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ITALY'S CHANGING ATTITUDE WORRIES BERLIN; THE FIRST CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN ACTION?

London, Feb. 24---(Gazette Cable)---That the First Contingent has already been in action is evidenced by the fact that Private Jack Davis, No. 8,428, Second Battalion, First Brigade, reached the Queen's Canadian Hospital at Shorncliffe last night. Davis, who belongs to Renfrew, Ontario, is suffering from shrapnel wounds.

GERMANY FEARS ITALY WILL ENTER CONFLICT

Kaiser's Diplomats Exerting All Possible Influence Now to Keep Italy Out of the Conflict — Germany Ready to Force Her Ally to Agree to Territorial Concessions to Italy.

Rome, Feb. 24, via Paris—Close observers in Rome of the political situation declare that since the readiness of Italy to join in the war has become apparent, the insistence of Germany upon her continued neutrality has grown stronger.

It is declared, in a reliable quarter, that Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador to Italy, has summarized the Italian situation to his government substantially as follows: Italy has spent nearly two billion liere ($400,000,000) in war preparations since the outbreak of hostilities, consequently action on her part is daily becoming more imperative. Furthermore, for internal reasons, all political parties are asking the government to obtain, as a result of diplomatic negotiation or through the use of the Italian army and navy, the fulfillment of the aspirations of the nation, particularly in return for the heavy sacrifices already made.

Germany urged Austria-Hungary strongly to cede to Italy her Italian province of Trent and a portion of the Istria peninsula, with the idea of keeping Italy neutral at the present time and enlisting her favor for the future.

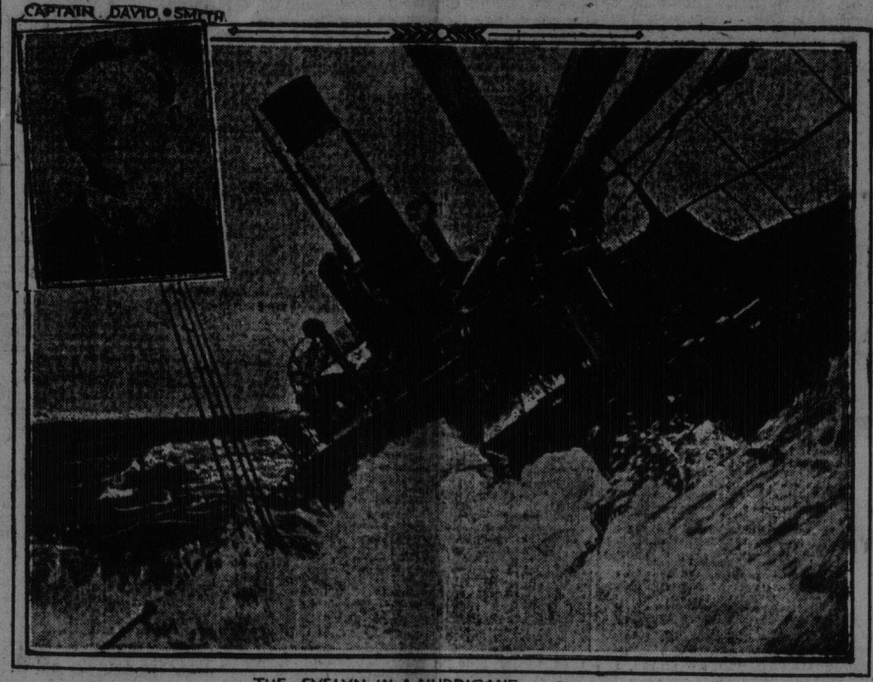
It has been asserted in Rome that Prince Von Buelow has said Austria must be induced to cede to his views concerning territorial concessions to Italy, else he would resign his position.

Berlin Worried

Bulletin—Berlin, Feb. 24, via London—A sudden change of feeling concerning the attitude of Italy has been noticeable in diplomatic quarters here during the last few days. The position of Italy appears to have become a matter of much greater concern.

The reasons for this change are not clear at this time.

