

THURSDAY MORNING

nessed in a degree the excitement created by the news, but only in a degree.

It is realized that if no citizen of the United States was among the victims it merely was a fortunate accident, and that it can be only a matter of hours before Americans are caught in the wholesale destruction of vessels.

The California is the first big passenger steamer to be destroyed since the Arabic was torpedoed in the Mediterranean months ago. Her sinking has about swept away the last lingering hope here that Germany, after all, would allow passenger carriers to escape in an effort to avoid driving the United States to hostilities.

The message from Consul Frost came at the close of another day devoted to energetic preparations for the war regarded as virtually inevitable and to guarding against any act by the United States which might precipitate hostilities.

Adhering to Rights.

The most important step taken during the day was the sending of telegrams by Secretary Lansing formally notifying American shipowners that the state department could not advise them as to whether their vessels should sail on voyage thru the war zone, but at the same time stating that the rights of American vessels to traverse all parts of the high seas are the same as they were prior to the issuance of the German declaration.

With the California the immediate issue, officials were deeply impressed by the complete thoroughness of the German campaign and its promise, on the part of the last two days, of carrying out a threat to isolate England completely. Lloyd reports received here show a total of 55,000 tons for two days, or destruction at the rate of 55,000 tons a month.

German naval experts have said it would be necessary to cut off 1,000,000 tons a month to completely destroy the present rate of 55,000 tons destroyed. It is suggested that the balance will be made up by the use of submarines and by the various neutral governments and private shippers.

Departures Secret.

Hereafter the government will seek to have kept secret the fact of departure of vessels for the war zone in order not to invite unnecessary risks. The treasury department has previously issued instructions against the publication of manifests and every effort will be made from now on to allow as little information as possible to find its way to German submarine commanders.

The statement to shippers were sent today to all who had previously requested a ruling by the department, and included both freight and passenger-carrying vessels. Among others, it went to the Steamship Oil Co., whose officers had ordered all their huge oil-carrying fleet to hold on to port. Whether the fleet will be given permission to sail is yet to be seen.

It is stated that policy to be adopted is unknown, but information from the navy department shows that guns are available in practically all navy yards and that "guns could be quickly provided."

Austrian Situation.

The Austrian situation seemed more hopeless today than any time since the German declaration. Charge Zwiernick called at the department, but no details were given out either to his left or right. An interview called for by the however, indicated Austria's total adherence to the German policy without reservation, while little hope remained of a modus vivendi that would prevent a severance and allow the United States to care for the great prisoners, camps over which she has assumed guardianship.

That most of the neutral world will line up behind this country, at least to the extent of vigorously protesting against the German campaign, became evident today with reports that Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Brazil, Bolivia and probably other Latin-American countries would publish their replies shortly. While it is not believed that any of these nations, particularly the Europeans contiguous to Germany, will formally sever relations, as this country has done, they are valued as a means of moral condemnation.

War Bread Soon to Make Its Appearance in France

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United States Getting Ready To Commandeer All Ships

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War Summary

The day's events reviewed

(Continued From Page 1.)

believe, as they have been taught, that submarine ruthlessness will win the war for them, and its failure will serve to throw them into despair. This defeat will probably come at a time when Germany will have more than she can do to keep her celebrated war map unaltered under the influence of allied military pressure.

Grandcourt, a village on the south bank of the Ancre River in French Picardy, fell yesterday into British possession. The continuous pressure of the British against this place from both banks of the Ancre, forced the enemy to evacuate it. The British then seized it and are adjoining defensive work. The Germans lost many men about Grandcourt in the operations of the past few days. Like the other villages on the Somme and the Ancre, the Germans had powerfully fortified Grandcourt during their long tenancy and with it Miraumont has served to cover Bapaume from the west. The next step will bring the British close to Miraumont, but they will probably elect to proceed by a turning movement about Pys and up the Ancre valley. London critics now expect that the British will soon enter the strong position of Le Transloy. Their troops now seriously threaten this position.

The Canadian war records office has issued a communication on two more raids of the Canadians, bringing the total number up to seven in a brief period of time. The Canadians took 23 prisoners and two machine guns. A composite party of Manitoba and Alberta troops carried out one of the raids and a party of Quebec troops carried out the other raid. These operations had as their principal purpose the harassing of the enemy, the destruction of his mine shafts, and the securing of prisoners. Four times greater casualties befell the enemy, it is believed, than befell the Canadians.

For the first time in two weeks the Rumanian front has shown signs of activity. The Russians report that their advanced guards have dislodged the enemy from his trenches in the region of Stonou. The freezing of the Sereth River enabled two companies of Germans to cross it near Surai and to attack the Russians. Artillery fire speedily dispersed them. On the northern flank, several lively local combats are proceeding on the historic Beresina River.

