

GERMANS ASK REMOVAL OF AMERICAN FLAG FROM U. S. LEGATION, BRUSSELS

MINISTER BRAND WHITLOCK REQUESTED TO LOWER OLD GLORY; RUMOR RELIEF CORPS PRISONERS

Flag Incident Arouses Washington—Officials Discredit Reports From Berne That American Relief Workers in Belgium Are Imprisoned by Germans.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—State department advices today reported officially that Brand Whitlock, American minister to Belgium, had been requested but not ordered by the German military authorities to lower the American flag from the legation in Brussels.

The department's advices made no mention of American relief workers being held prisoners and officials shared the view of Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American commission, that it was improbable. As to the flag incident, it seemed to be regarded by officials as more sentimental than actually serious although it did arouse some feeling. State department officials took the view that the German military authorities were acting strictly within their rights.

Accredited to Belgium. The American minister is accredited to the Belgian government, not to Belgium as a geographical unit and the seat of the Belgian government is at Havre.

Mr. Whitlock remained at Brussels by permission of the German government to take part in the relief work and the American legation building for all diplomatic purposes ceased to be a legation. Whether Mr. Whitlock will continue on in Brussels as one of the four Americans permitted to continue to administer Belgian relief or whether he will be transferred to his official position as minister to the Belgian government at Havre has not yet been decided.

Americans Prisoners? WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Reports from Berne, Switzerland, that American relief workers in Belgium are held prisoners by the German military authorities were discredited here today by Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American relief commission. Mr. Hoover said he expected no difficulty in the departure of the Americans from Belgium into Holland and hoped they all would be out within a week. At present there are 42 American relief workers in Belgium.

Mr. Hoover was in Washington today consulting with state department officials on the best way to reconstruct the relief work, which the German authorities have forced the Americans to give up. It is very hard to know just how to work this out, Mr. Hoover says, because no other nation has the trained workers



BRAND WHITLOCK

CUBAN REVOLT BEING SUPPRESSED BY GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—State department reports from Cuba today indicate that the government is making some progress in putting down the liberal uprising. The most advantages won by the followers of Zayas was at Santiago, where General Fernandez with 1,000 of the regular army and as many more armed civilians are in possession of the port. Minister Gonzales has forwarded to the one American naval vessel off Santiago the warning from Fernandez that the harbor is mined.

Definite results of the special election in the province of Santa Clara have not been received, but Minister Gonzales informed the state department that reports indicated it had been favorable to Menocal.

PUBLIC SUBSCRIBE ONLY SMALL SUMS FARM LOAN BANKS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Public subscription to the stock of the twelve federal farm loan banks took up only 26,000 shares of a value of \$130,000, and the government will supply the remaining \$8,870,000. The farm loan board in announcing the figures today made it clear that public subscription had not been thought desirable in view of the fact that the stock is redeemable at par, and that within a year or so at most the banks would buy back the stock from its original holders.

Thus, in the case of the Baltimore bank, to which public subscriptions aggregated about \$6500, the board declined to entertain a suggestion made by a Baltimore banker that the entire stock issue be underwritten in that city. Complete returns of the stock subscriptions have not been received from four of the twelve districts. Returns tabulated thus far show that the greatest amount, about 9000 shares, were subscribed for the Omaha bank.

INDIANAPOLIS OFFICIALS INDICTED FOR FRAUDS

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 15.—Chief of Police Samuel V. Perrott, City Sealers Herman F. Ashm and five police officers, all of Indianapolis, appeared at the office of United States Marshal Mark Storer at noon today and surrendered on an indictment returned by the federal grand jury yesterday charging election conspiracy.

ASKS RELEASE OF AMERICANS ON YARROWDALE

New and Vigorous Demand to Be Sent Germany, Accompanied by Full Statement on Treatment Accorded Germans and German Ships in United States.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—A new and vigorous demand for the release of the Americans from the prize ship Yarrowdale held prisoners in Germany will be sent forward in the very near future, it was said definitely today. The demand will be accompanied by a full statement on treatment accorded Germans and German ships in the United States.

While it still was indicated that the accumulation of violations of American rights might lead President Wilson to go before congress at any time, it was said today that he has made no definite plans for taking such a step immediately.

