war, deploring the shedding of blood and the destruction of property through a war brought on by the German empire and intimating a desire for peace.

Second—Sir Edward Grey, minister for foreign affairs of Great Britain, sent a reply to the informal peace overtures made on behalf of the German ambassador to the United States, through Oscar Straus, of New York, and Secretary of State Bryan, to the representatives here of the allies' government.

The message of the German emperor is under date of last Friday. On the same day Dr. Van Bethmann-Hollweg, chancellor of the empire, advised Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador here, that Germany had not gone into the war for further additions of territory.

It is apparent there is a movement on the part of Germany to obtain:

Peace on the basis of the present war status quo.

To place on the allies responsibility for the war.

To relieve Germany of the charge of wanton destruction of life and property.

To explain that the wiping out of the city of Louvain was necessary, as a result of the conduct of the Belgians.

As establishing the character of the warfare conducted by the allies, the emperor refers to the use by them of dum-dum bullets, abundant proof of which, according to his letter, exists.

Sir Edward's reply was made to Ambassador Page in the course of a conference. In accordance with the mediatory role which he has assumed Secretary Bryan will acquaint the German ambassador with the nature of Sir Edward's response. This probably will lead to another conference in the next few days.

It now will be for the German ambassador to drop the informal character of his presentations and if he really is acting in accordance with the instructions of his government, to make representations under which the president and Secretary Bryan can proceed with their efforts to terminate the war.

The British communication is significant in several aspects.

It says that Great Britain, quite as earnestly as Germany, is willing to move for the restoration of peace.

This in spite of the fact that Germany has won a succession of victories on land.

It shows that Great Britain will not be content with a peace which will be merely a truce; that as far as possible she proposes to end war through the conflict now in progress.

It shows finally that Great Britain is determined to stand by Belgium and to insist that Germany compensate that little nation for the terrible losses in life and property which she incurred in the defense of her neutrality.

The reply of Sir Edward Grey undoubtedly was made after consultation with France and Russia.

Germans Deny Mining of North Sea; Ports Open

New York.—Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, denies that there are mines in the North Sea. German ports are not blockaded, he declared, and neutral ships can enter them and can replenish their coal supplies in these ports, as there is no embargo on bunker coal.

"Neutral ships which wish to enter ports in the North Sea must go to a point ten miles north of Heligoland, where they will find German pilots to take the ships into the harbors," he said. "Harbors in the Baltic can be approached directly and there are pilots before every port."

The ambassador gave out an extract from a letter sent from Belgium by his son, who is in a cavalry regiment of the guard, as follows:

"In every village there are bombs and we have to make people drink water they offer us. They are trying to poison us."

Belgium Will Aid Families.

New York.—Fifteen cents a day will be paid by the government of Belgium to every Belgian woman in America whose husband is with the Belgian army. If she has children, she will receive, in addition, 5 cents a day for each child, which will be increased to 10 cents a day in case the husband be slain, Pierre Mail, the Belgian consul-general announced Saturday. This applies to all families of soldiers, regardless of their financial situation.

Lassen's Violence Grows.

Redding, Cal.—Lassen Peak continued in a state of eruption Saturday, two violent disturbances occurring, which were pronounced the greatest of the series of 42 since last May. Clouds of ashes descended at Mineral, 10 miles from the peak. Several persons reported that they had seen flames emanating from the crater, but the forest bureau's observer, stationed not far from the crater, said he saw no fire.

GERMANY ASKED TO SEEK PEACE

Kaiser William Known to Have Letter From Wilson.

Great Britain Declared to Oppose Temporary Truce—France Unwilling at Present.

Washington, D. C.—Emperor William has had under consideration for several days, an informal inquiry from the United States government as to whether Germany desires to discuss terms of peace with her foes.

Up to a late hour Monday no reply had come, but on its tenor depends to some extent whether the informal peace movement inaugurated a week ago can be pursued further with Great Britain, France and Russia.

The inquiry was not a formal one, such as President Wilson's original tender of good offices, but was an effort of an official character to determine whether Germany's reported willingness to talk peace was based on fact.

The chronology of the peace movement was revealed after a conference of officials, diplomats and others directly concerned in the incident. The story of the seven days of peace talk, as told by some of the principals, is as follows:

"On Saturday, September 5, Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, dined with James Speyer, the banker, at the latter's residence in New York. Oscar Straus, American member of The Hague tribunal and former cabinet officer, was present. In the course of the evening, as the conversation turned to the subject of peace in Europe, the German ambassador said that, while he had no advice from his government since leaving Berlin, he recalled a conversation with the Imperial chancellor there, in which the latter said he believed the emperor would be willing to discuss measures of peace through mediation.

