



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-sixth Year.
Daily—Eleventh Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1917.

NO. 307

UNITED STATES IS VIRTUALLY IN STATE OF WAR

Cabinet Meeting Considers Situation While Speeding Program of Preparedness. President to Issue Statement—Trans-Atlantic Lanes to Be Cleared of Submarines.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Without waiting for the proclamation President Wilson is expected to issue today or tomorrow that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany, the government today prepared definitely for forceful action to clear the trans-Atlantic steamship lanes of German submarines and to protect the coast.

As the cabinet convened the sentiment was generally expressed that the United States is virtually in a state of war.

The statement was made that the president and cabinet discussed every phase of the situation.

The most general opinion in administration quarters was that there was no likelihood of a declaration of war against Germany, although the probability appeared to be for a formal recognition that a state of war exists because of Germany's acts against the United States.

Cabinet is Silent.

When the cabinet adjourned after a two-hour meeting none of the members would make any statement. Secretary Daniels would only say there had been no new orders to the navy. Informally intimations were given that some announcement from the white house might be expected tonight or tomorrow.

The impression grew that the president had determined to hasten the convening of congress, already called to meet in extra session April 16.

As soon as he returned to his office from the cabinet meeting Secretary Daniels went into conference with the navy general board. It was not revealed whether the session was the result of any new decision reached by the president and his cabinet.

No Forecast Made.

As has been the case since all official Washington acknowledged that a state of war practically exists between the United States and Germany, there is a wide range of speculation on the precise action President Wilson had finally decided upon is no official ground for any forecast.

Calling of congress in an extra session before April 16, the day first chosen for its assembly, still continues foremost among the probabilities but there are no indications that President Wilson had finally decided upon it. On the other hand there were some indications that the date of the session would not be advanced.

Preparations for carrying out the policy of armed neutrality to its fullest degree are being hurried in the navy department. The possibilities of their execution range even to active co-operation at sea with the British and French fleets to clean submarines out of the shipping lanes.

Making War on U. S.

It was learned definitely before the cabinet meeting that the president while considering deliberately all phases of the situation, had not finally made up his mind on any forward step beyond the active preparation of the navy for any eventuality.

For the present, President Wilson is taking the position that at all

(Continued on Page Four)

MURGUIA THREATENS TO QUIT COMMAND

EL PASO, Tex., March 20.—An American arriving from Chihuahua City today brought a report that General Francisco Murguia, commander in chief of the de facto troops in the north had sent a message to General Carranza requesting money with which to pay his troops and munitions with which to conduct his campaign against Villa, threatening to resign unless the request was met at once. The report was in general circulation in Chihuahua City, the American said, but could not be confirmed.

GERMANS LEAVE PERONNE SCENE OF DESOLATION

Vandalism of Retreating Huns Shown in Deliberate Destruction of Avenues of Shade Trees, Chopping of Fruit Trees, Dynamiting of Residences, Destruction of Cathedrals.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 20.—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press.)—The deliberate character of the destruction wrought by the Germans before their withdrawal from Peronne is painfully evident in the once beautiful avenue of trees leading to the railway station. These trees were untouched by shell fire, but each one was hacked in two with axes and the gashes and chips show that the work was done within the last few days. The beautiful gardens of the outlying houses were also wrecked and every fruit tree within several miles of the town was sawed two-thirds of the way through and then broken down.

Scores of Ruined Villages.

The correspondent of the Associated Press was among the first visitors to Peronne in the wake of the English troops who have now swept well beyond that place. It was necessary to pass through a score of ruined villages which only a few days ago were within the zone of intense artillery fire, before reaching the banks of the Somme. Crossing that stream on an improvised bridge and trudging through Halle, Peronne was reached over a road which had been constructed within twenty four hours over succeeding rows of German trenches and through recurring masses of rusted barbed wire, some of these being at least six feet in height and fifty feet in width.

In the outskirts of the city English Tommies were encountered wearing German "pickle" helmets and grinning from ear to ear in the great square of Peronne, which is surrounded by melancholy ruins, was the British lieutenant who led the first patrol into the city. He was mounted on a splendid little German pony which he had captured with its full equipment. Several other officers arrived during the morning and begged for the privilege of taking a canter about the place on board this prize of war.

Ghostly Silence.

There was a ghostly silence in most sections of the city. No sound of war was to be heard except once when a prying German airplane scudded over the shelter of high clouds and anti-aircraft guns opened, driving him to quick retreat.