Washington is waiting in great anxiety for full information of the casualties sustained in the sinking of the passenger ship California, off the coast of Ireland. She had 35 passengers on board. No definite details have arrived concerning the numbers rescued or missing. One American escaped drowning. Meanwhile American passenger vessels will sail towards Europe without an armed escort. Germany will get an opportunity to do her worst. If she deliberately provokes war, she will have war. Meanwhile the allied diplomats are striving to prevent the raising of a large army by the United States in case of war, for such American action would only weaken their defensive by drawing on their reservoirs of war material. Officials view the case of the California as exceedingly grave, perhaps as leading to war.

RUSSIANS STRIKE FOE IN RUMANIA

Czar's Advanced Guards Drive Enemy Back Near Stoniou.

FOE CROSSES SERETH

Counter-Stroke Speedily Drives Germans Back Near Surai.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

London, Feb. 7.—The Russians have struck their first offensive blow on the Rumanian front, capturing trenches in the region south of Stoniou. Their advance guards made the capture. The River Sereth has frozen over and parties of the enemy, two companies of 500 men strong, crossed over near Surai, southeast of Focani, and attacked the Russian trenches. The fire of the defence drove the Germans back across the Sereth.

A Petrograd despatch, forwarded by the British admiralty, per wireless press, says:

The war office today issued the following official communication:

"Western (Russian) front.—In the Beresina River the enemy, after a violent bombardment of our position in the region of the Village of Zaborosina, undertook an offensive against our trenches in the neighborhood of that village. He succeeded in taking a small island in the river and a trench occupied by one of our companies. A counter-attack by our reinforcements drove the enemy back into his own trenches.

Rumanian front.—Our advance guards dislodged the enemy from trenches in the region south of the River Stoniou and repulsed enemy counter-attacks. During the course of the night the enemy, two companies strong, crossed the Sereth, which is frozen, in the region of Surai, southeast of Focani, and attacked our trenches. He was driven over the river by our fire.

Caucasian front.—There is nothing to report.

Relief Ship Survivor Is Landed in France

Lars Kruse is Believed to Have Been Victim of Torpedo.

London, Feb. 7.—Walter Hays Page, the American ambassador, has been notified that the sole survivor of the Belgian relief steamship Lars Kruse, which was sunk by a torpedo or mine near the Belgian coast on Monday, has been landed in France. Mr. Page telegraphed this report to Ambassador Sharp at Paris, with the request that he get in touch with the survivor and forward the relief vessel to the state department at Washington.

The Central News says that it has learned that the Lars Kruse was torpedoed.

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SANK PERUVIAN BARK IN SPANISH WATERS

Germans Show Flagrant Disregard of All International Rules.

London, Feb. 7.—The Peruvian sailing vessel Lorton, while on a voyage from Callao, Peru, was sunk by a German submarine on Monday inside Spanish territorial waters, according to a British official statement issued today. The text of the official announcement says:

The Peruvian sailing vessel Lorton, on passage from Callao, was sunk by an enemy submarine Monday inside Spanish territorial waters.

It is interesting to note that on the very day this dual affront to two neutral states was perpetrated a German wireless press message was boasting of the destruction shown by Germany to the interests of neutrals.

FATE OF SEVENTEEN SAILORS IN DOUBT

British Steamers Ninian and Corsican Prince Are Reported Sunk.

London, Feb. 7.—The British steamers St. Ninian and Corsican Prince were sunk today says the Central News. The survivors have been reported missing. Seventeen men are reported missing.

The crew of the British steamer St. Ninian had been taken prisoner by a German submarine the captain and chief engineer were made prisoner by the Germans, who left the other members of the ship's company in open lands.

BRITAIN PREPARES FOR WAR'S CRISIS

Lord Curzon Predicts Hun Savagery Will Reach New Depths.

FURTHER SACRIFICES

Consumption of Food Will Be Restricted as Never Before.

London, Feb. 7.—In the house of lords today, the 30 lords of Crewe, reviewing the situation much as Andrew Bonar Law had done in the house of commons, said that Germany had thrown aside the mask of humanity by her latest utterances, and had promised a warfare of unequalled savagery, which was staggering, not in the sense its authors hoped, but to those who contemplated Germany's moral position.

The speaker said he knew of no parallel in modern history for Germany's act. Even Napoleon and Frederick II, he said, unscrupulous as they were, would have shrunk from such a threat. The action of the United States in the face of the German menace, he added, would be founded on a high moral basis. He hoped, however, that nobody would suppose that the action of America would make it less incumbent upon the allies to do the utmost possible to win the war.

U.S. Patience Unexhausted.

