

FRENCH STEAMER FIRST VICTIM OF SEA BLOCKADE

Submarine Torpedoed Vessel That Escapes to Port—Zeppelins Active—Austrians Drive Russians From Bukowina—Heavy Fighting in Northern Poland.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Germany has struck the first blow since her war zone decree went into effect. A French steamer was torpedoed in the English channel by a German submarine. She was able to reach port, although badly damaged. There are increasing signs that Germany is making every effort to make good her threat.

These are found in the sudden activity of Zeppelin airships in the North sea, involving the loss of two such vessels, together with reports that they are continuing to patrol, notwithstanding the rigors of the weather. Added to this is the visit of Emperor William and Admiral Von Tirpitz to Wilhelmshaven, where it is said they hope to give impetus to the machinery designed to clear the waters surrounding the United Kingdom of all merchant shipping.

The halting of the Dutch steamer Helena by a Zeppelin hovering over her gives a new role to dirigible aircraft, which so far during this war have done little on land or sea to justify their maintenance.

Bukowina Cleared The Austrian troops are reported to be continuing their victorious advance through Bukowina, rolling back the extreme eastern end of the Russian line. A London dispatch says that the Russians have now evacuated all of Bukowina. Official reports from Petrograd and Vienna speak of encounters of great severity in the Carpathians, but apparently no decision is near. In northern Poland the Russians are making desperate efforts to stay the advance of the German army, which drove them from east Prussia, and the fighting now in progress is described by the Petrograd war office as "reaching the climax of stubbornness."

The situation in the northern extremity of the eastern battle line is not so clear as it was a few days ago. Territory on both sides of the east Prussian frontier has been desolated and areas both in Russia and in east Prussia have been converted into a sort of present day Belgium. Petrograd speaks of the flight of the Russian population before the German advance, while Emperor William, emphasizing the victory of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, laments the depredations of the retreating Russians.

Apparently no great battle has been fought since the Russians began their retreat toward the river Niemen.

In Western Arena For several days past the fighting in the western arena of the war would seem, judging from the reports reaching London, to have been in favor of the allies. The Germans have been counter-attacking violently, but they appear to have had heavy losses. The pressure of the allies, no doubt, has been timed to keep the Germans busy during developments in the east and to prevent the withdrawing of forces for the relief of the eastern line, as was done in December.

CONGRESSMAN CALLED TADPOLE STATESMAN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The lashings of last night's wordy gale in the house when Representative Farr called Representative Palmer a lobbyist and Representative Palmer called Representative Farr a tadpole statesman, subsided today when Representative Farr told the house he had no intention of reflecting on the honor or integrity of his colleague. Mr. Palmer did not want to continue the discussion and the most bitter personal row the house had seen in the present session was ended.

NO FEAR FELT FOR SAFETY OF AMERICAN SHIPS

Cabinet Considers Published Report of German Reply—Pretended Friendliness by Germany Destroyed by German War Craft—Situation Not at All Threatening.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The official text of Germany's reply to the United States' note warning against damage to American ships in the naval war zone about the British Isles had not been received at the state department today. Officials know, however, that the reply has been delivered to the American ambassador and now is on its way to America. Officials explained the delay by pointing out that the ambassador had been using the cable which comes from Rome and goes over a circuitous route with numerous relays.

When the cabinet assembled for the usual Friday meeting, the unofficial report of the text of the German note published yesterday, was discussed informally. The general interpretation of the Berlin note was that friendliness pretended to be shown by Germany was destroyed by German war craft.

After the cabinet meeting it was said, it was considered that the situation was not all threatening and that the administration had no fear that any American ship would be sunk.

The suggestion of Germany in the latest note to the United States means to be found for identifying and safeguarding American ships venturing into the war zone was understood to have been taken up. It was agreed however, that the American government has not authority to order ships to adopt such measures as taken in Holland and the Scandinavian countries, which include the painting of the nationality of the ship in large letters on each side.

It was understood however, that inquiries will be sent to maritime insurance companies to learn if any measures are contemplated for identifying neutral ships.

