

1000 PERISH WHEN TRANSPORT IS SUNK

TROOPSHIP LADEN WITH ITALIANS IS SUBMARINED

All But Two Aboard Vessel Torpedoed in Mediterranean Lose Lives—Two Americans Upon Norwegian Ships Rescued With Crew When Ships Sunk.

BERLIN, Feb. 23.—The admiralty announced today that the Italian transport Minas, carrying 1,000 soldiers to Saloniki has been sunk and thought all on board except two men perished.

The announcement says: "A German submarine on February 17 sank by a torpedo in the Mediterranean the Italian transport steamer Minas, 2,854 tons. The steamer was bound to Saloniki. She carried 1,000 troops, a large quantity of ammunition and 3,000,000 marks worth of gold.

"The steamer's crew and the troops on board perished with the exception of two men, who were rescued by the submarine."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Sinking of two more vessels by German submarines, both with an American sailor on board, was reported to the state department today by American consuls. In both cases the vessels were warned and the two Americans landed safely. The vessels sunk were the Norwegian steamer Skrim and the Norwegian bark Blenheim.

Consul Osborn at Havre said the Skrim, a vessel of 761 tons gross was sunk by bombs planted in the vessel. The Skrim was unarmed, in ballast and bound from Troport to Cardiff, twenty miles from Troport. She was sunk on February 19. The crew, fourteen in number, included Louis Pinto, a Porto Rican. They were rescued after twenty hours in small boats.

The bark Blenheim, according to Consul Frost at Queenstown, was sunk by shell fire after its crew had abandoned the ship and without injury to any of the ship's personnel.

Vessels Warned. The Blenheim was of 1,029 tons and sailed from Penescola January 19 for Greenock. She was sunk February 22, thirty miles south-southwest from Fastnet, Ireland.

Consul Frost said the master signalled submission immediately after the first shot was fired by the submarine and was accorded consideration. The submarine towed the life-boats until a British naval vessel appeared. The crew was landed at Baltimore, Ireland at 8:30 p. m., the same day, without accident.

The sole American on board was Solomon Troiche, born in Porto Rico, whose parents reside at 1255 Montgomery street, San Francisco.

The Blenheim was unarmed and without wireless.

British Steamer Sunk. LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British steamer Grenadier 1,004 tons has been sunk, Lloyd's announces. The captain and six men were killed and the remainder of the crew landed. The British steamer Trojan Prince, 3,196 tons, also has been sunk. None of the ships which have been reported sunk carried passengers.

MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR PAN-AMERICANS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Senate and house conferees agreed today on the diplomatic appropriation bill and retained the senate provision appropriating \$50,000 for a second pan-American financial conference in Washington at a time to be fixed by the president.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE USE OF ARMED FORCE

Senator Fall Introduces Measure Extending Authority to President to Make War—Is Surprise to Administration—Democrats to Fight Filibuster by Continuous Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—A resolution authorizing the president to use the armed forces of the United States to protect the citizens, property and lives of the citizens of the United States was introduced in the senate today by Senator Fall, republican.

Senator Fall's measure was offered by unanimous consent after a bitter two hours debate on the international situation in which republicans displayed any desire to withhold assent from the president in handling the situation.

Resolution a Surprise. The authority to be extended by the resolution is along the general line of that which has been understood President Wilson would request from congress some time next week. Senator Fall's action took administration senators completely by surprise.

Senator Fall asked that the bill go to the foreign relations committee and Chairman Stone consented after he had objected to the way in which the measure had been introduced. Senate democrats today determined on a fight to a finish with the republican minority over the revenue bill and preparedness legislation and have practically decided to hold congress to a continuous session from now on even to the extent of holding through Sunday, March 4.

To Fight Filibuster. "We will remain in session without recess or adjournment as long as it is necessary either to break this filibuster or to demonstrate that it cannot be broken," said Senator Simmons, chairman of the finance committee.

After Senator Poindexter, republican, had been talking for five hours, Senator Williams of Mississippi aroused the ire of the republicans by charging that they had received letters from munition makers of the country to defeat the revenue bill.

AUTOS KILL THREE AT SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Automobiles killed three men and injured another before breakfast this morning today.

The dead: Giovanni Mariani, laborer; Oscar Stornaloff, bookbinder; Angelo Cagnino, laborer.

The injured: Joseph Garafa, arm fractured. Stormfield was run down by a Henny bus, which he failed to see because his umbrella was up. Morris Perlman driver of the bus was arrested and charged with manslaughter. A touring car, purring along the asphalt at fifty miles an hour, struck the other men who were clearing sand from a street car track. It did not slow down.

ARMY OF 25,000 TO GUARD MANILA

MANILA, Feb. 24.—The bill introduced by Manuel L. Quezon, president of the senate, authorizing the organization of a Philippine army division of 25,000 men in accordance with the national defense act, has been approved by the special session of congress.

The congress did not approve Governor Harrison's recommendation for an appropriation of funds for maintenance of the German seamen who were removed from the German merchantmen in Philippine waters.