Earl Curzon, president of the council, alluding to the action of the United States in severing relations with Germany, said:

"When, after patience almost unexampled, the United States, thru its president, refused to have further to do with an unscrupulous and lawless power, the moral judgment of the world would be delivered against Germany."

He declared that other neutrals would undoubtedly follow the example of America, and that there were other nations which would like to follow it if they could.

Lord Curzon thought that the allies were approaching the real and terrible crisis of the war, and things would be attempted by the central powers "surpassing in horror and monstrosity anything hitherto tried."

Must Restrict Imports.

Recognizing the seriousness of the peril, he said, Great Britain was multiplying destroyers, arming merchantmen, developing scientific inventions for the discovery and destruction of submarines, and endeavoring to protect neutral shipping by organizing sea lanes of safety thru the danger zones, in addition to accelerating shipbuilding, and making use of all other resources to beat the enemy.

"Ere long the government must call on the country to accept a restriction of imports and consumption of commodities far in excess of anything known. We must be ready with all our resources to beat the enemy."

SPAIN MAKES PROTEST AGAINST HUN WARFARE

Legality of Methods Cannot Be Accepted, Says Formal Note.

Madrid, via Paris, Feb. 7.—The Spanish government's reply to Germany's submarine war zone note is a firm and dignified protest against it. It declares that Germany's decision to close completely certain sea routes is outside the legal principles of international law. It adds that, if Germany hopes to have Spain's help to avoid more loss of life it must be understood that Spain, while ready at the proper time to lend the initiative in support of the establishment of peace, cannot accept the legality of exceptional methods of war.

SWEDEN WILL PROTEST BUT WILL NOT SEVER

Declines President Wilson's Suggestion to Break Off All Diplomatic Relations.

Stockholm, Feb. 7.—Sweden will not accept President Wilson's invitation to sever diplomatic relations with Germany. The Swedish government, however, will protest against the newly inaugurated German naval policy.

A London cable this afternoon states that Spain, Holland, Brazil and Switzerland have also protested to Germany against further submarine outrages.

THE TORONTO WORLD

SUBMARINES TO GO AS ZEPPELINS DID

Admiral Mew Expects Same Success as Attended Aerial Defences.

KING OPENS HOUSES

Mr. Law Refers to Significance of U. S. Break With Foe.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

London, Feb. 7.—After the houses of commons opened with the customary austere war ceremonies and the King read his speech from the throne, H. H. Asquith, A. Bonar Law and Admiral Sir Hedworth Muxter spoke on matters pertaining to the German submarine campaign. The submarine danger had called into service the best brains of the country, the speaker said.

Admiral Muxter said: "We have every reason to hope that the same success as attended the destruction of zeppelins is in a fair way of being realized to combat the submarine menace."

Ex-Premier Asquith described Germany's new naval policy as one of "undisguised savagery." He said it was not war waged by civilized nations, but a war which actuated the German Government. The novel feature of it was that it was a direct and defiant challenge to the conscience of the world.

"This declaration of war on neutrality," continued Mr. Asquith, "is a challenge which has been taken up by the neutral states. It is not for us to forecast the bearing of this memorable event upon the future of the war. Still less is it fitting for us to give advice or suggestions to a government which is well able to take care of itself."

Enemies of Human Race.

"We have heard an acclamation, with a strain of family pride, the stern and resolute determination of the other great English-speaking community, which was staggering, not in the sense its authors hoped, but to those who contemplated Germany's moral position."

Noting that more and more merchant shipping was coming under the direct requisition of the government, and that the shipping controller was putting down a large number of new ships, Mr. Bonar Law said he did not minimize the submarine danger, but that some of the best brains in the country at large and among naval men were concentrated upon the problem. Altogether, he declared, he was not without hope, whatever the ravages of the submarine might be, that something might be done to replace the lost tonnage by new ships.

Mr. Bonar Law did not wish to say anything about the action taken by the government of the great republic except to point out that President Wilson had shown through, indeed, to an extent which had led some people to criticize him—that he desired to preserve neutrality.

He has shown," continued the chancellor, "that he does not intend to say peace on any terms, but on any terms which the allies can be induced to accept. The fact that the United States government has broken with Germany is, in itself the best testimony to the justice of our cause and the illegality of the methods whereby our enemies are trying to secure victory."

King George's Declaration.

In opening parliament, King George declared that the intent of the notes addressed to the United States as far as could be done at the present time, was to secure victory.

Threats of further outrages upon public order and the common rights of humanity serve to steel our determination.

The scene as King George read his speech presented a striking military spectacle, in marked contrast to the usual civil procedure. The King wore a uniform of an admiral of the fleet. The escort of their majesties was distinctly military or naval with Admiral Jellicoe, first sea lord; Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wm. Robertson, chief of the imperial staff, and Field Marshal Viscount French, commander-in-chief of the armies in the United Kingdom, and other high officials.