Previous to the ambassador's conversation with the chancellor, Emperor William had already acknowledged President Wilson's tender of good offices, but had been non-committal as to its acceptance. Mr. Straus immediately asked the German ambassador for permission to repeat the conversation to Secretary Bryan at Washington. Count von Bernstorff gave his consent.

Millions in China in Need Because of Flood

Washington, D. C.—Twelve months' famine, which only outside aid can avert, faces the Kang Tung and Kang Si provinces of China, which were devastated by flood in July, with a loss of 3000 lives and more than 100,000 homes. Consul General Cheshire reported from Canton that more than 8,000,000 people suffered losses and many millions would need food until the next harvest.

"In many places whole villages have been blotted out, inhabitants and all," says the report. "The loss of life may never be known, but the suffering caused is appalling. The West river still, at the end of July, is exceedingly high, the fields and lands are under several feet of water. Banks require rebuilding, houses re-erecting, fields to be pumped dry for planting. Taxes are remitted and other government aid is given, but even thus, the people have lost all and stand helpless.

"At first we hoped the water might recede more rapidly and fields be available for the second planting. This now appears not to be possible. In such event the people face a 10 or 12 months' famine.

"This is only the beginning. What the near future has in store only God knows. Help is needed now. Delay cannot be long if these people are to be saved."

Big Battle in Africa, Is Thought Inevitable

London.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Nariobi, British East Africa, says a strong force of Germans from German East Africa crossed the border at Mohoru and occupied Karangu, and is now advancing on Kisii.

"British forces," the correspondent adds, "have been dispatched from Kisumu and from Port Florence, on the northeastern shore of Lake Victoria Nyanza, to check them."

German Sees Long War.

Rotterdam.—A dispatch received here from Berlin contains the comment of a military writer in the German camp on the situation in the western theater of war and the retirement of General von Buelow. "It is necessary to remind the public," says the writer, "that the road to the goal is still long and that we are merely at the beginning of making sacrifices and undergoing suffering."

Incomes Made to Bear Share of "War" Tax

Washington, D. C.—An income tax increase of one-half of 1 per cent and a reduction of the minimum exemption from \$3000 to \$2000 and the maximum exemption from \$4000 to \$3000 were tentatively agreed on by Democratic members of the ways and means committee who are framing the emergency bill to raise \$100,000,000.

It is estimated that the proposed income tax changes would produce \$35,000,000 annually.

In deciding on the income tax increase, the committee considered the fact that revenue from this source would not be available until next July, but the opinion was general that the increased revenue from other sources would meet any deficit until that time.

Under the proposed changes the income tax would be 1½ per cent on incomes of single persons in excess of \$2000 and the same on married persons in excess of \$3000.

In addition the one-half per cent increase would be added pro rata in accordance with the increased sur-taxes on incomes in excess of \$20,000.

The committee agreed also that the increased tax on beer and malt liquors should be fixed at 50 cents a barrel, bringing in \$35,000,000. On domestic wines an extra tax of 20 cents a gallon will raise \$10,000,000. Distilled spirits will escape an extra tax, but it was decided to tax rectified spirits 2 cents a gallon, realizing \$2,000,000.

Opponents of an increased tax on whiskies won their fight after three ballots had been taken. Proposals to levy an additional tax of 25 and 15 cents a gallon were defeated. On a proposal to make the tax 10 cents a gallon, there was a tie vote. Finally it was agreed to make the tax apply only to rectified spirits at 2 cents.

WHEAT BONUS PROPOSED TO BLOCK FAMINE PRICES

London.—Extensive farming throughout the British Isles and the plowing of land at every place where it is available is urged in an open letter issued by P. Lloyd Graue, secretary of the Unionist agricultural committee.

"If steps are not taken to assure a supply of wheat from May to August," Secretary Graue says, "we may see wheat rise to famine prices. To avoid this, the government should offer a considerable bonus to all farmers to keep their wheat in stock until May of next year, at the same time reserving the right to purchase all the wheat at a price equal to the present price plus the bonus."

Mexicans Agree on Plans for Holding New Election

Washington, D. C.—The basis for the recent assertion of President Wilson that he believed Carranza and Villa would co-operate in restoring constitutional government in Mexico was revealed Wednesday, when it became known that General Obregon, personal friend of General Carranza, had signed the proposals of General Villa for an electoral program.

The program in full is as follows:

That a convention of the delegates of the constitutionalist army be called to arrange the date of the election for Congress, President and Vice-President.

That no military man be a candidate for President or Vice-President or Governor of any state.

That a civilian take charge of the provisional government to hold elections.

That a general amnesty be declared except as to those who committed the crime or participated in the assassination of Madero and Suarez.

That the officers of the old federal army who can show clean records shall be taken into the new national army.

That all reforms shall be put through in an energetic manner, but on a legal and constitutional basis.

General Carranza already has complied with the first proposal by calling a general convention for October 1 to select a provisional president.