TRAFFIC RESUMED WITH ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM, Feb. 19.—The stagnation in shipping at Rotterdam yesterday seems to have been due to the weather rather than to Germany's declaration of a war zone. The shipping today was quite normal.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR AKRON MURDERER

AKRON, O., Feb. 19.—Upon a plea of guilty, Harry Boomer, former grocery clerk, was sentenced today to life imprisonment for the murder of Miss Vinne Becker, a mission worker. Miss Becker was slain with a hatchet in her brother's store. Boomer confessed that he murdered the girl in order to rob the place.

GERMANS OF AMERICA ARE LOYAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Representative Bartholdt of Missouri made his farewell speech in the house today denouncing the "newspaper war against Germany." He declared Americans of German descent "are with all other true Americans for America, first, last and always," and protested against American shipments of arms to the allies.

"In our present demands against England," he said, "our only alternative is either to give in or to declare war. The threat of an embargo on arms, however, would quickly bring the mistress of the seas to terms without war."

Portraying the steadfast devotion of citizens of German blood to American ideals and the flag, Mr. Bartholdt declared: "If unfortunately the United States ever again should be embroiled in war, which Heaven forbid, the Germans of this country would again as loyally rally around the stars and stripes. The Germans of this country are for America against England, for America against Germany, for America against the world. They will never waver for one second in their allegiance to their adopted land."

HEAD OF WORLD'S FAIR



President C. C. Moore, Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

BRITISH RETAIN BULGARIAN OIL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The Standard Oil company reported today to the state department the detention at Malta by British authorities of the British steamer Oneka, which sailed from New York January 2, laden with her cargo of American oil, part of which was destined for Dedegatch, Bulgaria. The oil company contends that the oil billed to Bulgaria was for the Bulgarian government, but British suspicion was aroused because of the close proximity of Turkey.

Three-quarters of the oil was destined for Greek ports, and the British authorities permitted the ship to make those deliveries upon promise to return to Malta before proceeding to Bulgaria. In the meantime, it was said, Great Britain would determine whether the Bulgarian cargo should be permitted to proceed or go to a prize court.

TIMES DYNAMITER ADMITS HIS GUILT

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 19.—David Caplan, alleged to be one of the principals in the dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times building in October, 1910, passed last night in the Kitsap county jail at Port Orchard, handcuffed to a detective. Rolling Bay, on Bainbridge Island, where Caplan was arrested in a cabin yesterday, is a dozen miles from Seattle, and the city is in plain view from the bluff overlooking the bay. Port Orchard is much further away, out of reach of railroad and telegraph, with poor telephone service and infrequent steamer landings. There Caplan is to be kept until extradition papers from Los Angeles are approved at the state capital, after which he will be taken by train to Southern California. No newspapermen has seen Caplan since his arrest. Detective Walter Thayer, who directed the arrest, says that Caplan freely admitted his identity and expressed relief at his arrest.

Portland Livestock Market

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 19.—Livestock market with no trading up to noon. Hogs declined in late trading yesterday to \$6.65 top, a drop of 20 cents.

Receipts—Cattle, 57; hogs, 532; sheep, 2571.

PRESIDENT TO PRESS BUTTON OPENING FAIR

Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco Formally Open to Public at Noon Tomorrow—Entire City, Headed by Mayor to March On to Grounds—Displays Not All Ready

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—An electric spark of enormous size, jumping across the continent will open the Panama Pacific international exposition at noon tomorrow, Pacific coast time.

In the white house at Washington the president will press a button and the aerials of the great government radio station at Arlington will snarl and sputter. The vibrations will be received an infinitesimal fraction of a second later by a commercial station on the shores of San Francisco Bay, where they will be relayed by wire to a receiving instrument on the exposition grounds.

As soon as the signal is received, the wheels will begin to turn and the fountains will play; the gates will swing open and a procession of citizens, with the mayor at their head, will march onto the grounds.

Phone Across Continent At the same time, President Chas. C. Moore of the exposition company, will inform President Wilson by word of mouth, over a telephone line already set up and waiting, that the wireless flash has been received and the exposition is open. In return President Wilson will send his greetings and good wishes. Thus the two latest modes of long distance communication will be employed to vivify the fair. Ceremonies of dedication and acceptance as brief as it is possible to make them will follow.

