

U. S. Transport Sunk!

TRANSPORT TUSCANIA WITH UNITED STATES TROOPS TORPEDOED

Big Steamer Carrying 2,179 American Soldiers Sunk by German Submarine Somewhere Off Irish Coast and Nearly 267 Men Unaccounted for But May Have Been Picked Up—Sinking of Commander Evidently Beginning of New German Submarine Campaign Which Has For Its Object Destruction of United States Troops.

News of the First Great Disaster in the War to United States Armed Forces Received in Brief Dispatch to War Department at Washington—Soldiers on Board the Tuscania Were Small Detachments from Almost Every Section of Country—No Distinctive Military Unit From Any State—Steamer Was of More Than 8,000 Tons.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Cunard liner Tuscania, carrying 2,179 American soldiers, has been torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast and at a late hour tonight 1,912 officers and men had been accounted for in a despatch to the state department from London.

News of the first great disaster in the war to America's armed forces came in a brief despatch to the war department. It did not mention the possibility of further survivors, but hope was built here upon the fact that all of those rescued were landed at two widely separated Irish ports and indications that relief vessels were at hand quickly.

The soldiers on board the Tuscania were small detachments from almost every section of the country. There was no distinctive military unit from any state, and for this reason war department officials announced that it would be impossible to announce a list of those on board until complete reports had been received. Instructions were sent by wireless and cable by the War, Navy and State departments to their representatives in England and Ireland, directing that every detail be forwarded at the earliest possible moment.

One thousand, one hundred survivors have been landed at Buncrana and Larne, Ireland, and others elsewhere.

North Ireland Ports.

Larne, at which survivors from the Tuscania were landed, is located on Larne Lough, County Antrim, on the northeast coast of Ireland, twenty-three miles northeast of Belfast. It is a north channel port and is but thirty miles south of the Mull of Kintyre on the coast of Argyshire, Scotland. It has a population of about 4,000 persons. Larne is the site of the landing of Robert Bruce of Scotland when he invaded Ireland in 1315. It has an old castle and is a brisk fishing port.

Buncrana, at which other survivors of the big vessel were landed, is located on Lough Swilly on the northern coast of Donegal and is within a short distance of the northern extremity of Ireland. It is but twelve miles from Londonderry and is fifty miles across country from Larne, or by water about eighty miles. It has a picturesque castle and is a watering place. Lough Swilly is a long narrow bay extending in from the Atlantic ocean. The coast in that section of Donegal is rocky and has been the scene of many disasters, including the destruction of vessels of the Spanish Armada.

The Tuscania was a British steamer of 3,621 tons and was last reported at an Atlantic port in the United States on January 17. Capt. McLean was her commander last year.

A New Campaign.

The German government recently decided to re-inforce its submarine fleet for a desperate assault on vessels carrying United States troops and for several weeks they paid less attention to merchant vessels. The new campaign has apparently begun in earnest.

Official Announcement.

The disaster was officially announced by the war department which had received only meagre advices, without names of survivors or victims.

The department issued this statement. The war department has been officially advised that the steamship Tuscania was torpedoed and sunk and that survivors numbering 1,100, as far as could be ascertained, were landed at Buncrana and Larne, in Ireland. There was a total of 2,179 United States troops on this vessel. No names of persons lost has been reported to the war department and no names or survivors were reported. Additional particulars are promised as soon as received.

It was announced that the Tuscania was manned by British sailors, with a British naval guard and was convoyed by British warships.

Western Men.

The troops, composed chiefly of detachments of Michigan and Wisconsin National Guardsmen, were travelling on the Tuscania, a British vessel, under convoy of British warships.

The president, Secretary Baker and in fact, all of Washington were up late waiting for further news. Only the briefest despatches were received and none gave details of the attack on the liner. Even the time was missing, but it was assumed that it occurred early this morning as the first message was filed at London at 3 o'clock this afternoon, probably within an hour after the relief ships reached the Irish coast.

MAJOR MARCH TO RETURN TO U. S.

Will Become Acting Chief of Staff at Washington.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Secretary Baker announced today that Major-General Peyton C. March, now chief of artillery with Pershing, will return to the United States to become acting chief of staff. General Bliss, chief of staff, in France as the American representative of the supreme war council, will continue on furlough for the present.

Major-General John E. Biddle, assistant chief of staff and now acting chief, will remain as assistant temporarily, but later probably will be assigned to duty in France. General Pershing will select a new artillery chief to succeed March.

QUEBEC WILL OBEY ORDERS TO CURTAIL

Manufacturers Will Determine if Amount of Fuel Saved Makes it Worth While to Close Factories.

Quebec, Feb. 6.—A special meeting of the Quebec branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Association was held here this afternoon to consider the order of Fuel Controller McGrath on the closing of certain manufacturing plants on the 9th, 10th and 11th inst.

