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NO UNWARNED ATTACKS TO BE MADE ON LINERS

Ambassador Bernstorff Today Gave These Assurances Cabinet Session—Administration Awaits Receipt Evidence to Support German Claims That F and Ordered Merchantships to Ram Submarines—Course Now Depends On What Develops

Washington, Feb. 29.—American citizens are in little immediate danger from the Teuton submarine campaign against armed merchantmen, starting tomorrow, officials agreed today. Formulation of the American policy toward the new situation, however, awaits receipt of German evidence to support the Berlin claim that England had issued secret orders to attack submarines.

Assurances of Ambassador Von Bernstorff that Germany will not make unwarned attacks against liners was presented to today's cabinet session.

But, it was indicated that the administration will neither respond to the latest German word nor frame a new policy until the German orders come here. Meantime, it is assured that the administration will find a way to keep Americans out of the danger zone. Without surrendering or abridging the American right to travel without harm, this government is not prepared to insist that citizens may travel on ships that have been ordered to act on the offensive.

The administration desires to recognize public and congressional sentiment which opposes a break with the central powers, but at the same time is anxious to maintain every right accorded to a neutral, under international law. In these circumstances, the government is prepared to announce the danger of traveling on offensively armed ships, should the state department decide that the promised evidence proves Germany's contentions as to the character of armament.

But until this alleged proof arrives the administration is not planning any further move with either the entente or central allies unless Americans are endangered or injured.

Secretary of State Lansing conferred with President Wilson at 10 o'clock over the latest Berlin communication.

Before entering the conference at the White House Lansing was asked if the facts warranted the optimism of morning paper reports of the situation. He replied that these reports were unjustified, and that he probably would issue a statement about it during the day.

Lansing was impatient with certain statements, accredited to the state department, indicating that the German negotiations had reached a satisfactory point.

"I have not commented nor given an opinion about the matter, he said in a formal statement. 'Any statement of the department's views is absolutely unauthorized.'"

His statement was provoked by morning paper publication of what purported to be a paraphrase of the latest German memorandum.

The cabinet debated whether Americans could be warned from armed ships without abridging American rights, but reached no conclusion.

The state department had no knowledge of the reported seizure at Falkmouth of the additional German information to prove England's alleged orders. Even if this has been confirmed, the state department would accept a declaration from Ambassador Gerard that he has seen the evidence, as basis for assuming that Americans traveling on ships armed under these orders could not expect the protection of this government.

Disregarding the administration's desire that there be no congressional discussion of the international situation, Representative Mondell, Wyoming republican, today criticized the president's refusal to Americans off armed ships.

"President Wilson strikes a pose of mock heroism," he declared. "When did it become so sacred an American right to ride on an armed ship?"

Text of German Memorandum.

Washington, Feb. 29.—The text of the memorandum, given the state department by Ambassador Von Bernstorff, and obtained by the United Press today, follows:

"The imperial German government reiterates the pledges given September 1 and October 15, 1915, and it does not consider that these assurances have been modified by subsequent events. Negotiations conducted between the German and American governments over the Lusitania incident have never referred to armed merchantmen.

"On the contrary, the American note of May 13 spoke expressly of unarmed vessels. Furthermore, the formula agreed upon by both governments on September 1 contained the proviso that they should not offer resistance. The presence of armament aboard merchantmen creates the presumption that they intend to offer resistance." A submarine commander cannot possibly warn an enemy liner if the latter has the right to fire on the submarine. It is obvious that such resistance cannot be the meaning of 'armed for defensive purposes' even if universally recognized that defensive armament is permitted by international law.

"The United States adopted this point of view when it requested the Italian ambassador to give assurances that the armed Italian liner Vedid Vesona, which entered New York, would not fire on submarines when warned.

