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# War News.

## Messages Received Previous to 9 A. M.

### TURKISH LOSSES.

LONDON, Feb. 27. The Turkish troops taken prisoners by the British at Kut-el-Amara now number several thousand. Earl Curzon, a member of the War Council, stated to-day that the retreating Turkish army was being pursued and an artillery and infantry action was taking place fifteen miles northwest of Kut. He added that besides additional prisoners, the British had taken further quantities of equipment, munitions and stores. It was obvious from the telegram from General Maude, continued Earl Curzon, that the scene of operations had been transferred further up the river and that the initial success was being followed up. The following telegram received from General Maude at Kut was read by Earl Curzon: On the morning of the 25th our gunboat, cavalry and infantry moved westward in pursuit of the retreating enemy. A strong Turkish rearguard supported by artillery, was found occupying trench positions fifteen miles northwest of Kut, evidently covering the withdrawal with guns. After intense bombardment our infantry assaulted the enemy's position and obtained a footing therein, while our cavalry operated around the Turkish northern flank. During the day numerous prisoners, equipment and stores were captured. Later in the evening the Turks began to throw bridges up the stream from Baghlaha.

### U.S. CONSUL'S REPORT ON THE SINKING OF THE LAONIA.

LONDON, Feb. 27. Wesley Frost, American Consul at Cork, sent the American Embassy here the following report regarding the sinking of the Laconia: The Laconia was torpedoed without warning at 10.10 p.m. in a heavy sea while the ship was making 17 knots. The first torpedo struck the starboard shaft in the engine room and the engines were stopped. The ship turned, listing to starboard. Most of the boats were launched from the starboard side. Twenty minutes later, after most of the boats had cleared, the second torpedo was fired, striking the engines on the port side. The ship sank 45 minutes after the firing of the first torpedo. The ship was armed with two 4.7 inch guns. The ship's wireless kept in continual action until the

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last minute. Six rockets also were sent up. All the lifeboats were equipped with ample supplies and flares. The cargo consisted of cotton and foodstuffs. The submarine was not seen from the Laconia, but after the second torpedo had been fired and the boats launched the submarine appeared on the surface and came alongside of the boat containing the second officer and asked for the captain. The submarine commander told the people in the second officer's boat that the British Admiralty patrol had caught the Laconia's wireless and was coming to the scene. The submarine made no offer of aid, and submerged immediately after. Thirteen boats were launched from the Laconia. Mrs. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, were in number eight, which was swamped. It is believed the passengers were picked up by other boats, but suffered severely as a result of exposure from cold and water. Flares were kept alight by most of the boats during the five hours' anxious waiting for the patrol to arrive. A patrol boat began picking up the boats at four o'clock a.m. but had not finished until after daybreak.

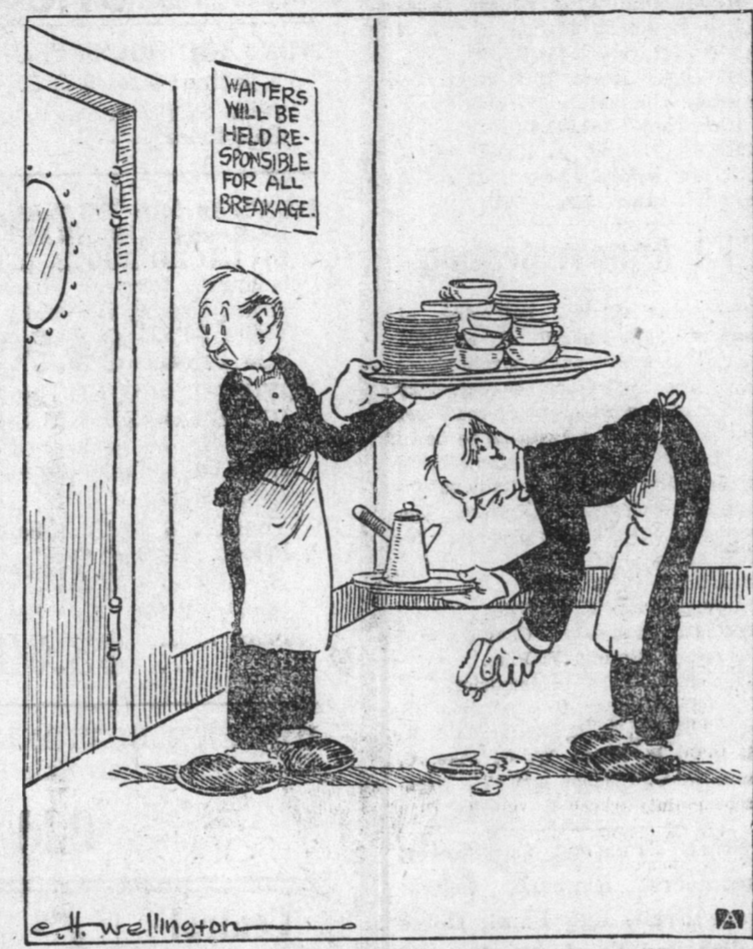
### THE "OVERT ACT."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. Official despatches confirming the report of the death of Americans on the Laconia, torpedoed without warning, established the case as "the overt act." The situation, however, was unchanged from where the President left it yesterday when he asked Congress for authority to deal with the submarine peril.