When he will go before congress, it was said, will depend entirely upon circumstances. The opinion grows among officials, however, that such a step would not be long deferred.

Nothing has been heard by the state department early today from Germany in reply to its inquiry as to the exact status of the Americans taken into Germany on the prize ship Yarrowdale. Likewise no news came from Ambassador Eikins at Constantinople about Americans in Turkey.

The government began today to feel the insistent need for some sort of action soon to open a way for movement of shipping now held up in American ports by suspension of sailings on account of the German submarine campaign. Reports on the accumulating freight now are reaching officials regularly and although the situation is not yet regarded as serious, it is apparent that American industries will be affected unless ocean shipping starts moving before long.

Put Guns on Ships. At the present stage of development of the German-American situation, attention is centered on President Wilson by the growing belief that he will take no step, even to the furnishing of defense armament to merchant ships, without first consulting congress.

The sinking of the American schooner Lyman M. Law in the Mediterranean by an Austrian submarine probably with warning in regard by officials here as illegal, inasmuch as the cargo was not contraband and the submarine displayed no flag, but since no lives were lost it is believed the incident will not in itself develop into a cause for drastic action by this government.

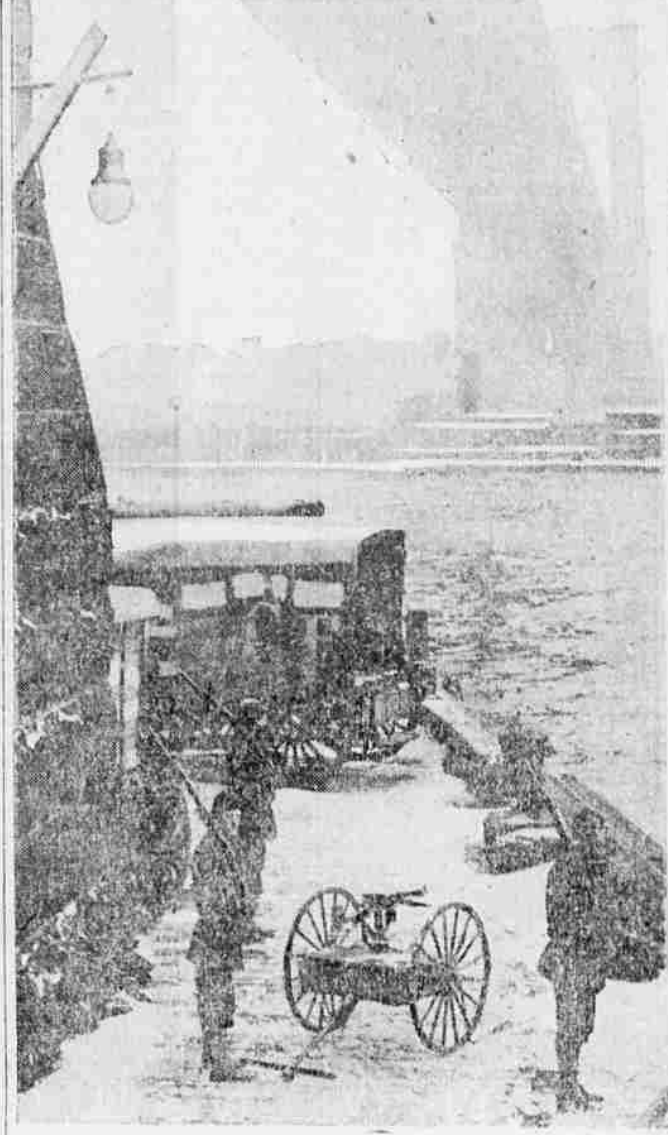
NEUTRAL SHIPS PLANNING TO SAIL HALIFAX ROUTE

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Coincident with reports that the British admiralty had granted permission for neutral ships sailing from American ports to call at Halifax instead of Kirkwall, several neutral lines other than American, announced their intention today to release ships for trans-Atlantic service in the near future.

The Ryndam of the Holland-American line will sail tomorrow. She will carry no passengers and will stop at Halifax for examination. The Noordam, of the same line, will sail some time next week, officials announced, and passengers are now being booked.

The Stockholm, of the Swedish-American line, with a small passenger list, will get away tomorrow. The Carlholm, a Swedish-American freighter, will sail Saturday. After being examined at Halifax, the ships can pass far to the north of the British isles, thus avoiding the German submarine zone.

