

AUSTRIA ACCEDES AMERICAN DEMANDS IN CONTROVERSY OVER ANCONA

REPLY AVERTS DANGER OF BREAK WITH AUSTRIA

American Demands in Connection With the Destruction of Steamer Ancona Met—Submarine Commander Punished—Reparation for Lives Lost Promised.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The official text of Austria's Ancona note was received today at the state department. The work of translating from the diplomatic code will take several hours, and arrangements for publication will be made later.

American demands on Austria-Hungary in connection with the destruction of the steamer Ancona apparently have been met in the new note from Vienna to Washington.

Commander Punished

If the official text of Austria's reply to the second American note conforms to press dispatches, saying the communication announced that the submarine commander who torpedoed the steamer had been punished, virtually one phase of the incident remains to be cleared up. That would be the payment of indemnity for American lives lost for which Austria has expressed a willingness to make reparation.

Later, however, there may be full exchanges between the two countries regarding the submarine warfare and the necessity of warning before attacking merchantmen.

The reply came in sections. Secretary Lansing said this forenoon that one section had been translated and that he expected the complete translation would be in his hands before night.

Officials Gratified

Officials who had read the unofficial version of the reply received in press dispatches from London apparently were much gratified at its nature. Danger of a break in diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary was no longer considered imminent. Officials said, however, that additional correspondence on the subject was sure to ensue. Secretary Lansing declined to comment on the reply until he had the complete official text before him.

It was considered doubtful that the official text would be given out for publication either today or tomorrow. Secretary Lansing has received from Ambassador Penfield a brief resume of the contents of the note. Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador, called at the state department and conferred with Secretary Lansing. The ambassador said he believed the news summary of the Austrian note was correct. He declined to comment upon his visit.

Later, it was learned, the German view is that Austria-Hungary had granted complete concessions to the American demands.

OBREGON VISITS JUAREZ; VENITIA QUILTS; VILLA RAIDS

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 31.—General Alvaro Obregon, military commander of the de facto government in Mexico, formally entered Juarez at noon. Three thousand soldiers, headed by General Gabriel Gavieta, newly appointed commander of the Juarez forces, were drawn in line to receive him as he crossed the international border in an automobile accompanied by Andreas Garcia, Mexican consul at El Paso.

After a formal reception in Juarez, General Obregon returned to El Paso. Theer dispatches received stated that General Medina Vettia with 500 men and 500,000 rounds of ammunition had surrendered at Chihuahua City, that Villa with less than twenty men had raided the Bustillo ranch near Chihuahua City and stolen supplies. The advices added that Jose Rodriguez has but a dozen men with him.

SERBIANS LOSE 3 DAYS BATTLE WITH BULGARS

Central Albania Scene of Conflict—Vienna Reports Battles in Galicia Increasing in Violence and Extent—Russia Strangely Silent—Advance on Saloniki Abandoned?

BERLIN, Dec. 31 (by wireless to Sayville).—Defeat of the Serbians, who apparently had been reinforced by Italians, after a three-day battle in central Albania, is reported by the Overseas News agency, which says it received its information from French and Italian sources. The battle is said to have taken place between Elbassan and Mirat. The Serbians were well provided with ammunition and food supplies and had some light artillery, but no heavy guns.

"For three days," the news agency says, "fighting was continued violently. According to Italian reports, the Serbians were almost annihilated. The Bulgarians continue to advance."

Russia Still Silent

LONDON, Dec. 31.—While Vienna reports that the battles in Galicia are increasing in extent and violence, Russia maintains a mysterious reticence concerning her military operations there.

It seems certain, however, that extremely important events, the full significance of which is not as yet officially disclosed, are occurring at the only point where Russian armies can bring any pressure to bear on the Balkan situation without actually crossing Rumanian territory.

Many reports reach here that the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces are not only abandoning all preparations for an advance in Macedonia, but are actually withdrawing troops from this front, their action being attributed to the Russian offensive in Bessarabia, but most of these dispatches bear the impress of the wish being father to the thought.

Clash With Italians Likely

Active operations in the near east are now centering in Albania, where the Serbian army is said to be suffering from harassing attacks made by Albanian forces. From the progress they have made in Albania, it is predicted that the Italians will soon clash with the Bulgarians in that territory.

Athens claims that the diplomatic situation shows a growing cordiality between Greece and the entente powers.

A historic meeting of the British cabinet, at which the final draft of the compulsion measure probably will be adopted is expected today. The bill, it is reported, will embody the following principles: Compulsion to be applied to all single men who fail to attest; for this purpose the machinery of the Earl of Derby's plan to be made statutory, and the provisions of the law to be enacted to apply only for the duration of the present war.

The labor conference on compulsion came to no decision as to its attitude, but a strong feeling of suspicion toward the reported cabinet solution of the problem is manifest.