It was the unanimous opinion of all present that since the order was law, it must be followed to the letter. They were of the opinion, that this might be only a preliminary step and that later on they might be ordered to close down a day each week or for periods of three days as in the present instance. In view of this it was decided to make a careful calculation of the fuel saved during the three days in question, which really only constitute one and one-half working days.

It will be seen then just where matters stand and if the economy is practically nil, the manufacturers here may take the matter up with the authorities at Ottawa.

The factories here, it was pointed out, are mostly operated by motive power and are equipped with sprinkling apparatus for fire protection as a result of the latter equipment, a reasonable degree of heat must be maintained to prevent freezing and the amount of extra coal that would be required to give 60 degrees of heat to permit operations would be trifling.

A SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF THE WAR

This is the Keynote of King George's Address Proroguing Parliament.

IS CONFIDENT OF ULTIMATE VICTORY

Hopes Solution May Be Possible in Regard to Ireland.

GRATEFUL TO ALL HIS PEOPLE

Successful Prosecution of War Still Our First Aim and Endeavor.

GERMAN AMBITION STILL UNABATED

Practically All Civilized World on the Side of Right.

London, Feb. 7.—Parliament was prorogued today and will reassemble on February 12. In the House of Commons the speech from the throne was read by the Speaker. In it the King emphasized that the first aim and endeavor of the Allies was the successful prosecution of the war. The entry of the United States, he said, lent additional strength to the allied arms and inspired fresh confidence in ultimate victory. The text of the King's speech follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen—Since I last addressed you great events have happened. Within a few weeks of that occasion the United States of America decided to take their stand by the side of this country and our Allies in defence of the principles of liberty and justice. Their entry into the war, followed by that of other neutral states, has united practically the whole civilized world in a league of nations against unscrupulous aggression, has lent additional strength to our arms and inspires fresh confidence in the ultimate triumph of our cause.

Russia's Failure.

"On the other hand Russia, distracted by internal dissensions, has not been able to persevere in the struggle until the fruits of her great sacrifices could be reaped and for the present has ceased to bear her part in the allied task.

"The negotiations opened by her with the enemy have, however, served but to prove that the vigor and loyalty with which one and all continue to pursue the common aim.

"Amid the confusion of changing events, the determination of the democracies of the world to secure a just and enduring peace stands out ever more clearly.

"In all the theatres of the war my naval military forces have displayed throughout the year noble courage, high constancy and fixed determination which has won for them the admiration of my people.

"In France the enemy has been repeatedly and successfully thrown back and I await with assurance the further progress of the conflict.

Famous Cities Taken.

"In Palestine and Mesopotamia the most revered and famous cities of the Orient have been wrested from the Turks, while in Africa the enemy has lost the last remnant of his colonial possessions. In all these fields the forces of my dominions and of the Indian Empire have borne their full share in the toil and in the glory of the day.

"During the year representatives of my dominions and of the Indian Empire were summoned for the first time to sessions of an imperial war cabinet. Their deliberations have been

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MEXICAN PRESIDENT TAKES STAND WITH GERMAN EMPEROR

BRITISH LOSE 15 VESSELS

Ten Over 1,600 Tons, and Five Under—Four Fishermen Also Lost.

BULLETIN.

London, Feb. 6.—The Admiralty reports fifteen British merchantmen sunk by mine or submarine in the past week. Of these ten were 1,600 tons or over, and five under 1,600 tons. Four fishing vessels also were sunk.

The British loss by mine or submarine during the last week are approximately the same as the previous week when nine British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons and six of lesser tonnage were destroyed.

Italian Losses.

Rome, Feb. 6.—The Italian shipping losses by mine or submarine in the week ending February 2, were very light, only one steamer under 1,600 tons being sunk.

French Losses.

Paris, Feb. 6.—Two French steamers of more than 1,600 tons and one under that tonnage, were sunk during the week ending February 2 by mine or submarine. The vessels reaching French ports numbered 968 and those clearing from French ports numbered 897 the same week.

SHIP CONTROL COMMITTEE IN CHARGE

Allies Accept Plan to Turn Over Direction of All Transatlantic Tonnage to Ship Control Committee.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Acceptance by the Allies of the plan to turn over the direction of all transatlantic tonnage to a ship control committee recently created, was announced tonight by Chairman Hurley of the shipping board with the assurance that this promises a complete unification of Atlantic shipping operations. The committee, comprising P. A. S. Franklin, H. H. Raymond and Sir Connop Guthrie, was named at a conference of government department heads, shipping interests and representatives of the allies. Sir Connop was selected to represent on the committee the inter-allied chartering conference, contingent on the allies' acceptance of a plan of allocating tonnage. Word has just been received that the allied governments are heartily in favor of the proposal.