CATCH SHARKS FOR SHOE LEATHER IS NEW COAST INDUSTRY



SHARK SKIN PROVES GOOD SUBSTITUTE FOR SHOE LEATHER

NEWPORT, Cal., Feb. 24.—Due to the activities of the U. S. Bureau Fisheries, a new fishing industry has been made possible in southern California waters.

Experiments conducted by tanners at the suggestion of the department of commerce indicate that shark skin will make a practical, cheap and durable leather.

Fishermen who formerly cursed their luck and slit the throat of the shark that became entangled in their nets are now skinning these scavengers of the deep and selling their pelts for foot coverings.

Several fishing companies hereabouts are contemplating going into the business on a big scale.

Shark oil is the most valuable by-product ever discovered. It's greatest commercial value is for painting roofs. A roof coated with this oil will shed water much better than a painted roof.

The skin of the leopard shark is particularly desirable because tanning does not eliminate the spotted, leopard-like quality of the hide.

Leopard shark skin shoes are now being worn by women in Los Angeles, and what began as a fad is rapidly becoming a staple. If enough skins can be procured, dealers in the east plan to put the shark skin shoe on the market as a new line of footwear.

There are 14 varieties of sharks in Southern California waters, all of them suitable for leather. While the business of fishing for these leviathans is exciting, it is not dangerous, as there are no man-eaters among them.

LONDON CHILDREN WEAR WOODEN CLOGS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Scarcity of leather is forcing London to turn to clogs as a substitute for shoes. Already the city's school children are clattering daily to their studies in clogs at 73 cents a pair, say dispatches to the commerce department. Poor children are permitted to purchase the footwear on a weekly installment plan.

The home demand for wooden shoes is so great, it is declared, a British manufacturing concern has just declined an order for 100,000 pairs for the Belgian government.

BOSTON SELLS JOE WOOD TO CLEVELAND FOR \$15,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Joe Wood, who because of spary differences refused to play with the Boston American League club last year, was sold to the Cleveland American League club today for \$15,000.

GERMAN RAIDER DESTROYING SHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN

TOKIO, Japan, Feb. 24.—The Nichi Nichi announces that an armed merchantman is raiding commerce in the Indian ocean and has sunk two British steamers southwest of Colombo. A mail dispatch to the Associated Press from Tokio under date of January 16, said that persistent rumors were afloat in Japan that two German converted cruisers had appeared in the Indian ocean. The dispatch stated that the Japanese navy department had detained several warships for patrol duty in the neighborhood of Singapore, Penang and other points on Indian ocean routes.

Since the destruction of the cruiser Ausden in the Cocos Islands by the English cruiser Sydney in November, 1914, the waters of the Far East have been undisturbed by German commerce raiders.

PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—President Wilson this afternoon had a half hour's conference with Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee, Vice-President Marshall, Senator Southbury, president pro tempore of the senate and Senators James, Pomaroe, Hollis and Swanson. It was stated the conference did not discuss the present legislative situation, nor the international situation. Its subject was not disclosed.

ARMY OF FIVE MILLION PROVIDED BY BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The army estimate issued today provides for an army of 5,000,000 men exclusive of India. An additional navy estimate calls for 50,000 officers and men, bringing the total of the navy personnel to 450,000.

MOONEY TO HANG FOR BOMB OUTRAGE ON FRIDAY MAY 17

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Thus, J. Mooney was sentenced to death by hanging here today by Superior Judge Franklin A. Griffin for a bomb explosion that cost ten lives during a preparedness parade here July 22, 1916. Mooney was convicted of murder in the first degree two weeks ago.

Judge Griffin set May 17 for the execution. An appeal will be taken from Judge Griffin's refusal to grant a new trial.

The hanging will take place in San Quentin prison. The court denied Mooney his request to make a statement and pronounced sentence, eliminating the usual concluding sentence "and may God have mercy on your soul."

DUTCH CARGOES WORTH \$8,000,000 SENT TO BOTTOM

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Eight million dollars was the estimated value of the Dutch vessels, the Menanto, owned by the Rotterdam Lloyds and the Baudemont owned by the Royal Dutch Lloyds, each carrying a million dollar cargo of tobacco and other valuable goods such as skins from the Dutch East Indies consigned to the Dutch government.

The Noordwijk of the Holland-American line carried 8,500 tons of grain worth \$800,000 from New York to Rotterdam. The Janstra, owned by the Rotterdam Lloyds, also carried \$800,000 worth of grain from New York to Rotterdam.

The other three vessels destroyed, Zaandijk, Euland and Gasterland, were in ballast. According to latest available figures the total Dutch tonnage about was 2,000,000 prior to the destruction of the seven vessels reported today, which totalled 32,500 tons. All cargoes on them were owned by and consigned to the Dutch government.

DESTRUCTION OF SEVEN STEAMERS AROUSES DUTCH

Tremendous Losses by U-Boat Activity Likely to Force Break of Rivalry With Germany—Crews of Sunk Ships Brought to London—Cargoes Valued at \$11,600,000.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The tremendous destruction of Dutch shipping during the last two days is regarded here as the most acute phase of the international situation.

