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ARMED SHIPS TO FIRE ON SIGHT AT SUBMARINES

Mere Appearance of Periscope in Presence of Armed American Merchant Vessel Entitles That Ship to Take All Measures of Precaution That U-Boat's Purpose Is Hostile.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The mere appearance of a German submarine or its periscope in the presence of an American armed merchant vessel would entitle that ship, according to state department opinion today, to take all measures of protection on the presumption that the U-boat's purpose was hostile.

Under this ruling, an American armed merchant vessel could fire on a German submarine the moment it is sighted, without being considered as taking aggressive action. This view is based on Germany's declared intention to sink on sight within certain zones all vessels, neutral as well as belligerent, and whether passenger vessels, freighters or contraband carriers.

Presence Means Hostility.

The United States was said to stand flatly on its armed merchantmen warning of March 27, last, in which it definitely recognized the right to prevent capture as part of the "right of self-possession," which could be exercised either by flight or resistance.

The mere presence of a German submarine is declared ground for assuming hostile intent because of the deliberate statement by Germany that all vessels are to be sunk on sight. Denial by Germany of the old rule of visit and search makes all its U-boats actually hostile.

The consensus of opinion in diplomatic quarters was that the United States was nearer to war with Germany than at any time within its history.

Navy to Equip Ships.

Navy yards were ordered today to equip the vessels as fast as possible and the action will put the United States in the position of armed neutrality, the next step beyond the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany and possibly the preliminary of war. What ships are to be armed first and when they will sail, will be kept secret in order to avoid endangering the lives of Americans aboard them.

President Wilson issued the necessary orders yesterday in the belief that he has ample executive power without special authorization from congress. Simultaneously, however, he called congress to meet in special session April 16, to be in position to support him if necessary.

Prepare for Defense.

Preparations for defending American merchant vessels had already been taken by the government and actual work of equipping the vessels only awaited the navy department's approval of applications from ship owners. In the various navy yards along the Atlantic coast are stored guns, ammunition and other necessary equipment ready for installation.

In official circles today confidence was expressed that Secretary Daniels' appeal to newspapers not to seek nor publish specific news of the arming and sailings of American merchantmen would be observed. A similar appeal was made to telegraph and cable companies.

"The best news the readers can have," said the secretary, "is that the government will protect the rights of America to the freedom of the seas. The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life."

INTERNED OFFICERS SENTENCED TO PRISON

FLORENCE, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers of the steamship Liebenfels, sunk in Charleston harbor the night of January 31 last, today were sentenced to a year in the Atlanta federal penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$500 each. They were convicted yesterday of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream in violation of the navigation laws.

RAILROAD WINS SUIT TO FORCE ITS DISSOLUTION

Southern Pacific Does Not Have to Sell Its Control of Central Pacific According to Decision of Federal Court—No Evidence to Support Petition of Government.

NEW YORK, March 10.—The Southern Pacific company announced here today receipt of advice that the United States circuit court of appeals at St. Louis had rendered a decision in favor of the Southern Pacific in the suit of the government to compel the company to sell its control of the Central Pacific.

The opinion in the case was written by Judge Hook, it was said, Judge Sanborn concurring. Judge Curdin dissented.

Violated Sherman Law.

The suit was brought in February, 1914, the government alleging that the operation of the two roads under the same management resulted in a violation of the Sherman law and of what is known as the Pacific railroad law passed by congress in 1862, designed to provide continuous connected lines from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast with equal advantage to all other roads.

"Conditions complained of by the government had been in existence for over thirty years," said J. P. Blair, general counsel of the Southern Pacific, in commenting upon the decision. "The communities which would have been injured if a violation of the Sherman law was involved had never complained and testified that they were perfectly satisfied and the Union Pacific which would have been aggrieved if there should have been a violation of the Pacific railroad act had never complained and were perfectly satisfied."

No Evidence Offered.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 10.—States government in its suit to compel the Southern Pacific to sell its control in the Central Pacific railroad, sets forth that the two roads were operated on a continuous line and that all the requirements regarding trains, schedules, freight and passenger service had been met. As a result, the decision, a copy of which was received here today by Clerk John W. Christy of the federal court in this city from St. Louis, where the decision was made, states there is no evidence to support the petition of the government. The decision was not a unanimous one, Judge C. C. Carland dissenting. The decision of Judge Carland is to the effect that the supreme court of the United States had decided a similar case, to wit: The Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific, thereby preventing a merger.