Art Protection Urged.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson took under consideration a suggestion from Ambassador Herrick at Paris that the United States approach the powers in an effort to have their armies regard historic buildings, monuments and works of art as "international property."

Ambassador Herrick cabled the suggestion after the diplomatic representatives in France of several neutral countries had indicated the desire of their governments to support the project.

Import of Treaty Noted.

Rome.—The Corriere d'Italia, commenting on the undertaking signed by the powers of the Triple Entente, in which it was agreed that none of the three would accept terms of peace without the previous consent of the other two, says that the undertaking will have enormous importance. In addition to its effect on Germany, it will serve as a warning to certain states, the paper declares.

Australia Halts Exports.

London.—A dispatch to the Post from Melbourne says that the government has prohibited the export of wheat, flour, tinned and other meats to any place outside the United Kingdom, except with the government's consent. This decision is due to the suspicion that Australian cargoes, ostensibly for South America, are really intended for the enemy.

RUSSIAN FORCES ROUT AUSTRIANS

Servians Also Assume Offensive and Take Austrian City.

Siege of Belgrade Ends—Germans Victorious in East—Austrians Also Beat Back Russians.

London.—News from Nish, Serbia, that the Servians had captured Semlin and an official announcement from Petrograd that Russian troops had succeeded in dividing the Austrian army in Poland, dominate the situation concerning the Eastern scene of war. The Petrograd dispatch says: "Tomazow has been taken after a desperate fight."

"The German troops near Mysinec and Chorzele, Russian Poland, have been repulsed with heavy losses."

"The Russian forces have taken by assault the fortified positions of Opole and Tourbine, Russian Poland, and pursued the enemy a distance of 25 miles. Russian cavalry is still driving in the rear guard of the enemy."

"It is announced that the Russian troops have succeeded in separating the left wing of the Austrian army from the troops which were operating around Tomazow and Rawa, in Russian Poland."

Telegraphing from Petrograd, the correspondent of the Morning Post says:

"The Austrian retirement on the Vistula is being conducted with a semblance of order, but the case is different with the right wing operating near Tomazow. The Austrians here are routed and fleeing in the utmost disorder. Driving in between the two wings, the Russians have cut off this Austro-German army and completely surrounded it on the front and flank. The Russians have summoned this right wing to surrender."

"The Russian cavalry has got behind the retreating army with guns and the situation of the Austro-Germans now is desperate. To cross marshes and rivers with cavalry and artillery hammering it from the rear is more than any beaten army ever accomplished since Napoleon's time. Moreover, the Austro-Germans have lost the bulk of their supply trains and the men must be starving."

"The number of prisoners now in Russia is so enormous that it is becoming necessary to send them further afield. A large number are being sent towards Siberia."

The taking of Semlin was reported in a Reuter dispatch from Rome transmitting a message received from Nish, the temporary capital of Serbia. The dispatch said:

"The taking of Semlin has caused great enthusiasm throughout Serbia. The people are proud that their army, after seven weeks of war, not only has prevented a powerful enemy capturing Belgrade, but has inflicted humiliation upon them by forcing them to evacuate their base of operations against Serbia. The victory has had a most wonderful moral effect upon the army and people."

Semlin is an important town of Austria-Hungary in Slavonia. It is located on the tongue of land formed by the junction of the Danube and the Save, opposite Belgrade, Serbia, with which it was connected by a railway bridge across the Save.

GREECE, ROUMANIA, BULGARIA FORM ALLIANCE

London.—Telegraphing from Rome, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph declares he has learned from diplomatic sources that Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria have signed an agreement which may be regarded as a real alliance, under the terms of which these three nations engage to interfere whenever necessary in order to prevent Turkey aiding Germany and Austria in the present war. If Turkey remains neutral, however, these three states will do the same.

It is reported in Rome, the correspondent continues, that Berlin has become resigned to the idea of Italian neutrality, but she is determined that Italy shall at least remain neutral until the end.

Russian Corps Defeated.

London.—A Reuter dispatch from Berlin says:

"The general staff announces that the Twenty-second Russian Army Corps, of Finland, has tried to force an entrance into East Prussia by way of Lyck. The Russians were defeated at Lyck."

Lyck is in East Prussia, on Lake Lyck, 55 miles south of Gumbinnen.

Britain Gets Greek Base.

Rome.—The Tribuna publishes a telegram from Brindisi asserting that the Greek government has conceded to Great Britain permission to establish a naval base in Port Mudros, Island of Lemnos. Great Britain can center three naval divisions there.

Senate Extends Vreeland Act.

Washington, D. C.—An amendment to the banking law permitting state banks and trust companies with capital of \$25,000 and 20 per cent surplus, or more, to issue federal currency under the Vreeland section was passed by the senate.