

HAS GERMANY SUMMONED THE "YELLOW PERIL" TO COME TO HER AID? JAPAN AND CHINA ON THE EVE OF WAR!

JAPANESE DEMANDS OF CHINA SAID TO BE TO PREVENT CHINA'S DICTATOR FROM THROWING WHOLE COUNTRY INTO GERMANY'S LAP, LIKE TURKEY.

Special Correspondence (by mail).

SHANGHAI, China, Jan. 26.—The breath of war has overtaken China's preparations for it. Japan's ten demands, made public today, have inflamed a nation now in no condition to be inflamed.

The leaders of the republic have foreseen this crisis, but have been caught in the midst of uncomplete preparations. An army of a million men is only partially trained. Swelled, as it was, from the highly efficient and modern half-million soldiers that have been drilled within the past few years, the larger unit has not yet reached the standard of other nations.

As soon as China overthrew the imperial government, the so-called republic under Yuan Shikakbejan, the work of forming an army, one that would rank with the best in the world, a well-trained body of half a million men was the result.

When the European war broke out Chinese statesmen were told by the German agents in China, of whom there were many, that as soon as the belligerents became absorbed in their own life-and-death struggle Japan would endeavor to fasten its grip more strongly in China.

Preparations for defense were rushed and did not escape the eyes of the Japanese. In about six months China would have an army efficient enough to resist, with some chance of success, the activities of her neighbor, which long has been trying to form a protectorate over China. So the Japanese waited no longer, it is declared, believing the time to strike was now.

With the fairly efficient railway police—something like the mounted police of Canada's northwest—as a nucleus, China's army was formed. Germans and German taught Chinese entered into the drilling of this army. A few Polish officers did much to teach organization to the Chinese, and the best equipment was purchased. The infantry has Mausers and the artillery the latest in field pieces.

The young men of the best families have taken up the army, before usually held in disrepute, and cadets are being trained in complete military schools to take their places as officers.

While the Japanese demands are strong, they are not near as sweeping as those China expected and still expects. These demands ask, in the main, that China transfer all German privileges to Japan, extend the lease on the Manchurian railroad, share the operation of several mining properties with Japan and give Japan numerous rights, which amount to the control of the rich province of Shantung, together with consulting no other power on loans of national action nor awarding any territory or island to a foreign power.

The Japanese tell a very different story about their action towards China. They say that ever since the beginning of the world war, the dictator of China, Yuan, who is ruling with as great an authority as the old emperors, has been under the thumb of the German embassy at Peking.

It is pointed out that when Japan began to clear the Germans out of Shantung province, China threw every obstacle in Japan's way, in fact, did everything but declare war against the nation which promised to return to China the territory taken from her by Germany.

Japan says that during the past six months, German officers have carried on as strong a campaign in Peking as they did in Constantinople.

The Japanese say that they have plenty of evidence of a conspiracy of which the following were the chief objects aimed at:

1. To compel Japan to return to China at once the province conquered by Japan from Germany. When the war ended, China would immediately return it to Germany, with the result that Japanese blood and treasure would have been spent for nothing.

2. China by secret treaties made during the war with the German embassy, would hand Germany huge concessions in mines and railroad routes, so that when peace is finally signed, Germany would suddenly appear in full control of industry, transportation and commerce in the great empire of China.

3. Ever since Japan's entry into the war, German officers have been in full control of the Chinese army. The plan was to suddenly launch a half million to million Chinese troops against Russia's rear, cut the great Siberian railway, cutting Russia's communications with the Pacific and with the United States, and drive all but Germans out of eastern and north-eastern Asia.

Because of this conspiracy, say the Japanese, Japan did not send its troops to keep the allies in Europe. Japanese troops expect plenty of work in China.

Also, to revert the Chinese dictator from throwing the country, its army and its resources into the lap of Germany, immediately, Japan made its demands of China.

CHINA, VITALIZED AS JAPAN HAS BEEN, COULD RULE THE WORLD

Spread China on top of the U. S. and it would hang over Alaska and Mexico. In population it beats us better than four to one.

In the Pennsylvania anthracite region a seven-foot, free-running coal vein is now a rarity. In China's 13,500 square miles of first-class anthracite coal land the seams average fifteen feet in thickness and often reach forty.

Thus far, no diamonds have come from China; but nature has endowed her with most everything else—coal enough to heat the world for ages; vast ore beds of iron, copper, tin, lead and zinc; gold, silver, salt and valley soils of incredible fertility.