SWINDLED GERMANS WITH MONEY MACHINE

NEW YORK, March 10.—Max Wex, a native of Hamburg, is under arrest here charged with swindling Germans in different parts of the country by means of a machine said to be capable of reproducing paper currency. The police say they have complaints from Germans in New York, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago and other places.

Frank Sternberg of this city told the police that Wex assured him that he had been sent out by the German government on a mission to entangle the currency in this country so that there would be more paper money in circulation than there was gold to secure it.

PRESIDENT RECOVERS FROM SEVERE COLD

WASHINGTON, March 10.—President Wilson practically had recovered today from the cold which has kept him in bed for the last four days. While he remained in his room this morning it was expected he would be able to attend to public business. He had no engagements today.

BRITISH POOR GATHER COAL IN BAGS AND GO-CARTS



The picture shows the difficulty in England in getting coal for the home. Poor and rich alike are forced to carry their own coal, the rich in automobiles, the poor in bags and go-carts. This picture was taken at Battersea.

PEACE ADVOCATES ORGANIZE TO AVERT WAR WITH GERMANY

NEW YORK, March 10.—The Emergency Peace federation began an organized campaign today to keep the United States out of war with Germany. Prominent pacifists have been summoned here to direct the movement. More than \$4000 has been raised to meet the cost. The money was subscribed last night at a mass meeting. Mrs. J. Sergeant Cram, headed the list of pledges with \$1000. Resolutions were adopted declaring that the country could not allow itself to be drawn into the war nor enter upon relations of "veiled hostilities likely to lead to war."

The resolution advocated the appointment of a "joint high commission" to endeavor to settle the questions at issue between this country and Germany and urged President Wilson to summon all the great powers to discuss plans for peace.

A message from William J. Bryan, read at the meeting stated Mr. Bryan's opinion that "an overwhelming majority" of the American people favor keeping Americans off belligerent ships and would exclude arms and ammunition from all American and neutral ships carrying passengers between the United States and Europe." Mr. Bryan said he did not believe the government should arm vessels carrying munitions.

COLBY'S COMPLAINT IS ORDERED CUT

Judge Calkins of the circuit court Friday afternoon handed down a decision on the motion to strike out portions of the complaint filed in the case of Charles D. Colby vs. the City of Medford, the suit to test the validity of the Hanson plan and the right of the city to sell bonds under that plan.

The motion to strike out was filed by city attorney Fred Mears, so that the complaint filed by Colby, all but the main issues so that in event the case is carried to the supreme court the amount of matter to be handled will be kept down to the minimum.

The decision of Judge Calkins eliminates about ten of the allegations from the complaint and parts of others, reducing the complaint about five pages.

B. K. McCabe, attorney for the plaintiff will file an amended complaint the first of next week which will be answered by Mears later in the week.

OCCASIONAL RAINS FOR COMING WEEK

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday, March 11, issued by the weather bureau today, are:

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP STORSTAD IS SUNK BY U-BOAT

LONDON, March 10.—Official information was received here today to the effect that the Norwegian steamer Storstad, a Belgian relief ship, which had one American citizen on board, had been sunk by a submarine.

The steamer Storstad was a Belgian relief ship which was bringing a cargo of wheat from Buenos Ayres. On entering the submarine zone the ship is reported to have been ordered to put into Las Palmas, Canary Islands, as she was without a German safe conduct but evidently her commander determined to risk continuation of the voyage by the northerly route. The steamer, 6928 tons gross, sailed from Buenos Ayres on January 13.

Twenty-seven members of the crew including the American, have been landed. One member of the crew died from exposure and others are missing. It is stated officially that the Storstad was flying the flag of the American commission for relief in Belgium and bore the marks designated for the relief ships.

The London office of the commission states that the Storstad carried 10,000 tons of maize, which was needed badly in Belgium, where the shortage as a result of the detention of grain cargoes will soon be felt severely.

The Storstad was ordered to leave Las Palmas on February 26. She took on coal at Gibraltar and her master was instructed to proceed to Rotterdam by the northerly route.

RUSSIAN TROOPS ATTACK GERMANS IN THE CHAMPAGNE

BERLIN, March 10.—Russian troops in the Champagne attacked the German lines near Proseaux yesterday. Today's war office announcement says the Russians penetrated German trenches at some points but were subsequently driven out. South of Ripont in the Champagne new fighting developed without important result. The French failed in an attack on the Verdun front.