In the house of lords, American Ambassador Sharp occupied a place of honor. He declared that the United States government was consciously near King George and Queen Mary as the King delivered his "speech from the throne" convoking parliament.

After receiving a message from Washington on the subject, Mr. Franklin issued the following statement:

"The American line announces that the sailing dates of the steamers St. Louis and St. Paul now in the Port of New York have been indefinitely postponed. The following message was received today by telephone from Secretary of State Lansing:

"The government cannot give advice to private persons as to whether or not their merchant vessels should sail on a voyage to European ports by which they would be compelled to pass thru the waters delineated in the declaration issued by the German Government on Jan. 31, 1917.

Rights on Seas.

"It, however, asserts that the rights of American vessels to traverse all parts of the high seas are the same now as they were prior to the issuance of the German declaration, and that a neutral merchant vessel, which is unlawfully attacked, take any necessary measures to prevent or resist such attack."

The American Line officers have now taken under consideration whether to sail their steamers within prohibited waters or whether it is their duty to provide gun and gunners on their own account."

The Anchor Line Tuscania arrived here tonight, three days late, from Glasgow, with 56 cabin and steerage passengers. The delay in the voyage was attributed by passengers both to rough weather and a zigzag course the liner's commander took to avoid submarines. The Tuscania's officers first heard of the sinking of the California of the same line when they arrived at Quarantine tonight.

Government Declines to Say Whether or Not They Should Take Risk.

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L. BABAYAN'S

Established in Canada 1896 Headquarters: 34 King St. East Cor. Victoria St.

GREAT FEBRUARY SALE

\$150,000 Worth of Genuine High-Grade

ORIENTAL RUGS

From 20% to 50% Reductions

Unusual conditions in the Orient and the great scarcity of Oriental Rugs make this event of greater importance this season than on any previous occasion. Our many years' experience and buying facilities in the Rug trade have always enabled us to secure from time to time most exquisite and elegant specimens of high-grade Oriental Rugs at the lowest market prices. Thus we have now on hand a most complete and well-assorted stock of Oriental Rugs, which we are able to offer during our February Sale at

PRICES FAR BELOW THE PRESENT COST

The following is only a partial list of the special bargains offered. We have a good many other bargains in small and medium size rugs, suitable for halls, dens and living-rooms, which you can come and see for yourself.

Room Size Rugs and Carpets Suitable for Dining-Rooms and Living-Rooms or Drawing-Rooms

ANATOLIAN—Blue ground, small Persian design. Size 11.3 x 8.10. Sale price \$150.00.	ROYAL KIRMANSHAH—Allover design, soft browns, blues and tans; size 12.9 x 9.1. Regular price \$350.00. Sale price.... \$275.00.
ANATOLIAN—Champagne ground, terra border and medallion, allover design. Size 9.10 x 8.7. Sale price.... \$135.00.	ROYAL KIRMANSHAH—Allover design, old rose, blues and greens; 11 x 8. Regular price \$385.00. Sale price.... \$265.00.
PERSIAN SERAPIL—Terra ground and border, blues and ivory corners; ideal dining-room rug. Size 13.7 x 9.7. Sale price.... \$195.00.	FINE MELEZ—Chinese design, in yellow and blues; 13.10 x 10. Sale price.... \$325.00.
OUSHAH KIRMAN—Green ground, red medallion and border; 13.4 x 10. Sale price \$125.00.	ROYAL SAROUK—Dark blue ground and border, rose medallion; very fine specimen; size 11.6 x 8.3. Regular price \$390.00. Sale price.... \$297.50.
GULISTAN—Red ground, blue border, palm leaf design; 13.5 x 10.5. Sale price.... \$155.00.	ROYAL SAROUK—Deep rose ground, royal blue border, allover design; size 11.8 x 8.3. Regular price \$375.00. Sale price.... \$285.00.
PERSIAN MESHED—Red ground, blue border and medallion; 11.3 x 7.5. Sale price \$135.00.	

OUT-OF-TOWN BUYERS—We wish our out-of-town patrons throughout Canada to take advantage of this rare opportunity. We will pay most careful and prompt attention to any out-of-town inquiries, and, if necessary, we will make a very careful selection from our present stock during this Great Sale for any outside buyers who are unable to come personally.

This is a Rug Buyers' Opportunity to Save Money. Buy now for present and future needs while you have the chance.

success of the cause with the same undomestic and devotion that has filled me with pride and gratitude since the war began.

"I pray Almighty God to give His blessing to your councils."

AMERICAN LINERS POSTPONE TRIPS

St. Paul and St. Louis Will Not Leave Port Just Now.

RECEIVE NO ADVICE

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