China's coal, iron and limestone lie near together. She can supply the world with steel, and, when taught scientific agriculture, she can feed mankind.

The native Chinaman is honest, capable, industrious, quick to learn. Let him be organized for industry or war with modern methods and there are enough of him to make a mark.

Think of what Japan has done in fifty years on a group of islands not as large as Texas and you gather a hint of the tremendous stake for which she is playing in the endeavor to capture control of China.

China, vitalized as Japan has been, could, yes, would, rule the world.



GERMANS AGREE TO SELL WHEAT CARGO TO PEOPLE

LONDON, Feb. 24.—W. L. Brookling, a member of the firm of W. L. Green & Co., commission merchants of St. Louis, and owners of the cargo on board the American ship Wilhelmina, reached London today from Berlin, having in his possession a declaration from the German foreign office signed by Gottlieb von Jagow, the foreign minister, and attested by James W. Gerard, the American ambassador to Germany, which pledged the German government not to assume control of the cargo of the Wilhelmina, nor of any other vessels arriving from America. This declaration says such cargoes may be sold on the open market and will not be used by the army or the navy.

The case of the Wilhelmina is soon to come before a British prize court. She was loaded with a cargo of food products in New York and started for a German port. She was gathered in by the British marine authorities and the disposal of her cargo is being watched with much interest.

RUSSIANS SHOWING DESPERATE COURAGE

BERLIN, Feb. 24.—A dispatch from Vienna quotes the war correspondent of the Fremdenblatt as saying the fighting in the Carpathians has resolved itself into a series of bitter and stubbornly contested engagements. The Russians are showing desperate courage. It is quieter in the Dukla Pass, where both sides have entrenched themselves. An important engagement is raging to the southward of Stainslau, in Galicia, where the Russians for the third time have opposed the advance of the Austrian right flank.

GERMAN SCARCITY OF BREAD A FAKE

LONDON, Feb. 24.—A dispatch to the Post from Berne says: "All Germany's war bread regulations, cookery schools and other arrangements are not due to any real scarcity of food, but are a pretext to induce charitable Americans to feed the Belgians and the French to feed the people in the portion of France occupied by Germany."

MISS FERN HOBBS KEEPS PROMISE BY RESIGNING OFFICE

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 24.—Complying with a promise made to the Oregon senate when the two houses were deadlocked over the Schuebel bill, amending the workmen's compensation act, Miss Fern Hobbs, member of the Industrial Accident Commission, today offered her resignation to Governor James Withycombe, with the condition that it become effective on May 21, when the Schuebel bill becomes effective. Governor Withycombe stated he was not certain what action he would take.

CONGRESS RUSHES WORK UPON LARGE APPROPRIATION BILLS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—In the effort which is being made in congress to clear up all pending legislation before adjournment of the session, the senate met two hours earlier than usual today in continuation of its work on the big appropriation bills.

The postoffice appropriation bill, carrying \$317,945,869, again was taken up, while the general deficiency bill carrying \$9,000,000 was ready for consideration in the house. The fortifications bill, carrying \$6,000,000 was sent to the senate today following its passage by the house.

Consideration of the postal supply bill was begun in the senate late yesterday following the passage of the army appropriation bill, carrying \$103,000,000. The senate sustained the action of its military committee in eliminating from the army bill as it passed the house, the provision to prohibit expenditures for scientific shop management and stop watch experiments in government plants.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA BLOCKADED BY ALLIES

PARIS, Feb. 24.—France and Great Britain have caused notice to be served on the governor of German East Africa of a naval blockade beginning February 28. Four days' notice would be allowed neutral ships to quit the blockade zone.

MORE ENGLISH STEAMERS SUNK BY SUBMARINES

British Transport No. 192 Sunk Off Beachy Head—The Oakly Torpedoed Off Rye—Crews Are Rescued—Armed Merchant Cruiser Clan Mac Naughton Feared Lost.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The official information bureau announced this afternoon that the Clan Mac Naughton, an armed merchant cruiser, is missing. The vessel was last heard of February 3 and it is feared that she has been lost with her crew of 280. Among the crew were twenty men of the New Foundland royal navy reserve. The commander and officers belonged to the royal navy, the others to the royal naval reserve.

BERLIN, by wireless to London, February 24.—Official announcement was made last night that the British transport No. 192 was sunk by a German submarine off Beachy Head at 4:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A dispatch last night from New Haven, England, stated that eighteen members of the crew of the Cardiff steamer Branksome Chine, a government collier, had landed there and announced the sinking of their vessel, either by a mine or a torpedo in the English channel twenty miles southeast of Beachy Head, about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. This probably is the vessel to which the British announcement refers.

