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EARLY MESSAGES

INCREASE IN SINKINGS.

LONDON, Feb. 27. Eighteen British merchantmen were sunk by mine or submarine in the past week, according to the British Admiralty report to-night. Of these, 14 were ships of 1,600 tons or more, and four under that tonnage. Seven fishing ships also were sunk.

RELATIONS STRAINED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. Relations between Germany and Austria are said to be greatly strained. On February 22nd, Emperor Charles I. of Austria, paid a visit to William II. of Germany. General Ludendorff was present. It was reported from the tone of the interview, it must have been lacking in cordiality. There seems little doubt but that a serious conflict has broken out during the week between the courts of Vienna and Berlin, which Germany is determined to settle up, if need be, by violent measures. The international situation of the Dual Monarchy is such that the Vienna government in order to avoid a catastrophe has been obliged to distinguish by means of public declarations its own policy from that of Germany. The report that at the conference of Feb. 14th, Hertling and Ludendorff had decided to pay no attention to the Russian demobilisation and to prepare to begin again the conflict on the east front, caused a great stir throughout Austria. It wasn't simply the dissenting nationalities, the Czechs, the Slovaks or the Poles, who don't desire to fight any more, but the mass of the population of Germany, who refuse to sacrifice themselves any longer to assure the triumph of Prussian imperialism. An official note of the 15th said, for her part she would consider the war as terminated with Russia, and would abstain from taking part in the operations planned by the German command. A second note of the 19th repeated the same statement. When asked to give further particulars at a sitting of the Chamber on the 22nd, the Austrian Premier formally stated the words uttered by the different deputies which have proved that an explanation which has been furnished up to the present by me, haven't been sufficiently explicit. I repeat, therefore, that Austria-Hungary will participate in no way in military action, which is now being carried out by

Germany against Russia. I repeat that there is no question of having our troops penetrate into the Ukraine with whom we are at peace. I repeat that an armistice exists between Austria-Hungary and Roumania, and that we are only thinking of entering as early as possible into peace conversations with this country. These declarations are serious without doubt. In his speech on the 19th February, Seydler pleaded his fidelity and alliance, but more and more Germany runs the risk of seeing Austria, and, after her, Bulgaria, and Turkey, take a positive attitude, and practically withdrawing from the struggle, to witness as spectators the continuance of hostilities.

NOVO TSCHERKOVSK CAPTURED.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 27. Novo Tscherkovsk, capital of the territory of the Don Cossack, has been captured by revolutionary troops. This announcement was made officially to-day.

MUST ACCEPT ARMISTICE.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 27. General Hoffmann, commander of the German army invading Russia, has replied to the communication from Krylenko inquiring if an armistice would be declared by saying that the Teuton advance would be continued until the treaty of peace is signed and carried out along the lines laid down in the German peace terms.

WENT DOWN IN SEVEN MINUTES.

SWANSEA, Feb. 27. The British hospital ship General Castle, which was sunk yesterday in the Bristol Channel went down in seven minutes. The torpedo struck in No. 3 hold. The lifeboats on the starboard side were for the most part smashed by the explosion. Only seven lifeboats could be launched, and these with great difficulty. Capt. Burt was last seen in the chart house after the last boat was launched, and it is believed went down with the ship. The sea was so rough that it was impossible to handle the lifeboats, which required continuous bailing by all hands. Two boats were picked up after many hours at sea, and the survivors landed here. One boat contained nine men and the other twenty-five. Of two hundred members of the crew, seven were wo-

men nurses, none of whom have yet been reported saved. The others being taken to the Red Cross and included doctors, nurses and orderlies.

BORDEN CALLS ON WILSON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian Premier, called on President Wilson to-day and spent many busy hours conferring with the American, British and Canadian Officials. The purchase of war materials in this country is understood to have been discussed by Sir Robert with Bernard Baruch of the War Industries Board. To-night the Canadian Premier was given a dinner by Secretary Lane in honor of the Earl of Reading, the new British Ambassador.

SANTA MARIA SUNK.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27. The tank steamer Santa Maria has been torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast, according to a cable received here to-day. The crew were saved. The Santa Maria was of 8,300 tons dead weight, and was owned by the Sun Co. of Philadelphia.

ACTIVITY IN PALESTINE.

LONDON, Feb. 27. An official statement from the Turkish headquarters, dated Tuesday, says: In Palestine on the sea coast there was lively artillery fire, and two cavalry squadrons approached our center yesterday and withdrew again. On the whole front there was lively patrol activity.

WOODEN STEAMER LAUNCHED.