"The imperial German government issued its new orders after having seen by secret orders of the British admiral, that the armament of British ships is to be used for attack and that these ships are not merely peaceful traders armed only for defense. British liners have furthermore on several occasions attacked German or Austro-Hungarian submarines. They do not conform with assurances given by the British government in the Washington ambassador's note of August 25, 1914, and they cannot be regarded as peaceful traders.

Ptomaine Rather Than Poison Caused Sickness

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Ptomaine, rather than other poison, is believed today to have been responsible for the illness of several Methodist ministers and their wives at a recent banquet here, news of which leaked out today.

One of the guests attributed their ailment to infected ice cream. None of the aces were serious.

The possibility that a plot similar to poisoning of Archbishop Mundelein and others at Chicago recently was attempted, was not overlooked, however. While the case had not been called at once to the attention of the police, it was believed that authorities would make a secret investigation to ascertain if poison was administered in the food.

TURKS EVACUATING TREBIZON SECTION

Russians Sweeping All Before Them—Now Nearing Armenian City

Petrograd, Feb. 29.—The Turks are hastily evacuating Trebizond and neighboring cities before the Russian advance, according to Tiflis dispatches today.

The movement of one Russian force westward along the Black sea shore, through Rish, and another northward from Erzerum, forced the evacuation.

Saturday's official statement said the Russians were within 30 miles of the city.

Trebizond is a seaport of Asiatic Turkey on the eastern part of the Black sea coast, 120 miles northwest of Erzerum. It is perched on a plateau-like height, with rocky slopes on two sides. Walls and a castle of the middle ages flank it.

Several days ago, it was reported that the Christian population which lived outside the walls, had fled hurriedly.

The drive for Trebizond followed the Russian capture of Erzerum.

Stock Market Firm Prices Remain Steady

(Copyrighted 1915 by the New York Evening Post.)
New York, Feb. 29.—The stock market opened today with a number of particularly sharp recoveries, and in the early trading many issues went even higher than at the outset. Meantime, the influence of the news from the western front is unclear, though the probability is that with conflicting versions of the fighting there, the market has suspended judgment.

Various temporary successful attacks on the market were based on a feeling of perplexity and nervous uncertainty that is bound to accompany such a prolonged and critical military engagement. On the whole, prices showed a tendency to firmness despite a great irregularity in the later hours.

MANY LINERS IN WAR ZONE

New York, Feb. 29.—While Germany's new submarine campaign against armed merchantmen is only a few hours distant, eight liners, carrying several hundred passengers for American ports, are believed to be in the region of the war zone. Two armed Italian ships in port here will be subject to attack, while other armed Italian vessels either are in the Mediterranean or are preparing to leave Italy.

Several Scandinavian ships are scheduled to enter the war zone within a few days. The liner Baltic, due to leave Liverpool tomorrow, may be detained.

Josephine Swallowed Bottle Full of Germs

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Miss Josephine Miller, a senior at the University of California, is full of typhoid germs, she swallowed them while making a test in the bacteriology department.

What is going to happen to her is arousing all sorts of interest in the college. Physicians say there is no preventative except to keep the body well nourished. Not until Saturday will she know whether she will prove harmful and all her friends are waiting patiently until that time. She was conducting a test when she inhaled too deeply in a "pipette" and swallowed the germs.

Commission Form Lost In Aberdeen

Aberdeen, Wash., Feb. 29.—For the second time, commission form of government failed to carry in Aberdeen yesterday. Figures today showed that it was defeated by a two to one vote. Socialists voted solidly against it.

Prohibitionists are said to have voted against it because of the circulated reports that the commission government would permit the operation of "blind pigs."

FRENCH CRUISER PROVENCE SINKS 1000 MEN PERISH

Cause of Disaster Not Stated
But Thought To Be Sub-
marine's Work

WAS 18,000 TON VESSEL
ONCE ON NEW YORK RUN

Was Probably Carrying
Troops Between Salonika,
Malta and Melos

Paris, Feb. 29.—More than 1,000 men are believed to have perished when the French auxiliary cruiser Provence, carrying 1,800, sank Saturday in the Mediterranean. Official announcement by the ministry of marine today told of 296 landed at Malta, and 400 others at the Greek island of Melos.