GERMANS CAPTURE TRENCH FROM BRITISH

BERLIN, Dec. 31, by wireless.—An announcement from the war office today says that Germans after exploding mines captured an advanced British trench near Hulluch, taking two machine guns and a number of prisoners.

Allied aviators made an attack on Ostend. No damage was done to military establishments, but a number of buildings were shattered. The heaviest damage is said to have been inflicted on the convent of the Sacred Heart. Nineteen Belgian civilians were wounded and one was killed.

FOUR OF A KIND



BRITISH CABINET DRAFTING A BILL FOR CONSCRIPTION

LONDON, Dec. 31.—All members of the cabinet attended the meeting today to consider the draft of the bill for compulsory military service, and it appears, consequently, there have been no resignations.

Rumor still is busy, however, with the names of Reginald McKenna, chaeclor of the exchequer; Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, and Sir John Simon, home secretary.

The foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and the war secretary, Earl Kitchener, are also mentioned in connection with possible changes in the cabinet, but even if several members withdraw it is now clear that the government will not break up over the question.

Sir Edward Grey's health is again put forward as a reason he may retire in case of any reorganization of the ministry.

The general impression is that opposition to the plan for compulsory service on the part of labor is lessening, although the decision of labor leaders to refer the matter to the trades union congress leaves this question still open.

CHINESE ARMY LEADER REVOLTS

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—General Li Shun, commanding Chinese government troops in the province of Kiang Si, has declared his independence of Yuan Shi Kai, prospective emperor, according to a cablegram received here today from revolutionary headquarters at Shanghai by Tong King Chong, former member of the Chinese senate and president of the Chinese Republic association.

The Chinese Republic association, according to Tong King Chong, has a membership of about 80,000 in the United States and 300,000 in North, Central and South America. It is devoting itself to the revolutionary movement to retain a republic in China, known as the punitive expedition against Yuan Shi Kai.

BRITISH ARMORED CRUISER NATAL SUNK IN HARBOR

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The British armored cruiser Natal has sunk after an explosion. Official announcement to this effect was made here today.

The Natal was sunk yesterday afternoon while in harbor, as the result of an internal explosion. There are about 400 survivors.

The Natal's sinking is the most severe loss which the British navy has sustained in several months. No British naval vessels of importance had been sunk since last May, when the Triumph and Majestic were torpedoed at the Dardanelles. The Natal, although a powerful man of war, was laid down eleven years ago and her displacement was only about one half of the largest British sea fighters.

The Natal's normal complement was 704 men. Her displacement was 13,660 tons. She was 480 feet long and 73 feet beam.

The Natal brought from Portsmouth the body of Whitelaw Reid, American ambassador at London, after his death in 1912, remaining at New York for two weeks.

In accordance with its procedure of late the admiralty has given no indication as to the locality of the Natal disaster. The military regulations make it impossible to give this information publicly.

The loss is generally attributed to foul play. In support of this theory attention is called to similar disasters which overtook the British battleship Bulwark, which was blown up off Sheerness in November of last year with the loss of 70 or more men, and the British steamship Princess Irene, blown up in Sheerness harbor last May with a loss of between 300 and 400 lives.

NO NEW YEAR'S ISSUE OF THE MAIL TRIBUNE

There will be no issue of the Mail Tribune New Year's day, nor will the annual number, a feature for many years, be issued.

BEFORE MIDNIGHT

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 31.—Before midnight tonight deals the death knell to the sale of alcoholic liquors by virtue of a constitutional amendment, every saloon and grill in Portland will have ceased dispensing the same for the reason that the supply will have been sold, if predictions made early this afternoon hold true.

Wholesale liquor dealers estimated that in Portland alone there has been purchased and stored away for the coming dry spell \$2,000,000 worth of wine, whisky and beer.

At noon today not a drop of whiskey that was not a blend could be purchased anywhere. Certain kinds of spirituous liquors, such as brandy and gin, were completely sold out. The breweries were delivering their last small consignments of beer this afternoon. Wine was not to be had.

One mail order house that does an extensive business in the state has been unable to fill for the last few days orders amounting to \$1500 per day. Another dealer declared that he could have sold an additional \$50,000 worth of wet goods had he been sufficiently stocked.

SPOKANE SUIT TO STOP DRY LAW

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 31.—William Stoehr of Boise, Idaho, a stockholder in the Inland Brewing & Malt company of Spokane, filed suit here today, asking that Attorney General Turner of Washington be restrained from interfering with the business of the company under the prohibition law and also that the company be restrained from discontinuing business. The petition filed by Stoehr alleges that the direct legislation amendment to the state constitution, the prohibition law and the Webb-Keenon law are unconstitutional. The suit follows closely the suit filed this week in Tacoma, with the exception that the brewing company here is made a co-defendant. No action was taken on the petition in court today.

SEVEN STATES BECOME DRY AT MIDNIGHT

More Than 3000 Saloons, Many Breweries and Distilleries Put Out of Business in Iowa, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Arkansas and South Carolina.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—State wide prohibition of the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors will become effective in seven states at midnight tonight.