British officers pointed out buildings after buildings where apparently the total damage had resulted from interior explosions. In many cases

(Continued on Page Four.)

RUSSIAN ARMY AND NAVY SIDE WITH REVOLUTION

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Complete co-operation of both the Russian army and navy with the new revolutionary government was reported today by Ambassador Francis to the state department. The ambassador stated he had received his information from official sources and confirmed it to his own satisfaction unofficially. The fact that he mentions no disorders leads officials to believe that good order prevails.

The question of the recognition of the new government by the United States is becoming increasingly important. Officials say the receipt by the state department from the Russian ambassador of Foreign Minister Mikoff's statement to the world does not constitute such recognition, nor will such action by England, France and Russia's other allies hasten the decision of the United States. It is possible, however, that action may be taken shortly and that even if it is not, congress may pass resolutions felicitating the new government, after it convenes April 16.

FRENCH PREMIER OUT OF CABINET



ARISTIDE BRIAND

Disagreement over the policy of Premier Briand of France has overthrown the ministry and resulted in the formation of a new cabinet in which Briand declined a place.

FRENCH CABINET FORMED FROM ALL POLITICAL FACTIONS

PARIS, March 20.—The ministerial crisis was so completely overshadowed by other events that there has been little comment on the new cabinet. It was well enough received and is considered adequate for the task but probably never before did a political event of such importance leave the public so indifferent.

Alexandre Ribot, in setting up the cabinet in 48 hours, is understood to have beaten all speed records and his task was not an easy one for the list was changed many times before it became permanent. Many persons appointed by him refused while others accepted at first, but later withdrew.

All sections of republican opinion is represented in the new cabinet. Premier Ribot belongs to the republican union; Albert Thomas, the minister of munitions, to the unified socialist group; Rene Viviani, the minister of justice; Professor Paul Painleve, the minister of war, and Maurice Violette, the minister of subsistence, to the socialist representatives; Louis Malvey, minister of interior; Jules Steeg, minister of public instruction; Ferdinand David, the minister of agriculture; Leon Bourgeois, the minister of labor, and Daniel Vincent, under secretary of aviation, belong to the group of radicals and socialist radicals, while Andre Maginot, the minister of the colonies, belongs to the republican left, and Joseph Thierry, minister of finance, to the democratic left. All have been in office before except Georges Desplas, who is one of the Paris deputies; Maurice Violette, a deputy for the department of Eure-et-Loir, and Daniel Vincent, a deputy for the department of Du Nord.

PORTLAND PUPILS UNDER NOURISHED

PORTLAND, Ore., March 20.—Approximately 25 per cent of the pupils of Portland schools are under-fed and under-nourished as the result of parental neglect or poverty, according to a report made public here today by Dr. Edna Sherrill, city board of health inspector. Parent-teacher associations are planning to establish milk depots in various schools to remedy affairs.

NO LIVES LOST ON STEAMER MEMPHIS

NEW YORK, March 20.—No lives were lost in the sinking of the American steamship City of Memphis in the German submarine zone. The boat which was missing containing Captain Borum and seven men has reached Glasgow safely, according to a dispatch received here from the captain today by the owners, the Ocean Steamship company.

WILSON SPURNS PEACE PROPOSAL FROM MEXICO

Note to General Carranza Declines His Suggestion for Neutral Action to Bring Peace to Europe by Cutting Off Exports—Calls Attention to Conspiracy.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The note to General Carranza, declining his proposal for neutral action to bring peace to Europe by cutting off exports of supplies to belligerents was made public today at the state department.

The refusal was based, first on the apparent hopelessness of peace at the present time as shown in the faculty of President Wilson's efforts and Germany's attempts to embroil Mexico and Japan in war with this country and in the belief that any restriction of commerce with the belligerents would in effect be an unequal discrimination.

Nevertheless, the note concludes, "the president would not be understood as desiring to impede the progress of a movement leading to the resumption of peaceful relations between all the belligerents and would not, therefore, wish the Mexican government to feel that his inability to act in the present state of affairs should in any way militate against the attainment of the high ideals of General Carranza by the co-operation of other neutral governments in the use of their good offices and friendly mediation to bring about the end of the terrible war."

Plot is Mentioned.