THE AMERICAN SHIP SUNK IN THE NORTH SEA.



THE EVELYN IN A HURRICANE

Herewith is shown a remarkable picture of the American steamship Evelyn, which was sunk by a mine in the North Sea while on her way to Bremen with a cargo of cotton for Germany. The picture shows the vessel in a hurricane on one of her trips in the Atlantic. The Evelyn, which is the first American vessel to meet with disaster as the result of the sea warfare of the European nations, was a vessel of 1,968 tonnage gross, and had been for many years engaged in the coastwise trade between Philadelphia and Galveston. The trip to Bremen was her maiden voyage to that point. Captain Smith, who is also pictured above, was commander of the vessel. He and a crew of twenty-seven were reported saved.

INVASION OF RUSSIA BY GERMANS HAS BEEN HALTED

Admissions by Berlin that Obstacles Have Arisen, Confirm Reports that Russians Have Regained Grip and Offering Stubborn Resistance — Relief of Rheims Depends on Success of Offensive Allies are Attempting Near Perthes.

London, Feb. 24.—Nothing further has been heard of the naval operations in the Dardanelles which were interrupted by unfavorable weather conditions, but it is understood that the intention to continue all efforts to destroy the forts which line the Straits. Otherwise the Turks, who have been severely handled in the Caucaus, Egypt and Mesopotamia, are being permitted to rest, while preparations are being made by the Allies for a power attack against them.

A wireless report from Berlin says that further obstacles have arisen to prevent the invasion of Russia, and this would seem to confirm reports from Petrograd that the Russians are making a successful stand against the invaders along their fortress line on the northern rivers.

The Russians, from all accounts, are also holding back the Austrians in Bukowina, and it is stated in an official despatch that they have re-occupied the important railway centre of Stanislau.

Important Operations in West.

There has been little or no change in the Carpathians, where fighting of the most severe character has been going on for nearly two months. With regard to the western arena, the region around Perthes, where the French have been making a long-sustained effort to advance, and the Vosges are apparently the only centres of fighting of importance. A good deal of significance is attached by military circles to the operations near Perthes, as a successful offenive by the French there would relieve Rheims.

The campaign to the northwest of Verdun has a similar object in view, the French hoping to drive the Germans from Montfoucan, which has been strongly fortified, and thus deliver a fatal blow to the German plans for capturing Verdun.

Acocrding to a Berlin despatch the concern in that city regarding the attitude of Italy has been greatly accentuated of late. Nothing is known in London as to any change in the Italian policy, except that reports have been current that the neutrality party has been gaining adherents, particularly among business men, who are doing so well out of the war that they do not desire Italian participation.

WOULD AFFECT TRADE OF U.S. WITH GERMANY

Prohibition of Exports Through Norway Would be Serious Loss to United States.

London, Feb. 24.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says:

"A Norwegian official, interviewed as to the effect of the threatened prohibition of the export of goods to Germany, as a reprisal for the sinking of Norwegian steamers by German submarines said such a step would seriously affect American trade with Germany, through Norway, which had developed more than had been anticipated. There are enormous quantities of American goods in Norway, awaiting shipment to Germany, according to this official."

THREE BRITISH AVIATORS ARE MISSING

Took Part in Recent Raid on German Positions in Belgium —Fourth Picked Up at Sea.

London, Feb. 24, 8.10 p. m.—Three aviators who participated in a raid directed against German positions in Belgium, are missing. A statement to this effect was issued tonight by the official information bureau.

The statement follows:

"The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that in the recent naval air attacks on the Ostend, Zeebrugge and Bruges district four flying officers were reported missing. One of these, Flight Lieut. D. Murray, has since reported himself from Flushing. Lieut. Murray was compelled to alight on the open sea, and was eventually picked up by a Dutch torpedo boat.

"The three other officers reported missing are Flight Lieut. E. G.Sigall, Flight Lieut. The Hon. D. O'Brien and Flight SubLieut. T. Spencer. It is regretted that no further news of them has been obtained."