After the outbreak of the European war there sprang up a rumor that the exposition would not open. As a matter of fact the exposition stands today 100 per cent complete, free of debt and with 41 foreign nations participating, of which 29 have built pavilions of their own. England, Germany, Austria and Russia, among the belligerents are not officially represented, although various of their commercial organizations have seen to it that they should not be wholly left out of mind. France, Italy and Japan are officially represented, as are 41 states and territories under the flag of the United States. Canada and Australasia, under the British flag, both have buildings.

Exposition Itself Completed

When the management says the exposition is 100 per cent complete, it is speaking of its own activities. It does not mean that every concessionaire has driven the last nail, or that every exhibitor has been punctual to the minute. But the unavoidable delays incident upon the rearrangement of commerce wrought by the war and the tardiness of individuals are a negligible fringe on the outgoing edges of the general plan. Structurally speaking, that part of the exposition built out of its own funds and wholly under the control of its own directors was finished six months ago.

FRANK JAMES' BODY WILL BE CREMATED

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 19.—The body of Frank James, the former outlaw, who died yesterday at his home near Excelsior Springs, Mo., will be cremated in St. Louis and the ashes kept in a local safety deposit vault, relatives announced today. This was one of his wishes, it was said.

Also at his own request there will be no religious service at the funeral to be held on his farm tomorrow. John F. Phillips, a former federal judge, who defended James when he was tried for murder and acquitted in Gallatin, Mo., will deliver the funeral address.

Several years ago at the funeral of General Joe O. Selby, under whom Frank James served in the confederate ranks and whose funeral address Judge Phillips delivered, the judge promised the former bandit to officiate at his funeral.

DIRECTS BIG EXPOSITION



Frederick J. V. Skiff, Director in Chief Panama-Pacific Exposition.

CARRANZA DENIES EVACUATION OF CITY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—General Carranza's agency here today announced receipt of advices that 4500 troops were moving to join other Carranza troops in a general attack on Monterey.

"The Zapistas have been routed in Zoutuitlan and Tehuacan, suburbs of Mexico City suffering heavy losses," the agency announced. "It is absolutely false that Mexico City has been evacuated."

Railway communication between Mexico City and Vera Cruz has been interrupted and there has also been a break in the line to Tampico, the state department learned today in a message from Mexico City. Consul Stillman goes today to Vera Cruz to join General Carranza.

Reports from Piedras Negras indicate the Villa forces in possession of Monclova are repairing the railroad behind them before marching north.

DESPAIR INSPIRED GERMAN ANSWER

PARIS, Feb. 19.—Despair plainly inspired Germany's reply to the United States protest against the submarine blockade in the opinion of writers in all sections of the French press, who fill columns with ironical comment. The tone of the document they consider moderate enough, but declare the reasoning preposterous and it meaning plainly defiant.

FUGITIVES WARNED AGAINST HASTY RETURN

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Official warning has been issued at Berlin against over-hasty return to their homes of fugitives in east Prussia, says a dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company. Although housing accommodations and food supplies are not sufficiently guaranteed to make it advisable for women and children refugees to go back at present, municipal and state officials are urging the return to east Prussia of former residents who are without families.

STRIKE DUE TO VILE CONDITIONS

ROOSEVELT, N. J., Feb. 19.—Living conditions among the laborers at the plants of the American Agricultural Chemical company were denounced as "indescribably vile" by Dr. Max Jacoby, a local physician, in testimony today before the state legislative committee which is investigating the causes which led to the strike at the plants here last month and the shooting of strikers by deputy sheriffs. Disease was rampant, he said, and malaria and tuberculosis common, and that it did not even excite pity. The chemical fumes in which the men worked, weakened the throat, lungs and intestines so that they became susceptible to disease, he said. "Men and women die from tuberculosis right along after exposing others to it," said Dr. Jacoby.

LEGISLATURE IN DEADLOCK OVER COMPENSATION

Three Millions Appropriation Bills, Consolidation Acts and Many Other Important Measures Hung Up at Salem—Adjournment Today Seems Out of the Question.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 19.—With the wheels of legislation both in senate and house locked on appropriation bills aggregating \$2,936,384 and with the workmen's compensation act amendments, tax, consolidation and many other important bills held up, because of the deadlock between the two branches of the assembly, the outlook for adjournment tonight was regarded as almost out of the question.

The deadlock centered on the failure of the house and senate to reach a compromise on the Schueler bill amending the workmen's compensation act. Objection is made to the senate amendment to the bill reducing the industrial accident commission from three to one members, which would oust the appointees of former Governor Oswald West.