The statement reads: "Western front: South of the Aves the French attacked portions of our trenches near Laucourt and south of Crapeaumesnil. They were defeated in hand to hand fighting. Twelve prisoners remained in our hands."

"East of Rheims our raiding detachments brought back 14 men from the hostile lines. In the western Champagne, on both sides of Proseaux, Russians led by French officers advanced against our positions. The detachments which entered in some places were driven off by a counter attack."

"South of Ripont, west of Champagne Fe, which has several times change in the situation. Fifty-five developed which led to no important change in the situation. Fifty-five prisoners were retained there."

BRITISH WITHIN 6 MILES OF BAGDAD SLAVS TAKE BIJAR

LONDON, March 10.—The British troops in Mesopotamia on Thursday were engaging Turkish forces which were holding the Djalra river line, six miles below Bagdad, in some strength it was announced officially.

PETROGRAD, March 10.—An official statement issued today on the operations in western Persia says: "In the direction of Bizar the Russians took the town of Senen and the Turkish positions in the vicinity."

PARIS, March 10.—Violent fighting occurred in the Champagne last night in consequence of a German attempt to recapture the ground won by the French between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne. Today's official statement says that after several desperate charges had been made with alternate advances and retreats the French succeeded in holding all the ground they had gained and in making fresh progress.

On the Verdun front the Germans attacked the trenches recaptured by the French north of Caucieres wood. They penetrated these positions at some points but were ejected by a counter attack.

The French continued their raids, penetrating the German positions east of Armancourt as far as the third trenches and taking prisoners near Courcy, northeast of Soissons.

AUSTRIA GRANTS ALBANIA AUTONOMY TO JUSTIFY LEVY

LONDON, March 10.—Official announcement was made here today that Austria Hungary has issued a proclamation to the Albanians stating that it has granted autonomy to Albania under its protectorate. Influential Albanians have published from Saliki, the statement says, a protest saying the Austrian proclamation unless because it is directed toward a country, which already independent, has declared war on the enemies of the entente.

The purpose of the Vienna government in issuing this proclamation, the statement says, is obviously to justify the levy of men for its armies.

After the occupation of Serbia and Montenegro by troops of the central over with the exception of the section in the south below Avlona which is still held by the Italians, Essad Pasha, provisional president of Albania, served with the Turkish army early in the war, but later left it and declared war on the central powers.

WHITE STAR LINER ADRIATIC ARRIVES

NEW YORK, March 10.—The White Star line steamship Adriatic from Liverpool, will arrive at quarantine this afternoon, according to a wireless message received from the captain.

DEFENDANTS IN POISON PLOT ASK TRIAL BY ORDEAL

Mohammedan Lawyer Defending Women Accused of Having Conspired to Poison Lloyd-George—Asks Defendants Be Permitted to Walk Over Hot Plow Shares.

LONDON, March 10.—Mrs. Alice Wheelton, her daughter, Mrs. Winifred Mason, and the latter's husband, Alfred George Mason, were found guilty today of conspiracy to murder Premier Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson, member of the war council. Miss Harriet Ann Wheelton, another daughter of Mrs. Wheelton, who also was tried on the same charge was acquitted.

Mrs. Wheelton was sentenced to 10 years penal servitude. A sentence of seven years was imposed upon Alfred Mason, while his wife was given five years penal servitude.

LONDON, March 10.—In an eloquent and vigorous speech today in summing up the case of the four prisoners on trial charged with conspiring to murder Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson, member of the council, S. H. Riza, the Mohammedan lawyer who is acting as attorney for the defendants, startled the courtroom by suggesting a trial by ordeal. He referred to the medieval form of judicial trial in which in place of evidence, supernatural aid is invoked, as in a test by fire, water, poison or other agencies.

Attorney Riza had been endeavoring to impress the jury with the alleged sinister significance of the failure of the crown to produce a certain witness against the four defendants, Mrs. Alice Wheelton, her two daughters and Alfred George Mason, husband of one of the daughters. This person he said was a "man who should have been its principal witness, namely the mysterious secret government agent known as Gordon."

Lured on By Spy.

The attorney declared the man was a police spy who had started the whole plot, who had lured the defendants on and then when he had got them well within his net had handed them over to another agent named Booth, so that his own connection with the case would not be so flagrantly apparent.

"Why wasn't it possible for Gordon to come into court and face the jury?" asked the lawyer. "Because from him," he continued, "the jury would have drawn a very different version of the case. The case rests wholly on the evidence of Booth, who moreover, was allowed to read the whole of his evidence, in the absence of this mysterious Gordon this trial is not a trial."