### NO PANIC.

QUEENSTOWN, Feb. 27. Among the four passengers in hospital here is Dr. Hawke, a resident of San Francisco, who said he was playing a game of bridge in the ship's room when he heard an awful crash and guessed that they had been attacked by a submarine. He said that the first torpedo hit the liner aft on the starboard side and everyone made for a life-preserver. The passengers had previously been instructed in boat drill and got into the boats without panic. He said that all behaved well and that the discipline was good. The submarine returned after we had been in the boats, and fired another torpedo which put out the lights and was followed by a terrific explosion, and the ship must have sunk soon after. The second torpedo, mind you, was fired although the lifeboats were close to the vessel, and the crew of the submarine could not have failed to see us as it was moonlight. It was about 9.30 p.m. on Sunday when we took to the boats, and about 3 o'clock on the following morning when we were picked up. Dr. Hawke gave the highest praise to the behaviour of the wo-

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men and children and said that the captain and crew were marvellous. It appears that two boats reached Bantary with 226 people, eight of the occupants having died from exposure. The bodies of the eight persons who died were consigned to the deep. Mrs. Hoy's husband, Dr. Albert E. Hoy, who is a Civil War veteran, and his son Austin Hoy, reside in London.

### DIED OF EXPOSURE.

LONDON, Feb. 27. United States Consul Frost, at Queenstown, has telegraphed the American Embassy here that Mrs. Hoy and her daughter died of exposure and that their bodies were buried at sea. One American negro, a member of the crew of the Laconia, also died from exposure, according to a despatch from Queenstown. Cedric P. Ivatt, theatrical manager, who was a passenger on the ship, died of exposure. Mr. Ivatt was a resident of London. A later telegram from Consul Frost gave the total number of persons landed from the Laconia as 281, out of 294 on board. Of the 13 lost, five were drowned and eight died from exposure and were buried at sea. Six persons are in hospitals at Queenstown,

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hit and it is doubtful whether they will be able to meet their liabilities.

**SAY GERARD WAS WARNED.**  
SPAIN, Feb. 27. It became known to-day that on the day he left Berlin, ex-Ambassador Gerard was warned personally by a German friend in a high official position against sailing from Spain for the United States. The fact that the warning was given has not yet become known except to those who are in Gerard's confidence, but among them there is a feeling of anxiety regarding the Americans sailing to-day on the Infanta Isabel. It is known that Gerard regards the warning as having been given in all seriousness.

**ADDITIONAL PROGRESS.**  
LONDON, Feb. 27. Additional progress was made by the British forces north and south of the Ancre region in France, also south of Lens. In the Ancre district the village Ligny, southwest of Bapaume has been occupied. North of the stream the western and northern defences of Puisieux have been taken from the Germans, according to the British official to-night. The statement says: We have made farther progress north and south of the Ancre. During the night we captured the village LeBarque, and to-day we have occupied Ligny, and established ourselves in the defences of Puisieux. We raided enemy positions this morning south of Lens and destroyed a number of dugouts and machine gun emplacements and took a few prisoners. Another successful raid was carried out by our troops during the night east of Armentieres on a front of half a mile. Three lines of hostile trenches were entered and considerable damage done to the enemy defences. We captured 17 prisoners and brought back searchlights and a machine gun. Artillery activity continued by both sides north and south of the Somme.

**BREAK INEVITABLE.**  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. Complete arrangements for the withdrawal of American diplomatic Consular officers from Austria-Hungary have been made by Ambassador Penfield on instructions from the State Department, it was learned to-day. The Ambassador had been directed to take this step in the belief by the Department that a break in relations was inevitable. The Spanish Government is being asked to take over American interests. Plans have also been made to expedite the withdrawal of all Americans if a break occurs.