A later official statement said that 870 were saved, making the missing around 1,000.

Ten boats now at the scene are continuing the search for other survivors.

The Provence dispatches did not state whether the disaster was due to a submarine, a mine or an accident, though it is known that submarines are operating in the Mediterranean as the British steamer Pastnet, and a Swedish ship were recently torpedoed there.

The Provence is believed to be the patrol liner, formerly in the trans-Atlantic service, but more recently on admiralty duty. That vessel was of 18,000 tons and 600 feet long.

There is also a battleship Provence and a 4,000 ton steamer Provence, but obviously from the description, the sunken liner was neither of these.

The Provence was probably carrying troops either to or from Salonika, Malta and Melos, the landing points, are six hundred miles apart. It is likely that the vessel sank between Malta and the Greek west coast.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S REPUTATION AT STAKE

Is Accused of Being "A Gay Dog," Swearing, Drinking and Other Things

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 29.—Did George Washington indulge to excess in Scotch highballs and good red wine of the vintage of about 1770? Paul R. Haffer, socialist, says he did all this and more, and appeared in Justice Graham's court today prepared to present the testimony of early United States historians to prove his assertions. Colonel Albert E. Josiah, prominent attorney, indignantly denies the alleged aspersions upon the noble character of the "father of his country" and as complainant was on hand to prosecute Haffer for criminal libel.

The hearing of the case in Justice Graham's court will be only preliminary in character, as the justice has emphatically declared he does not propose to have his ears offended by listening to an attack on the fair name of the first president. There, ere he will "pass the buck" to the superior court.

The arrest of Haffer followed the publication of an article he contributed to the "vox pop" column of a local evening newspaper in which the young socialist announced himself as "a litter of halos" and advised readers of the paper not to be carried away by eulogies of long departed notables. He cited George Washington as a shining example, charging that the great soldier-statesman had in his day been a gay dog; had used profane and blasphemous language, was an inveterate drinker and an exploiter of slaves.

The managing editor and city editor of the paper publishing the Haffer letter have been subpoenaed to testify in the case and the trial is expected to be productive of unique and highly interesting arguments by counsel.

EXPLOSION HEARD 50 MILES

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 29.—With an explosion audible for 50 miles, the New England Manufacturing company's trinitrotoluenol building blew up early today. The warning rumbled all day and only one, showered with flying bricks, was injured.

The property loss was placed at \$50,000.

The company, engaged in work for the allies, had been threatened recently, and had had the plant under close guard.

California Factions of G. O. P. May Compromise

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Peace, according to certain politicians, is approaching in the conferences of the state republican central committee and the "independent" faction.

A get together meeting last night was reported to have netted the peace-makers a slight gain, and announcement was made today that further sessions will be held tomorrow night.

The two factions are reported planning a compromise state of delegates to the republican national convention, though the independents Saturday insisted on a list pledged to uniting the republicans and bull moose of California and backing a progressive republican for the presidential nomination.

STEAMER FIFIELD IS WRECKED AT COOS BAY

Struck by Heavy Sea As She Crossed Bar was Thrown Against Jetty

Marsfield, Or., Feb. 29.—The steamer Fifield was struck by a heavy sea just as she started to cross the Bandon bar at 6:45 this morning, and now is lying on the beach 200 feet south of the south jetty. She has a big hole in her bow below the water line and the broadside to the sea. She will probably be a total loss.

The crew of 21 and four passengers escaped without injury. The Fifield is reported to have had a big cargo on board. The cause of the mishap is unknown. The vessel was thrown against the jetty.

A crowd gathered on the beach this morning to look at the wreck. A heavy sea suddenly flung a water smogked log into the crowd, breaking the leg of W. M. Kain.