The note mentions the "careful and sympathetic consideration" which the United States has given to the proposal, refers to the new vigor of the warfare and goes on to say:

"To render the situation still more acute, the government of the United States has unearthed a plot made by the government dominating the central powers, to embroil not only the government and people of Mexico, but also the government and people of Japan in war with the United States. At the time the plot was conceived the United States was at peace with the government and people of the German empire and German officials and German subjects were not only enjoying but abusing the liberties and privileges freely accorded them on American soil and under American protection."

Proposal Declined.

The note then takes up the proposal to cut off commercial relations with the belligerent nations and refers to the American note to Austria-Hungary to show the policy of this government in declining to stop munitions shipments.

"Believing that this position of the United States is based upon sound international law," the conclusion says: "and is consonant with the established practice of nations, the president cannot bring himself to consider such a modification of these principles or of this practice in compliance with General Carranza's proposal to suspend commercial relations with the warring nations would entail."

FRENCH WARSHIP OF 18,000 TONS SUNK BY U-BOAT

BERLIN, March 20.—A French battleship of the Danton class was sunk by a German submarine in the Mediterranean yesterday, the admiralty announced today.

The admiralty statement reads: "A German submarine commanded by Lieutenant Captain Morait, on March 19 in the western Mediterranean, sank a large French battleship of the Danton class, protected by destroyers.

"The battleship was running a zig zag course. Immediately after being hit she listed heavily and capsized forty minutes later."

Warships of the Danton class displace 18,020 tons. The complement consists of 681 officers and men.

CHINA CONFISCATES GERMAN CONCESSIONS



LI YUAN-HUNG

Li-Yuan-Hung, president of China, who has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, seized interned ships and confiscated German concessions in China.

POWER TO AVERT STRIKES CONFERRED BY ADAMSON BILL

NEW YORK, March 20.—Full power of the government through congress to prevent railroad strikes, in the opinion of the railroad officials as expressed here today, is the country's chief gain from the decision by the United States supreme court yesterday upholding the Adamson act.

The brotherhood chiefs and a sub-committee of the managers conferred today to work out the general principles by which existing pay contracts on the various railroads may be made to conform to the agreement reached here which averted a strike and to the Adamson act.

The actual labor of effecting detailed changes in pay schedules will be done in conferences between the individual managers of roads and the general chairman of the four brotherhoods on these roads. With some 200 roads represented in the recent controversy approximately 800 forms of contracts will have to be revised so that 250,000 employees in freight service may receive increases averaging \$240 yearly, or a total of \$60,000,000 yearly as estimated by railroad heads.

SUBMARINES SINK BRITISH STEAMER

ST. JOHN, N. B., March 20.—Sinking of the British steamer Bray Head by a German submarine March 14, was announced today by the owners of the vessel at Belfast, Ireland. Captain Hoy and seventeen members of the crew, the message said, were missing.

NEW YORK, March 20.—The Bray Head registered 3,977 gross tons, and was 330 feet long. She was built at New Castle in 1908.

Agents were advised that Chief Officer McCartney and sixteen of the crew were landed and that two of these had died of exposure. Nothing was known regarding the fate of Captain Hoy and the others. The Bray Head, owned by the Ulster Steamship company, Ltd., of Belfast, sailed from here for that port March 1 with a heavy cargo.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE HOLDS FIRST SESSION

LONDON, March 20.—The British imperial conference was inaugurated today. For the first time the colonial statesmen sat with the members of the British government around a table in the council room at Premier Lloyd George's official residence.

NICHOLAS WEPT WHEN INFORMED OF THRONE LOSS

Czar Taken by Surprise, Rejects Plan of Appeal to Germans—Wishes to go to Livadia to Work Among His Flowers—Pitiable Exhibition of Weakness by Ruler.

PETROGRAD, Mar. 20.—The history of the last hour of Emperor Nicholas as ruler of Russia is related by a correspondent of the Outro Rossii of Moscow as follows:

Two trains arrived at the station at Vishera (on the Moscow-Petrograd railroad) 125 miles southeast of Petrograd) on the night of March 14. One train carried the emperor's suite the second the emperor, General Baron Fredericks, minister of the imperial house, and Admiral Niloff, General Zabel and others. Nicholas, called from headquarters by the empress, was on the way to the Tsarsko-Selo.

Emperor Notified

Commander Voyekoff of the imperial train entered with a telegram stating that 700 of the St. George cavalry were on the way to Tsarsko-Selo to present a cross to the emperor and had arrived at the nearby station of Dno, headed by General Ivanoff.