Governor James Withycombe, it was said, is taking steps to bring about an agreement.

Jackson Boundary A mild sensation was created in the Oregon senate today by Senator J. C. Smith denouncing a bill introduced by Senator Kathryn Clarke. He declared it was "an attempt on the part of Douglas county to steal a part of Jackson county, and an insult to every tax payer down there."

He explained that by a subterfuge the people behind the bill were "trying to swipe a part of Jackson's good roads."

Miss Clarke read an explanation of the purposes of the bill, which purports to settle the boundary question between Jackson and Douglas counties. Only 11 senators voted for the measure and it went into the discard.

High School Fund Senator T. L. Perkins' bill, providing for a county high school tuition fund passed the house today.

The bill provides that the county courts in which there are no county high schools, levy a tax on all property in such counties, exclusive of that situated in high school districts for the creation of a county high school fund. This fund is to be used in defraying the high school tuition of boys and girls residing in districts having no high schools. If it is more convenient for them to attend a high school in an adjoining county, the tuition may be paid to the high school in such county.

NEVADA LEGISLATURE IS OFF FOR FAIR

RENO, Nev., Feb. 19.—Nearly the full membership of both houses of the state legislature and several scores of private citizens of Nevada, left Reno today for San Francisco to take part in the formal opening of the Nevada building on Monday. The legislature adjourned yesterday until Tuesday.

FAULT FOUND WITH POOR FARM BY GRAND JURY

Declare County Hospital Not Kept in Sanitary Manner—Censure Courthouse Janitor and Recommend Repairs—Advise Publication of Expenditures on Pacific Highway.

Charges that the county poor farm is in an unsanitary condition, with no systematic keeping of accounts on the cost of maintenance; advising that the windows of the county offices be washed and recommending the expediting and publishing of the accounts of the construction of the Pacific highway, are the chief features of the report of the grand jury for the February term of court, which closed its sessions Thursday afternoon. It is also held that unsanitary conditions prevail generally about the courthouse. The county jail is held to be in good condition, except that "it is kept too warm." The need of a new courthouse is pointed out strongly.

Regarding the courthouse, the report says: "The matter of light in the county offices might be improved by the application of a little water and energy on the windows, and the appearance of the building improved by a little discernment on the part of the janitor." The grand jury was observing, for the report finds that the plaster on the ceiling of the second floor and in the grand jury room is liable to fall most any time.

Poor husbandry is charged in the maintenance of the poor farm. Disregard of danger of fire is rapped, the probers finding that valuable county records are stored in the woodshed loft, and that inflammable matter is scattered around. Wood is wasted in the heating of the courthouse, it is also charged.

The county court is urged to expert the accounts of the Pacific highway, and publish the expenditures for the benefit of taxpayers. The same accounts were experty by E. M. Wilson last fall. A verified statement of the expenditures was presented by Highway Engineer Kitttridge to the jury, with vouchers in triplicate on file with the county clerk.

Seven true bills were returned and three not true.

WITHYCOMBE SIGNS PROHIBITION LAW

SALEM, Or., Feb. 19.—"I think this the greatest piece of constructive legislation in Oregon history. In my opinion the passage of this act alone is well worth the cost of the legislative session, because it means so much for the state and its people."

This was the comment of Governor Withycombe as he laid down the pen with which he signed substitute house bill No. 362, by Representative J. E. Anderson of The Dalles, the prohibition measure, intended to carry into effect the constitutional enabling act adopted by the people under the initiative last November. The signing of the act took place in the presence of a dozen persons who had assembled in anticipation of the event.

COUNTIES TO CO-OPERATE TO BUILD HIGHWAYS

SALEM, Or., Feb. 19.—Counties are authorized to co-operate in the building of roads by senate bill 187, introduced by Hollis and vinton, and which passed the house yesterday afternoon. Provision is made that the county courts of the counties desiring to co-operate shall meet in joint session and decide upon the route of the highway to be built, and the funds to be contributed by each. Another road bill which passed the house yesterday afternoon was senate bill 198, by Smith of Coos and Curry. It provides that county courts shall, as often as they may deem it necessary, but not oftener than once a year, divide their counties into road districts for road-building purposes.