ORANGE, Tex., Feb. 27. One of the largest wooden steamers ever built was launched on the Sabine to-day, just five months after the keel was laid. The steamer was built for the Cunard Co. of Liverpool, and has a length of 330 feet, beam 68 ft., moulded depth 27 ft., and a carrying capacity of 4,700 tons.

BALFOUR COMMENTS ON HERTLING'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Feb. 27. Foreign Secretary Balfour, replying to-day to the speech of Von Hertling regarding the doctrine of balance of power, said that unless German militarism had become a thing of the past, and there were in existence a hall of court armed with executive powers making the weak as safe as the strong, it would never be possible to ignore the principles underlying the struggle for balance of power. Balfour told the Commons that he was unable to find in Von Hertling's speech any basis for fruitful conversation or hope for peace. The Chancellor's attitude concerning Belgium, said Balfour, was completely unsatisfactory and his lip service to President Wilson's propositions wasn't exemplified in German practice.

HERTLING'S SPEECH.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 27. The following is the text of Chancellor Von Hertling's speech yesterday in the Reichstag. After a few preliminary remarks by Dr. Hermann S. Pasche, Vice-President of the Reichstag, and the first reading of the budget, Count Von Hertling arose and said the Reichstag has a right to receive an explanation statement in regard to the foreign situation and the attitude of the Government concerning it. I will meet the obligation arising therefrom, even though I entertain certain doubts as to the utility and success of dialogues carried on by ministers and statesmen of belligerent countries. Mr. Runciman in the Commons recently expressed the opinion that we would get much nearer to peace if, instead of this the responsible representatives of belligerent powers came together in an intimate meeting for discussion. I can only agree with him that that would be a way to remove numerous intentional and unintentional misunderstandings, and compel our enemies

to take our words as they are meant, and on their part also to show their colors. I cannot at any rate discover that the words which I spoke—here on two occasions were received in hostile countries objectively and without prejudices. Moreover, discussion in an intimate gathering alone could lead to understanding on many individual questions, which can really be settled only by compromise. It has been repeatedly said that we do not contemplate retaining Belgium, but that we must be safeguarded from the danger of a country with which we desire after the war to live in peace and friendship becoming the object or jumping off ground of enemy machination. If therefore a proposal came from the opposing side, for example from the Government in Havre, we should not adopt an antagonistic attitude, even though the discussion at first might only be unbinding. Meanwhile it does not appear as if Mr. Runciman's suggestion of a chance of assuming tangible shape and I must adhere to existing methods of dialogue through the channel and ocean. Adopting this method, I readily admit that President Wilson's address of Feb. 11th represents, perhaps, a small step towards a mutual rapprochement. I therefore pass over preliminary and excessively long declarations in order to address myself immediately to the four principles which in President Wilson's opinion must be applied in a mutual exchange of views. The first clause says that each part of final settlement must be based upon essential justice of that particular case and upon such adjustments as most likely to bring a peace that will be permanent. Who would contradict this phrase coined by the great father of the church, Augustine, 1500 years ago. Justitia fundamentum regnorum is still valid to-day. Certain it is that only a peace based in all its parts on principles of justice has a prospect of endurance. The second clause expresses the desire that peoples and provinces shall not be bartered about from sovereignty to sovereignty, as if they were mere chattels and pawns in a game, even the great game now for ever discredited, of the balance of

power. This clause can be unconditionally assented to. Indeed one wonders that the President of the United States considered it necessary to emphasize it anew. The clause continues a polemic against conditions long vanished, views against cabinet politics and cabinet wars, against moving state territory and principalities and private property which belongs to a past that is far behind us. I do not want to be discourteous, but when one remembers the earlier utterances of President Wilson, one might think that he is laboring under a delusion that there exists in Germany antagonism between an autocratic government and a mass of people who are without rights, and yet President Wilson knows that with us Princes and Governments are the highest members of the nation as a whole, organized in the form of a state, the highest members with whom final decisions lie, but seeing that they also, as supreme organs, belong to the whole, the decision is of such a nature that the guiding line for a decision to be only the welfare of the whole is taken. It may be useful expressly to point this out to President Wilson's countrymen. Then finally, at the close of the second clause, the game of the balance of power is declared to be for ever discredited. We, too, can only gladly applaud. It is well known it was England who invented the principle of the maintenance of the balance of power in order especially to apply it when one of the states of the European continent threatened to become too powerful for her. It was only another expression for England's domination. The third clause, according to which every territorial settlement involved in this war must be made in the interest and for the benefit of populations concerned, and not as a part of any mere adjustment or compromise of claims among rival states, is only the application of the foregoing in a definite direction, or a deduction from it, and is therefore included in the aspect given to the clause. Now in the fourth clause he demands that all well defined national aspirations should be accorded the utmost satisfaction that can be accorded them without introducing new or perpetuating old elements of discord and antagonism that would be likely in time to break the peace of Europe, and consequently of the world. Here, also, I can give assent in principle, and I declare therefore with President Wilson that a general peace on such a basis is desirable. Only one reservation is to be made. These principles must not be proposed by the President of the United States alone, but they must also be recognized by all states and nations. President Wilson, who reproaches the German Chancellor with a certain amount of backwardness, seems to me in his flight of ideas to have hurried far in advance of existing realities.