"Your majesty," said Voyekoff, "it is enough that you appear at the Tsarsko-Selo in the midst of these heroes and with the Esarakoe-Selo garrison go to the duma. All the troops will remember their oath. It will be easy to overcome these young soldiers."

"It is a lie your majesty," shouted General Zabel. "You are deceived. Read these telegrams. Here is the order: 'To the imperial train at Vishera: Do not send the train to Tsarsko-Selo, but to Petrograd.'"

The emperor arose and exclaimed: "What does this mean? Is it revolution? Is Grekoff (who signed the order to divert the train) commander in Petrograd?"

Declared Dethroned.

Then General Zabel spoke out, saying: "There are 60,000 troops, with officers, backing the temporary government. Your majesty has been declared dethroned. It is impossible to go further."

Nicholas, completely non-plussed, exclaimed: "Why was I not told before? Why tell me now when all is finished?"

After a moment he added with a gesture of helplessness: "Let it be so. Thank God. I will abdicate if that is what the people want. I will go to Livadia (the estate of the Russian Imperial family on the south coast of Crimea) to my garden. I am so fond of flowers." The train

(Continued on Page Four.)

ENLIST WOMEN IN NAVY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Secretary Daniels today ordered naval commandants at shore stations and all recruiting officers to be prepared to enlist women in the actual naval service, in case of an emergency.

The judge advocate general has ruled that women can be enlisted under the laws regulating recruiting.

While it is not intended to place women aboard ships, they may be utilized for shore duty in connection with the commissary department.

They may qualify as stenographers, clerks, typists or similar positions. Another grade of work for which they may be designated is that of radio telegraphy and other communications divisions.

WILD WEATHER SLOWS PACE OF ALLIED ADVANCE

German Retreat Continues With British and French Maintaining Contact with Germans—Patrols Everywhere Active East of New Lines—No Heavy Fighting.

LONDON, March 20.—Telegraphing from the British headquarters in France, Reuter's correspondent says:

"The pace of the German retreat seems to have slowed down considerably during the past 24 hours, a fact for which the very wild weather may well be responsible. A violent gale has been roaring over northern France and is still very heavy.

"Many rain squalls have swept over the battle area but these have not sufficed to render the ground bad and there is a keen drying edge in the wind. Notwithstanding the tempestuous weather, however, our troops have made considerable progress. Followed roughly from the south of Arras, our front now runs through or on the edge of the following places:

New British Line.

"Beaurains, Mercatel, Boiry-Becquerelle, Boyelles, St. Leger, Vaulx-Vraucourt, Beugny, Haplincourt, Bastro, Bus, Lechelle, Etricourt, Moislains, Peronne, Dolmit, St. Christ, Voyennes and Canisy, to the neighborhood of Ham on the eastward bend of the Somme.

"Our cavalry and infantry patrols are everywhere active east of this line. We hold the line of the Somme in strength from Peronne southward to Canisy. Our reconnaissance patrols are active as far east as Mont-en-Chausse. In several sectors between Bapaume and Arras our cavalry maintained their touch with the enemy all yesterday. There was a good deal of skirmishing, but no heavy fighting."

French Still Pursue.

PARIS, March 20.—The war office announces that the French are still maintaining contact with the Germans along the section of the front over which the retirement is taking place but that the advance has become more difficult by reason of the destruction of all means of communication and on account of bad weather.

German attacks at Avocourt wood and Hill 304 on the Verdun front were repulsed. Serious loss was inflicted on the Germans.

Engagements Reported.

BERLIN, March 20.—There were several engagements of infantry and cavalry detachments yesterday between British and German forces in the territory on both sides of the river Somme and the River Oise, abandoned by the Germans, according to the official statement issued today by the army headquarters staff. The French yesterday and last night directed violent attacks against the German positions on the left bank of the Meuse, the statement adds, but everywhere they were repulsed.

ENTENTE ENVOYS RETURN TO ATHENS

LONDON, March 20.—The ministers to Greece of the entente nations have again taken up their residence in Athens, Reuter's correspondent there reports. The discharge of a cargo of wheat destined for Piraeus begins today.

The admission of wheat to Greece indicates the lifting of the blockade which has been in effect for several weeks. The Greek government has made repeated representations that widespread suffering was being caused by the shutting off of food supplies to which the entente responded that the blockade would be lifted when Greece had complied fully with its demands. The most important of these demands were the transfer of the army to lower Greece and the disbanding of the reservists, for the purpose of removing the possibility of an attack by Greek troops on the rear of the allied forces in Macedonia.