Had Cargo of Merchandise

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Passengers on the Fifield included F. E. Jones, N. Weingartner and J. W. Jewko, of San Francisco. The vessel is owned by A. F. Estabrook and company of San Francisco. She left here Saturday with a cargo of merchandise. Captain Hahman commands her.

Villistas Kill American, Labor Troubles Threaten

Washington, Feb. 29.—Grover C. Varr, an American, was murdered last night in his home 25 miles north of Durango, Mexico, by Villistas, according to state department advices today. No other details were given.

Department reports said labor conditions in Mexico City are "somewhat threatening," that soldiers are ready to prevent strikes, and that conditions are believed to be due to monetary troubles. The general political situation was reported comparatively quiet, although some progress is being made against the Zapatistas.

BRYAN WANTS WILSON

Washington, Feb. 29.—Former Secretary of State Bryan is in favor of President Wilson's re-nomination, and will probably be a member of the solid W. H. Thompson delegation from Nebraska, said Judge W. H. Thompson, Nebraska state democratic committee chairman, after returning from an extended visit with Bryan at Miami, Fla.

Gifford Pinchot Is Against Myers Bill

Washington, Feb. 29.—Anti-conservation senators today made the Myers bill an amendment to the pending Shields water power bill. The Myers proposal is to fix terms on which every power site that government controls would be leased to private interests for development. Both the bills have been denounced by Gifford Pinchot as grossly careless of the public interest.

The Ferris bill, passed by the house, will never appear in the senate unless a majority vote forces the senate public lands committee, headed by Myers, to report it.

Dr. Grant Wants to Be Sent to Prison

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 29.—Dr. John Grant Lyman, under arrest at Tampa, Florida, on mail fraud charges, is still fighting to be sent to a California prison instead of going back to New York to face trial on the new accusations.

He is already under pentitentiary sentence here for using mails in a fraudulent stock selling scheme. Although the United States attorney general's office has ordered him taken to New York, Federal Judge Trippett here is in receipt of a telegram from him, demanding that he be allowed to begin serving his California term at once.

Beer, women and a moving picture conspired last night to do up Pasquale Costantoni of San Jose.

TITANIC STRUGGLE AT VERDUN IS ONLY BEGUN

Germans Moving Up Heavy Guns to Batter Great Fortress --Kaiser For Six Hours Watches Through Glass the Terrific Combat--Amsterdam Dispatches Says 45,000 Germans Killed--Wounded Smothered Under Heaps of Dead--French Confident of Holding Fort

London, Feb. 29.—A decisive battle for the Verdun fortress is about to begin.

Checked at Pepper Heights, the Germans are moving up heavy artillery to blast away the armored trenches on the heights, that bar further advance from the north.

While an indescribable slaughter continues in the ruins of the Douaumont fortress the Teutons are feeling out the lines along a hundred mile front. Indications are that the whole western front may suddenly burst into flame.

As for the Verdun front itself, Paris reported a slackening of the German artillery fire along the eight mile line of ruin to the northeast of the fortress. This is due to the shifting of artillery and the bringing up of reserves to replace regiments blotted out during the past week's saturnalia of destruction.

Meanwhile Paris is coolly confident that Verdun will never fall through a frontal attack over the Pepper Heights. The feeling is that the kaiser already despairs of victory there, and is either searching out a new road to Paris through the Champagne or preparing to renew the Fresnes attack. The tide is about to turn to the French arms, Paris believes.

According to Swiss advices, the Verdun attack, despite its appalling destruction of life, is merely a diversion. These dispatches declare the Germans are about to hammer at a point between Noyon and St. Quentin, barely 60 miles northeast of Paris, in an effort to reach the French capital.

Estimates of the German dead in the early Verdun attacks run to 30,000 or more while experts venture no estimate of wounded, other than that the total runs into the tens of thousands.

Paris, Feb. 29.—Standing on a hill of four miles north of Fort Douaumont, Kaiser Wilhelm watched for six hours the struggle there, according to German prisoners today.