NAVAL MILITIAMEN WITH RAPID FIRE GUN GUARD BROOKLYN BRIDGE AGAINST BOMB PLOTTERS



Rapid fire guns are part of the equipment of naval militiamen guarding the abutments of the huge Brooklyn bridge against possible action by bomb plotters. Immediately after diplomatic relations were broken with Germany, steps were taken to protect public structures and waterworks.

FORCE GERMANS FROM ADVANCED LINE ON SOMME

BERLIN, Feb. 15.—German troops in the region between Serre and the river Somme, in France, yesterday withdrew from some of their advanced positions in accordance with orders from their commander, says the official statement issued today by German army headquarters. Seven entente airplanes were brought down by the Germans.

PARIS, Feb. 15.—French detachments made an attack yesterday between the Oise and the Aisne and penetrated as far as the second German line, the war office announces.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 15.—Attacks were begun by the Teutonic troops yesterday near Stoloff, in Galicia, east of Lemberg. The battle is still in progress, according to the war office.

BERLIN, Feb. 15.—Teuton forces yesterday stormed the Russian positions along a front of 100 yards north of the Zischoff-Tarnopol railroad in Galicia, says today's German official statement. After destroying the hostile trenches, the Austro-Germans withdrew, taking with them 281 prisoners.

BRITISH STEAMER CILICIA TORPEDOED

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The British steamer Cilicia, of 2,750 tons gross, has been sunk, Lloyd's Shipping agency announced today. The crew was landed.

The British steamer Ferza also has been sunk, the agency announces. The Cilicia was 348 feet in length. The Ferza is not listed in available shipping records.

ROME ASKS IF LAW SINKING IS NEEDED OVERT ACT

ROME, Feb. 15.—All of the Rome papers ask if the sinking of the American schooner Lyman M. Law constitutes an overt act as mentioned by President Wilson in his statement to the senate. While the British consul at Cagliari telegraphed United States Consul Treadwell here that the Lyman M. Law was an ex-American ship, the Giornale d'Italia says that the schooner was regularly registered in the American merchant marine and was flying the American flag when she was sunk.

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Feb. 15.—The British consul has taken affidavits from Captain McDonough and the crew of the Lyman M. Law, in which they say that the vessel was suddenly approached by a submarine which gave no indication of her nationality. They say they were scarcely given time to save themselves before the schooner was torpedoed and set on fire. Captain McDonough will have here tomorrow for Rome to testify before the American consular authorities with regard to the sinking of his ship.

SAYS AMERICANS 'TEMPTING GOD'

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 15.—The Lok Alreder of Berlin expresses the hope that similar reports to the effect that American merchantmen are sailing in defiance of the submarine blockade are unfounded.

"The plan for such sailings," it says, "at the bottom amounts to nothing more than most wickedly tempting God."

THREE COWBOYS REPORTED SLAIN AFTER CAPTURE

Mormons Kidnapped by Salazar's Force Thought to Have Been Executed—No Trace Found of Men and Dog Returns—Refugee Reports Threat by Salazar of Border Raid.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 15.—Two Americans were reported killed Tuesday when a band of Mexicans believed to have been a part of Jose Ynez Salazar's command raided Lang's ranch on the American side of the border west of the Corner ranch, which was raided Monday, according to an American who returned here early today from the border below Hachita, N. M. He said one of the men reported to have been killed in the raid at Lang's ranch was named Fulton. The name of the other man also said to have been killed was not known. American cowboys in the Hachita district were organizing a posse of fifty armed and mounted men to cross the border in an effort to rescue the American cowboys who were being held as hostages by the Mexican raiders, according to the American who arrived here early today. John Parks, well known rancher of that district, was said to have been selected as the leader of the posse.

HACHITA, N. M., Feb. 15.—Jose Ynez Salazar threatened soon to raid an American city or town and kill all the American men, according to "Bunk" Spencer, the American negro, who, with his Mexican wife, are being held for ransom by Salazar's forces at Ojitos.

Spencer reached the border yesterday to obtain a ransom for the release of himself and his wife, returning to Ojitos.