NEWS PAPER TALK.

LONDON, Feb. 27. The evening newspapers see little hope for peace in the speech of Count Von Hertling, the Imperial German Chancellor. "With what face, one wonders, can Count Von Hertling, who is old and religious, get up in the Reichstag and declare that his heart bleeds for humanity, and profess his sympathy with President Wilson's appeal for justice, forbearance and respect for national rights, at the very time when he is publicly engaged in one of the most cynical and callous transactions known to history," says the Westminster Gazette. This paper says it is obliged to say to Von Hertling quite frankly that the mind to peace among the Western nations, the mind which seeks peace on an abiding and honorable condition, is every day being chilled and alienated by disclosures of the real Germany in her dealings with Russia. We see every one of the four principles defined by President Wilson to which the German Chancellor does lip ser-

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vice, being trampled under foot. The Globe says: Von Hertling's present duty is to supply camouflage behind which the real sovereign power of Germany's great general staff carries on its operations. It is Von Hertling's business to entangle some or all of the Allies in negotiations, as Von Kuehlmann, the German Foreign Secretary entangled the deluded Russians, and then Von Hindenburg and Ludendorff, the real sovereign power, will settle terms and policy on the admirable principles of Brest Litovsk. The Evening Standard, in an editorial, treats the Chancellor's address as follows: "When the German Chancellor speaks of peace he means the peace we have seen a specimen of in the acts of unhappy Russia." This newspaper then parallels excerpts from Von Hertling's speech and the report of Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, on the attitude of the American men, as regards a conference with German labor, and adds, "This clear vision of the American people, labor included, sees that the only effect of a conference with the German people in their present mood will be a weakening of our moral case, the embolism of our national wills, the discouragement of our armies and the embarrassment of the Governments." The Star says that at first blush Von Hertling's speech seems to suggest Pharoah's heart is not quite so hard as when last he spoke. It adds that Von Hertling is trying to drive a wedge between the British and American people, and says the proper counter to this attack is to Wilsonize Great Britain's peace aims, and compel the Government to speak in the language of President Wilson.

DEEDS NOT IN ACCORD WITH WORDS.

LONDON, Feb. 27. As far as the British public is concerned, the words of Count Von Hertling, concerning Germany's pacific intentions, and his partial acceptance of President Wilson's basis for a lasting world peace, fall upon almost deaf ears. A few weeks, even a few days, and their reception would have been different, but the German speech is judged here by German acts. All the details of the new war against helpless Russia, rob German statesmen of their stock in trade—the plea that Germany is waging a war in self-defence. The British press is virtually unanimous in the belief that the whole eastern situation has been cleverly arranged and plotted with a view to bringing eastern and

central Europe under German domination, and for the immediate purpose of getting food from the Ukraine. The most important newspapers which lend to peace by negotiation, notably the Westminster Gazette and the Manchester Guardian, seem to have undergone a change of outlook as the result of the event of the past week. The Daily News to-day, although condemning the Entente for aiding Von Hertling's argument that the Entente and not Germany is the real obstacle to peace because the Allies have not jointly formulated their war aims says in effect that no hope can be drawn from the Chancellor's speech.

Your Boys and Girls.

Be kind at all times to your child and surround him with those who will always be so. The regularity which should be practiced in the nursery has also a good influence on the child. As it learns that its wants are supplied at regular times, it will soon become accustomed to an element of regularity and reliability. If the child is not indulged every time it cries, it will soon learn the need of self control. Regularity and self control are large factors in forming discipline. Obstinacy, deception and a nervous condition may all have their foundation in the first year of life, if great care is not exercised to have kind, sympathetic, yet perfectly just treatment during this early period. Baby's woolen garments, washed by the following method, will retain the softness of new material. Lukewarm, soapy water should be used. Squeeze the garments, but never rub them or rub soap on them. Rinse in lukewarm, soapy water and be sure that a good pure soap is used. The shirts, bands and stockings should be dried on stretchers. They are inexpensive and keep the articles in shape. It is better to dry them in the sun. The flannel skirt, too, should be washed in like manner.

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