**OFFERING STUBBORN RESISTANCE**  
(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press), British Headquar-

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ters in France, Feb. 27, via London, Feb. 28.—There was sharper resistance all along the line of the German retreat yesterday than at any time since the movement began. There is no indication yet of a fixed purpose by the Germans to make a definite stand, but they are doing everything possible to hold up and interfere with the British advance. Their rear outposts were immensely strengthened, and this led to stiff fighting with British forward patrols. The Germans had prepared carefully for their retirement, apart from choosing the moment when spring was just beginning, bringing with it new depths of the clinging mud. Belt after belt of barbed wire marks the German trail. Great believers in this method of defence, the Germans appear to have outdone all previous efforts in the way of wire barriers in the Somme and Ancre areas. The British, however, pushed forward yesterday all along the eleven mile line stretching from the south of Commeourt to the west of Le Transloy. They pushed forward into Puisieux aux Mort, southeast of Commeourt, from which more fires were visible last night. Searchlights were also playing anxiously about. The present objective of the British is a crest which overlooks the high ground running between Achiet le Petit to Bapaume, where the Germans may attempt to hold for some time. Puisieux has not been completely knocked about as most of the other battle villages, and its standing walls are offering cover for its defending troops. Every bit of ground taken reveals further evidence of the thoroughness of the destructive methods adopted by the Germans just prior to retiring, carefully built and occupied dugouts had been converted into a mass of wreckage by explosives and fire.

**HOW MANY MORE?**  
LONDON, Feb. 27. The reports of the last 24 hours show that four vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 8,520 have been sunk.

**HOLWEGG SPEAKS AGAIN.**  
BERLIN, Feb. 27. Chancellor Von Bethmann Holwegg's address to the Reichstag, postponed from last week, was delivered to-day. In part he said: "While our soldiers at the front stand the gun fire of the trenches and our submarines defying death hasten through the seas; while we at home have no other task but to produce cannon, ammunition and food, and distribute victuals with justice in the midst of this struggle for life and future of our empire intensified to the extreme, there is only one necessity for the day which dominates all questions of policy, both foreign and domestic, to fight and gain victory." The Chancellor pointed out that the German nation supporting the Reichstag's late vote granting the new war credit demonstrated to the

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onus propter eius stuporem sui pavor equo the struggle until its enemies were ready for peace, he continued. To make promises of formulated and detailed conditions in my position would be unproductive and precarious. Hostile leaders did this repeatedly; they gave extravagant assurance to each other, but they merely brought it about by this, that they themselves and their nations were always more deeply involved in the war. Their example doesn't tempt me. What I could say about the tendency and aim of our conditions I have said repeatedly, to terminate the war by a lasting peace which will grant us reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantee the existence and future of a strong Germany. That is our aim, nothing less, nothing more. After dealing with the problem of domestic policy the Chancellor briefly recalled his last speech in the Reichstag in which he announced an appeal had been transmitted by Germany and her allies to their enemies to enter into peace negotiations. Their answer was more rude and more presumptuous than any neutral countries could have imagined. Our alliance and our front stand firmer and the German nation is more united and no less resolute than ever. He then turned to the establishment of the barred zones around England, France, Italy, and to the answers received from neutrals to the communication made by the Central Powers. We by no means underestimate the difficulties caused the neutral states and we therefore try to alleviate them as much as possible. For this purpose we made an attempt to supply raw materials such as coal and iron needed by the neutral states within the boundaries of our sea, but we also know that all these difficulties after all are caused only by England's tyranny on the sea. We will and shall break this enslavement of all non-English trade. We meet half way all the wishes of neutrals that can be complied with, but in our endeavor to do so we never can go beyond the limits imposed upon us by the irrevocable decision to reach the aim of the establishment of the barred zone. Referring to the break with the United States as a result of the announcement of Germany's intensification of submarine campaign and the declaration by the United States that Germany, if formulating it, had withdrawn from the promises made, the Chancellor said that from the beginning he had openly announced that these assurances would be invalid under certain conditions, meaning the continuation of England's starvation blockade.

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**Fads and Fashions.**  
Many white shoes will be worn. Dresses of soft crepe are beaded. The sash will take a new lease of life. Wool embroideries are again introduced. Chin-protector collars are carried out in silk. Blouses of fine French voile are in good style. A novel bolero blouse is attached to a sash belt. Even large-sized corsets can now be had in pink.

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