More than 3000 saloons, a large number of breweries, wholesale liquor houses and distilleries will be put out of business.

According to figures offered by the Anti-Saloon League of America, the addition of the seven states that go "dry" tomorrow, will bring the total of prohibition states in the Union to nineteen.

The states which are to enter the dry column are Iowa, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Arkansas and South Carolina. Many counties in all of the seven states have prohibited the sale of liquor for a number of years under local option laws.

In Colorado district attorneys at a recent meeting agreed that technically Colorado's constitutional prohibition amendment and the enforcing statute do not become effective until midnight January 1, but it was also decided that the expiration of all liquor licenses at midnight will render liquor sales on New Year's day unlawful.

Laying in Supplies

According to one authority between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 has been expended for liquor in Colorado within the last week.

Arkansas will have its first experience with prohibition when the statewide law, passed by the last legislature, goes into effect with the coming of the new year. The Arkansas department of the Anti-Saloon league has announced that the league will have workers in the field to see that the law is enforced. Anti-prohibition leaders have announced that no fight will be made for the repeal of the law at least until prohibition has been given a thorough test.

In Iowa "bargain sales" in the 502 saloons in the state are in progress today preparatory to the final closing tonight. Under the new law repeal passed by the last legislature statutory prohibition is restored, pending the action of the next legislature and the people on the proposed constitutional amendment for prohibition, which is to be disposed of within the next two years.

Oregon Dry Law

In Oregon the manufacture or sale of any kind of intoxicating liquor is absolutely prohibited by constitutional amendment. Drug stores are not permitted to sell liquor for any purpose with or without a doctor's prescription. Each family may import for personal use a maximum either of two quarts of spirituous vinous liquors or twenty-four quarts of malt liquors in any period of four successive weeks. No person other than a common carrier may make deliveries of liquor, and the illegal purchaser of liquor is made equally culpable with the seller.

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KIRCHWAY APPOINTED SING SING WARDEN

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—George W. Kirchway of New York, former dean of the Columbia law school, was appointed warden of Sing Sing prison today by John B. Riley, state superintendent of prisons, to succeed Thomas Mott Osborne. The appointment contained no intimation as to its duration. Professor Kirchway said that he contemplated a continuation of the Mutual Welfare league founded by Osborne.

FIFTEEN PERISH SOUTH CHICAGO OIL EXPLOSION

American Linseed Company Plant Set Afire by Explosion—Workers Cut Off From Escape—Blaze Spectacular and Difficult to Fight—Firemen Have Narrow Escapes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Reports that fifteen or twenty men had been killed in an explosion which set fire to the plant of the American Linseed company in South Chicago were received by the police today. After the explosion the flames spread rapidly and the firemen were unable to enter the building where the men were trapped.

More than 100 men were working in the plant when the explosion occurred, according to officials of the company. The men who were believed to have been killed or seriously injured occupied a room close by the scene of the explosion and their escape was cut off by the flames.

Early reports placed the dead at from fifteen to twenty. Several firemen narrowly escaped injury. The inflammable nature of the products manufactured at the plant made the blaze difficult to fight.

All the fire engines in the district were rushed to the scene.

The first explosion was in what was known as the percolator building. The roof was blown off and the flames spread to three other buildings.

Officials of the company said there were about thirty-five men employed in the building, and all except eight had been accounted for.

The initial blast was followed by smaller explosions as the flames reached different tanks. An oil barge in the Calumet river caught fire.

After the fire had been brought under control company officials estimated that the loss would total \$2,000,000, of which \$600,000 represented the loss of 300,000 bushels of linseed in storage.

GOLDEN STATE TO DIRECT ALL FRUIT SHIPMENTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—After consulting for several days with Attorney General Gregory and members of the federal trade commission, Harris Weinstein, California state market director, left today for California to invite all producers of perishable farm products in that state to give the state market commission a monopoly of routing and directing car loads of the products for the eastern markets.

While not having any formal approval from the federal officials for his plan, Mr. Weinstein said they had found no defects and he was confident the state could do without question that which individuals acting separately could not do.

"One of the weak spots in the eastern marketing of California perishable farm products," said Mr. Weinstein, "is that some of the shippers are large individual growers, some are co-operative societies and some are shipping societies with the result that the distribution has been conflicting, uncontrolled and unscientific, causing frequent glut and famines."

CANDIDATES FILE FOR COMING CITY ELECTION

Those who have already filed their nominations as candidates for municipal offices in the city election to be held on January 11 are: Elmer T. Foss, city recorder (incumbent); Gus H. Samuels, city treasurer (incumbent); F. V. Medynski, councilman first ward (incumbent); Martin McDonough, city recorder; J. W. Shirley, city treasurer. It is expected that others will be filed this afternoon. Monday will be the last day for filing petitions.