"Before the jury commits the defendants it should insist on the production of Gordon in the interests of the public and the safety of the country."

Then after a long and impressive pause Attorney Riza suddenly said: "Asks Trial by Ordeal."

"In the absence of Gordon I would suggest that the defendants should have a trial by ordeal."

The judge was puzzled and said: "I fear that would be impossible. It has been abolished. Do you seriously suggest the ladies should walk over hot plowshares in order to prove their innocence?"

Riza: "I do."

The judge: "It is no use submitting such a suggestion. You are not serious."

Riza: "I do seriously suggest it."

FINISHED STEEL PRICES ADVANCED

PITTSBURGH, March 10.—Compilation today of the advances in the price of finished steel as announced by Pittsburg mills the last few days show the following increases: Merchant bars \$7 a ton to \$3.33 per hundred pounds; structural iron \$7 per ton to \$3.69 per hundred pounds and plates \$15 to \$4.50 per hundred pounds. Light rails were advanced \$5 a ton. The market, authorities declare, is sold to the limit, with the exception, of course, of government requirements.

GILL POCKETED BRIBE WITHOUT A 'THANK YOU'

Billingsley Never Took a Receipt or Gave Marked Money—Planned to Pay \$7,500, But When Mayor Was Satisfied With Less, Let It Go—Loaned Sheriff \$500.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 10.—"Mayor Gill didn't even say 'thank you.' He just picked up the \$4,000 roll of bills like a box of matches," testified Logan Billingsley, chief witness for the United States government in the so-called liquor graft trials when he was cross-examined this morning concerning his alleged payment on August 30, last, to Mayor Hiram C. Gill for protection of Billingsley's liquor bill.

Mayor Gill, Chief of Police Charles L. Beekingham, former Sheriff Robert T. Hodge and City Detectives Peyer, Poolman, Doon and McLennan are on trial in the United States district court, charged with conspiracy to violate the federal laws by importing liquor into the state of Washington.

In answer to questions by counsel for the defense Billingsley said:

"The mayor started to put the roll, which was half as thick as a man's ankle, into his pants pocket, but changed his mind and placed it in his side coat pocket. The Mayor then left the office of the chief of police, where the money had been paid. I didn't want him to stay; I wanted to go, too."

Counsel for Gill asked him how he came to pass the money to Gill on such short acquaintance—Billingsley having sworn that he had never met Gill until the day of the bribery. The witness replied: "I'm a pretty good authority on how to give a man money; I have had a good deal of experience; I have paid a lot of money."

"Didn't you ask the mayor for a receipt?" asked Gill's counsel.

"I have never taken or given a receipt in matters of this kind," replied Billingsley.

"Was the money marked?"

"I never gave an officer or an official marked money in my life," replied the witness with emphasis.

Willing to Pay \$7500.

The witness was asked how he came to offer \$4,000 to Gill. He replied: "I was willing to pay him \$7,500. My attorney advised me to offer \$7,500. My brothers wanted me to offer \$7,500, and I had that sum ready. It is bad policy to offer a man less than he will take. I did not regard Gill as a cheap man, but I took a chance with \$4,000 and the mayor accepted. I felt well pleased with the deal I had made."

Counsel for Hodge questioned Billingsley concerning the contribution of \$1,000 Billingsley swore on direct examination he had made toward Hodge's campaign fund, and the loan of \$500 he had made to Hodge. Billingsley replied: "I made the contribution to the campaign fund as all contributors to campaign funds make their contributions—as an investment. I asked friends about Hodge's chances of getting the republican nomination for governor, and they told me the chances were good, and I gave \$1,000 to the fund, voluntarily. I loaned \$500 to Hodge, which I suppose he used in his campaign. He told me he was hard up. Hodge and I never discussed my business, and there was no suggestion or agreement that he was to help me in my business. I have met Hodge only two or three times. The sheriff's office has little to do with the liquor business here, there being only five or six deputy sheriffs in Seattle."

UNFILLED STEEL ORDERS BREAK RECORDS

NEW YORK, March 10.—The unfilled orders of the United States Steel corporation February 28 were 11,570,597 tons, breaking all previous records. The figures showed an increase of 102,643 tons over the report for January 31, last. The previous high record was that for December 31, 1916, when the unfilled orders stood at 11,547,286 tons.