Oakly Torpedoed

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Another British steamer has been sent to the bottom of the sea by a German submarine within the war zone established by the decree of the German admiralty. The Oakly was torpedoed off Rye, but her crew was rescued. The loss of the Oakly apparently was mentioned in a dispatch from Lydd, England, last night, though her name was not mentioned.

The Oakly was bound in ballast from London for Cardiff, Wales. She was struck on the port side. The fishing smack Gratia, which was four miles off, felt the shock and hastened to the scene, arriving in time to take off the crew, none of which was injured.

Submarine Is Seen

The periscope of a submarine was seen before the explosion. An attempt was made to tow the Oakly to port, but she sank early today off Folkstone.

The loss of the Oakly apparently was mentioned in a dispatch from Lydd, England, last night. This message referred to the torpedoing of two vessels off Hastings. One sank, but her crew was saved and landed at Ramsgate. The other was in a sinking condition and a minesweeper was described as endeavoring to tow her into Dover.

The Oakly was 275 feet long and of 1251 tons. She was built in 1897 and was owned in West Hartlepool.

SEVERE QUAKE AT MOUNT LASSEN

REDDING, Cal., Feb. 24.—News was brought here today of a severe earthquake Sunday night, in Twin Valley, 30 miles east of here and 20 miles north of Lassen Peak. The ground has been cracked in all directions and the home of Ivan Sampey has been tilted five feet out of plumb by the sinking of the earth. Large rocks have entirely disappeared and new springs have appeared. An acre of ground sank 60 feet. The snapping and roar of the earth's crust has been likened by residents of the district to the roar of a heavy wind.

The tremor lasted two minutes and affected the entire valley. Much damage was done on William Morgan's place where a month ago there were earth movements following an eruption of Lassen Peak. It is not known here whether the mountain is now in eruption, as the peak is obscured by heavy rain clouds.

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES UPON EASTERN FRONT

German Losses in Driving Russians Out 50,000—Fighting Against Time—Polish Villages Captured and Recaptured—Austrian Attacks in the Carpathians Repulsed.

BERLIN, Feb. 24, by wireless to London.—Reports are heard in influential circles here that further obstacles have arisen to prevent the invasion of Russia. The feeding of the population in the part of east which had been occupied by the Russians is proceeding with difficulty.

German Loss 50,000

PARIS, Feb. 24.—At least 50,000 men were lost by the Germans in their attack on the Russian positions along the Rawka river and in the regions of Borjimon and Gumbin, according to Ludovic Naudea, the "Journal's" correspondent who witnessed the operations. He considers the general situation highly favorable to the Russians, and says: "The Germans are being gradually but implacably worn down. Whether they attack or merely defend themselves, their armies melt away from day to day. Their feverish activity and their frightful sacrifice of lives show they realize they are fighting against time."

Fighting in Progress

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Along the east Prussian border in northern Poland, some of the fiercest engagements of the campaign in the east are taking place. An official statement from Petrograd reports that in these battles villages changed hands several times. Three German attacks on Przasnysz, where the conflict is sharpest, are said to have been repulsed.

In the Carpathians the series of detached battles continues with no sign of a conclusion. The Russian war office announced that Austrian attacks at several points were repulsed, with enormous losses for the attacking forces. It is claimed that during the last month more than 45,000 Austrians have been captured.

In the fighting around Przasnysz, northern Poland, which has become the storm center of the eastern campaign, 1200 Russians have been captured, the German war office announced today. Russian forces succeeded in effecting a passage of the Bobr river at two places but in one of the resultant engagements are said to have been driven back.

On the western front, there has been heavy fighting in Champagne and the Vosges. Today's official communication from Berlin states that several violent attacks made by the French were repulsed.

NO SUBMARINES AT FALL RIVER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Pursuant to the recent charge by Germany and Austria that submarines are being built in the United States and shipped in pieces to Canada for Great Britain, the state department has been informed by the Fall River Ship Building company that it is not building any submarines for delivery during the war. Secretary Bryan said today, however, that the investigation was proceeding as to other works where submarines are being built.

TRAINS IN COLLISION IN BLINDING STORM

ALBERTA LEA, Minn., Feb. 24.—In a blinding snow storm, a Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul passenger train crashed head on into a freight train three miles west of her last night, injuring seven persons. One of the injured, Engineer David Jones of Austin, Minn., the only one of the engine crew who did not jump to safety, probably will die.