Sheets of rain and snow whipped the crest, driven by a raw wind. Staff officers, fearful for the kaiser because of his recent illness, urged him not to expose himself. He held his post, protected by a heavy coat, he refused to heed their advice.

Intently he gazed through his field glasses until the men of Brandenburg had stormed the fort. Before his view lay a panorama of frightful execution. Whole battalions melted under the fire of the French guns before Teuton hordes silenced the Douaumont batteries.

In the village and on the plain outside the fort hand to hand combat now raged. They are over piles of dead. Shell craters are graves of brave men, and the weight of cadavers has crushed many wounded soldiers.

Foemen and defenders are mingled in death under a mantle of snow.

The slaughter to the north of the Pepper Heights equals that of Douaumont. The French command every foot of the approach, while an inferna of shrapnel and shells burst over the plain.

Not even behind the parapets of dead could the Germans hope to advance their infantry. They are, however, bringing up guns, planning to silence the French artillery.

The number of prisoners taken by the French is comparatively small, for the shelling is so terrible that surrounded German groups are cut to pieces before they can reach the French lines to surrender.

More Than 45,000 Dead.
London, Feb. 29.—More than 45,000 Germans have been killed in the Verdun offensive, according to an Amsterdam dispatch today.

How terrible the butchery is, was evidenced from the report that the remnants of eight German regiments were reformed only a single regiment.

Eight thousand German corpses were reported found on a two mile front alone.

Endless trains of wounded are streaming into Metz, while the hospitals at Coblenz, Treves, Cologne and other cities are filled to overflowing.

The Amsterdam report said that the Douaumont fort had been bombarded for hours before it was wrecked. The French occupants held to their posts resolutely while the fort was disintegrating. Repeatedly they repulsed the Brandenburg men's assaults, and withdrew only when German dead lay in heaps in front of the position.

The French destroyed more than 45 German cannon grouped for a heavy assault opposite Bras.

Amsterdam reports today placed the German dead at 45,000. Estimate of the total dead, wounded and missing in the Verdun drive run to at least 160,000.

Such frightful losses, critics believe, caused the kaiser to order a cessation

German Attacks Repulsed.

Paris, Feb. 29.—All German attacks in the big offensive before Verdun for the past 24 hours have been repulsed, the official communique claimed today, adding that the French entirely surrounded Fort Douaumont, the scene of several days' struggle.

It was officially admitted, however, that the Germans had captured the village of Manheulles, 11 miles southeast of Verdun, in an eastward drive to force evacuation of Verdun through a squeeze from both north and south.

A heavy bombardment marked the night along the entire front north and northeast of Verdun. The French paid particular attention to the positions the Germans had captured on the right bank of the Meuse 14 miles north of Verdun, while around Douaumont, the Teuton charges were continually repelled.

The French recaptured several Lorraine trenches.

Make Attack From East.

London, Feb. 29.—Suddenly shifting their attack, the Germans are swinging their men against Verdun from the east, aiming thereby to squeeze out the Verdun defenders by a threat of envelopment.

The Berlin war office today announced the capture of villages to the southeast in the new drive, and a advance along the whole front northeast and east of Verdun.

Seventeen thousand prisoners were taken.

Paris admitted the loss of Manheulles southeast of Verdun, but claimed Teuton attacks elsewhere had been repelled, and that the French now have a ring about Douaumont. Charges around Douaumont continue. Dead men still litter the pathway.

Berlin claimed capture of small armored works northwest of Douaumont, in

(Continued on Page Three.)

THE WEATHER

WHAT WILL I DO WITH THIS EXTRA DAY?

Oregon: Tonight and Wednesday rain west, rain or snow east; moderate southerly gale along the coast; strong southerly winds interior.



Miss Fawn Lippincott has been asked to recite for 'nobility' at the Peace Social tonight. Such is funny. It's a mighty dull day when a 'murry' 'squire' don't die somewhere.

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