It is regarded as even bringing nearer the probability of a break in diplomatic relations between The Netherlands and Germany. So far Holland has only made protests against destruction of her neutral ships by German submarines but the startling operations reported yesterday and today are expected to arouse a wave of popular indignation in The Netherlands which that government may find difficult to withstand, even should it desire to do so.

The situation for Holland in relation to Germany as it is observed from Washington, is growing more and more difficult and diplomats here will be surprised if the government does not take some action.

Seven Vessels Sunk. LONDON, Feb. 24.—Lloyd's announces that the crews of the following steamers were landed yesterday, their vessels having been torpedoed on Thursday: Zaandijk, Dutch, 4189 tons gross. Noordwijk, Dutch, 7156 tons gross.

Euland, Dutch, 2576 tons. Jacatra, Dutch, 5373 tons gross. Menado, Dutch, 5874 tons. Baudemont, Dutch, 5851 tons and the steamship Gasterland.

The destruction involves the loss of vessels and cargoes valued at \$11,600,000.

Four of the seven Dutch steamers were homeward bound with full cargoes. The attack took place in the western approaches to the English channel.

Crews Reach London. More than 200 men of various nationalities, members of the crews of the seven steamships sunk by German submarines, arrived in London today. The men were dressed in various odd pieces of clothing which they were able to gather up hastily before leaving their ships or which were provided for them subsequently. They were taken to the sailors' home where they were supplied with new equipment. They will be cared for until they find new berths.

About noon the officers and crews of the seven Dutch ships which had been torpedoed by German submarines were marshalled at the Dutch consulate, where they filed every available inch of space for a conference with H. S. J. Maas, the consul general of the Netherlands. The officers made affidavits as to the circumstances of the sinking of their boats while full versions given by the members of the crews were taken by a squad of Dutch stenographers.

FRENCH CAPTURE GERMAN POSITIONS

PARIS, Feb. 24.—The war office announces that a French detachment penetrated the German line in the Vosges north of Senones last night.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 24.—"Reconnaissance by small parties and the main infantry force are proceeding on the western Russian and Caucasian fronts."

BERLIN, Feb. 24.—The Germans yesterday abandoned parts of an advanced position in the Somme sector to the British. The war office announces, a French attack in the Champagne failed.

PRECIPITATION FOR PAST WEEK TOTALS 2 INCHES

Storm a General One and Predictions Are for Continued Rain—Gale Along Coast—Traffic Tied Up by Slides on Southern Pacific and Western Pacific Lines.

Two inches precipitation had been recorded at Medford Saturday noon as the total for the storm which began Sunday. It has rained or snowed every day of the week, the total snowfall measuring 12.4 inches in depth. Snow to a depth of several inches still covers the ground in the valley and quite heavy in the hills, though a gentle rain has fallen since morning. Predictions are for continued rains during the next week.

The storm is a general one all over the west. A heavy gale prevails along the coast. Much damage has been done to power and telegraph lines, and several times the wires have gone down. Saturday there was only spasmodic connection with the north and none with the north.

Weekly Predictions. WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday announced by the weather bureau today follow:

Pacific states: General rains are probable in Washington and Oregon and rains at the beginning of the week in California will be followed by fair weather there after Monday. Temperature near normal.

Gale Along Coast. SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Heavy winds, seas, and fog compelled today to delay coastwise shipping out of San Francisco. Southeast storm signals were flying from Santa Barbara to Eureka. Nearly a score of vessels postponed sailing temporarily. The wind off Point Reyes reached a velocity of 84 miles an hour last night, but was tempered to 72 miles early today.

Railroads Tied Up. SACRAMENTO, Feb. 24.—Traffic troops on both the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific lines due to slides and storm conditions were indicated today by reports received by local railroad officials. On the Southern Pacific line there are 136 inches of snow at Summit and a slide washed out 144 feet of main line trestles at Eder, between Summit and Truckee. Westbound passenger and freight trains are held at Sparks and eastbound traffic also will be held up for ten hours, it is estimated.

The snowfall at Summit and at Hiss Canyon where there are 72 inches, is considered phenomenal.

Western Pacific officials said there have been so many slides between Shasta and Pitkin that the exact number is not known. It is probable traffic will be suspended both ways for a time.

FIVE MILLIONS FROM AUTO LICENSES

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 24.—The business of the state motor vehicle department has almost doubled during the past two years, both as to number of automobiles registered and the amount of receipts, according to a report issued today by H. A. French, superintendent of the department. The report shows that the net receipts turned over to the state and counties for the benefit of roads during the past three years amounted to \$4,977,912.92 of which one-half went to the state and the rest was prorated among the counties.

The gross receipts of the department for 1916 were \$2,102.06 in which the counties shared to the extent of \$964,784 after the expense of operating the department had been deducted. In 1914 the receipts were only \$1,238,755.25, it is pointed out. There was an increase of 68.05 in the number of automobiles registered last year over the year previous.