According to Spencer, Salazar gave him the following message to take to the border: "Tell the American people that General Jose Ynez Salazar is going to visit them shortly and distribute a few pounds of lead in their midst. Just as soon as the forces I am expecting reach me, I shall strike some American city or town and no American force or Carranza army will prevent me from carrying out my plans. Columbus will be as nothing compared to my skills.

"During my stay I will make every effort to protect American women and children, but the man of 'gringo land' will have to take care."

Cowboy's Dog Returns.

CORNER RANCH, N. M., Feb. 15.—via automobile courier to Hachita, N. M.—Belief that the three American cowboys—Andrew P. Peterson, Hugh Acord and Barton Jensen—were executed by the Mexican raiders, who captured them at the Corner ranch here on the American side of the border Monday, was strengthened today when Andrew Peterson's shepherd dog crawled into camp, famished and footsore, as if he had come a great distance during the night. American cowboys of the rescue posse who camped at the line here last night took this to mean Peterson and his companions were dead.

"I guess Andy's gone if his dog deserted him," one big cowboy said as he petted the exhausted animal.

Len Spillbury, the Pershing scout, and his posse of Mormon scouts and cowboys spent the night here at the scene of the raid Monday when the three Mormon cowboys were captured. At dawn Spillbury and his companions divided into bands of three and four and started a systematic search for the missing men of their bands.

CREW OF INTERNED SHIPS ARRIVE FROM PANAMA

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Seven members of the crews of German vessels tied up in the canal zone arrived here today under guard on the Panama line steamer ship Advance. They were sent to Ellis Island, where their cases will be decided by the board of inquiry of the department of immigration.

AMENDMENT FOR PROHIBITION TO PASS HOUSE

Webb Resolution Favoring Constitutional Change Reported to House With Majority Report Favoring and Minority Report Opposing—Kitchen Predicts Its Passage.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Webb resolution, proposing a national prohibition constitutional amendment, was reported to the house today with a majority committee report in its favor and a minority report opposing it.

Democratic Leader Kitchen said it would be taken up in the house within a week. He predicted it would pass the house by the necessary two-thirds, but probably would not be acted upon in the senate before adjournment of congress March 4.

The majority report declared that inasmuch as more than 60 per cent of the population of the United States lives in dry territory, it is incumbent upon congress to submit the question of national prohibition to the states. Arguments in Favor.

"Leaving out of consideration the merits of the prohibition policy of dealing with the alcoholic liquor traffic," says the report, "when more than half of the states in the Union have declared in favor of prohibition; when 85 per cent of the territory of the United States has outlawed the saloon and more than 60 per cent of the population live in such territory; and when approximately ten million of our people residing in all sections of the Union have petitioned directly for the passage of this resolution, your committee is of the opinion and feels that it is incumbent upon the congress to submit the issue to the states in the manner requested as prescribed by the terms of the constitution itself.

"If it is not desired, thirteen states of the Union can prevent its adoption; but if, on the other hand, thirty-six states desire such change, they should have the right to make it, and it would appear to your committee that the question is now one of sufficient importance to be submitted to them so that they may pass upon it."

Minority Objects.

The minority report set forth six objections to the resolution. They were that "it does not provide for a date of submission to all states; it would not prohibit personal consumption of liquor; it would interfere with the police powers of the states; it would permit the confiscation of property without compensation; the general governmental effect of national prohibition would be bad; it would raise a serious revenue question.

"Coercion alone will not prohibit; neither will it inculcate temperance," the minority report continues. "For temperance and, indeed, prohibition, depend on changes for the better in habits and conditions which are only brought about by a regulation of benefit obtained through moral and educational appreciation."

Signers of the minority report were Representatives Igou and Dyer of Missouri; Graham of Pennsylvania; Steele of Iowa; Danforth and Dale of New York; and Gard of Ohio.

The Webb amendment would prohibit the manufacturing, transportation, import and sale of alcoholic liquor for beverage purposes.

B. C. DRY LAW BEAT BY SOLDIER VOTE

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 15.—Further figures received from London, where soldiers' votes are being counted, indicate hardly a doubt that prohibition for British Columbia has been defeated. On September 15 last civilians in this province voted in favor of a prohibition measure with a majority of 6000. Since then 8750 soldiers have voted. Two thousand votes have been counted, and show that the soldiers are voting wet by about 9 to 1. It will be another week before the government will announce the final figures.