Vice-chairman Stevens of the shipping board, who is to go to London, will sit with the chartering conference as the American representative, assisting on the other side in instructions regarding the distribution of ships from a general pool to be formed. Actual allocation of ships in the pool will be in the hands of the control committee.

"Creation of the committee," said Mr. Hurley tonight, "is one of the practical results of the inter-allied war council recently held at Paris. The move will increase the efficiency of the merchant fleets of America and the allies.

"If the maximum efficiency can be obtained from every ship available, if cargoes can be loaded and unloaded without delay, and ships can be moved promptly, it will be equivalent to the addition of considerable new tonnage.

"The committee will be left free to co-ordinate the needs of the various government departments, effecting such interchange of tonnage and traffic as may be practicable with the allied governments."

Venustiano Carranza Congratulates Kaiser and Complicates the International Situation—King George Reiterates Determination of Democracies of the World to Continue Warfare Against the Quadruple Alliance Until Just and Lasting Peace Can Be Obtained—German Forces on Western Front Not Yet Numerically Equal to Those of Entente.

Important City of Uleaborg on Gulf of Bothnia, Chief Military Depot of Russians in Northern Finland, Falls Into Hands of Finnish Government, Red Guard Revolutionists Sustaining Severe Defeat—Operations on All Fronts Confined to Air and Patrol Attacks—Huns Lose 14 Airplanes.

The United States military forces have suffered their first heavy loss from the operations of the enemy's submarine arm. The British steamship Tuscania, carrying 2,179 United States troops, has been torpedoed and sunk in the war zone. Nineteen hundred and twelve survivors were landed at Irish ports, leaving 267 to be accounted for.

Complexities of international politics affecting the great war have been added to by a virtual expression of sympathy from Mexico for Germany. President Venustiano Carranza sent to Emperor William a message of congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the Emperor's fifty-seventh birthday, which occurred January 27th, according to advices reaching Reuter's Limited from Copenhagen.

As an offset to the friendly congratulations from Mexico, a neutral government, toward the enemy of the Entente Allies, King George V. in his speech proroguing Parliament Wednesday, reiterated the determination of the democracies of the world to continue warfare against the quadruple alliance until a just and lasting peace could be obtained.

Allies Still the Stronger.

The Germans on the western front are not yet numerically equal to the French and British forces opposing them, according to Major-General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the British war office, notwithstanding the continued movement of German troops to that war theatre during the last month. In the opinion of General Maurice, the situation there at present is not one to cause anxiety to the Entente military leaders. Artillery activity continues on the British, French, Italian and American fronts, but aside from this, the operations have been confined to patrol and aerial attacks.

Huns Lose 14 Airplanes.

The French war office announced the destruction of fourteen enemy aeroplanes during February 3 and 4, and three February 5, and Italian headquarters reports the bringing down of five hostile machines. Berlin says that seven aeroplanes and one captive balloon were shot down Tuesday.

Entente merchantmen sunk by mine or submarine during the last week totalled 19, of which 15 were British, 3 French and one Italian.

In Finland the White Guard or government troops have won an important victory over the revolutionary Red Guard in the taking of Uleaborg, on the Gulf of Bothnia. This city was the chief military depot for the Russians in northern Finland, and its loss, according to military observers, means that the whole of Northern Finland soon will be in the possession of the government troops.

QUEBEC PROHIBITION

Quebec, Feb. 6.—Hon. Walter Mitchell's license bill, which was slated to come up for study in the assembly this afternoon, was crowded out by a host of other legislation.

It is expected now that the bill will be taken up tomorrow morning. Unofficial statements are to the effect that the measure will provide for bone dry prohibition dating from May 1st, 1918.

MONTREAL BILL

Quebec, Feb. 6.—The bill to amend the charter of the city of Montreal was passed by the private bills committee of the legislative assembly, tonight. The only annexation to Montreal that the committee would entertain was that of the city of Maisonneuve. The bill must still run the gauntlet through the legislative assembly as well as through the upper house and its committees.

\$25,000 FOR THE WORKMEN

Manitoba Establishing Compensation Department on New Basis.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 6.—That a \$25,000 workmen's compensation department is sufficient for Manitoba, is the opinion of the Falls Royal Commission which investigated the organization of the new department. The present executive, Herbert G. Wilson and William Neil, assistant commissioner, had estimated that a minimum outlay of \$55,000 was necessary and that a maximum of \$75,000 might be judicious.

The report of the royal commission was handed to the government today and tabled in the House. It recommends a re-organized staff, necessitating amendments to the act. It recommends that the post of assistant commissioner be paid a salary of \$6,000 a year, a reduction of \$1,500; and finds that Mr. Wilson "did not make due investigation as to expenditures."