DEPENDS ON ATTITUDE OF GR. BRITAIN

What Next Move Will be In Regard to United States Proposals for Putting End to Submarine Blockade.

Washington, Feb. 24—Graeat Britain has submitted to her Allies, France, and Russia, the proposals made by the United States government designed to end the menace to neutral commerce arising from the retaliatory measures of the European belligerents toward each other.

Briefly, the American proposals which have been submitted to both England and Germany, seek the elimination by Germany of the recently prescribed war zone around Great Britain and Ireland, with its dangers to neutral shipping through mines and submarine torpedoes, and the adoption by all the belligerents of a definite policy with regard to the shipment of foodstuffs destined for the civilian population of their enemies.

It is not expected that a reply to the informal communication from the American government will be received here for at least two days. From such preliminary observations as American diplomatic officers abroad already have made, there is said to be some encouragement in the manner of the reception of the proposals at London. Germany is inclined toward an acceptance of the suggestions, it is understood, but upon the attitude of Great Britain depends the next move in the situation.

The strong opposition which the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Holland and other neutrals have assumed toward the retaliatory measures adopted by the belligerents is playing a considerable part in the situation. Although the American proposals have not been communicated to other neutrals, it may be stated that practically all the neutral governments of Europe are in accord with the Washington government.

DECLARES SURPLUS IN SPITE OF WAR

Toronto, Reb. 24—At the annual meeting of the Canadian National Exhibition Association today by Mr. Jos. Oliver, president, stated that in spite of the war the association had been able to hand over a surplus. The total revenue was shown to be $336,150,-04, and the expenditure $310,101.53.

The Submarine War

GOVT. COLLIER TORPEDOED CREW SAVED

Cardiff Steamer Sunk in English Channel, South of Beachy Head Tuesday — Coaster Lost Off East Bourne, Eng.

London, Feb. 24.—The captain of the Cardiff steamer Branksome Chine, a government collier, reported to the owners of the steamer today that she had been torpedoed and sunk but that all hands were saved.

Eighteen members of the crew of the Branksome Chine landed in New Haven, England, Tuesday evening and reported that their vessel had been damaged by a mine or torpedoed in the English Channel south of Beachy Head Tuesday afternoon.

The captain and mate were reported to be standing by the vessel, which was said to be badly damaged and awash.

COASTER SUNK OFF EAST BOURNE, ENGLAND.

Eas Bourne, England, Feb. 24, via London.—The steamer Royperana was sunk off this port today. It is believed that she was torpedoed. The crew of 31 men was saved.

Maritime records make no mention of the Royperana, which presumably was a small coasting steamer.

East Bourne is in the English Channel, in which German submarines have been particularly active since the naval war zone was established by Germany.

THE SCANDINAVIAN CONFERENCE ADJOURNED.

London, Feb. 24.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Copenhagen says the conference of the representatives of the Scandinavian countries, concerning the safety of their vessels in the North Sea adjourned today for a brief time in order that the delegates might consult with their respective governments.

London, Feb. 25.—A despatch to Lloyd's Agency from New Haven says the steamer Ryo Parana, of London, laden with coal and bound from the Tyne to Porto Ferrajo, Island of Elba, struck a mine five miles southeast of Beachy Head, at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. The explosion tore a hole in the vessel's starboard side, and she filled and sank. The crew of the Ryo Parana were rescued by a torpedo boat and landed at New Haven.

Another Sunk by Torpedo.

Bulletin—New Haven, via London, Feb. 25.—The British steamer Harpalion, from London for Newport News, without cargo, has been torpedoed off Beachy Head. She was struck amidships. Three of the crew, Chinamen, were killed. Two others were severely scalded. Forty-one members of the crew were landed here.

The steamer Harpalion was owned by J. & C. Harrison, Limited, of London. She was built at West Hartlepool in 1910. She registered 5,867 tons gross, and was commanded by Captain Pope.

ONE WEEK GONE WITH THE ODDS AGAINST ENEMY

Germans Lost Two, and Probably 3 Submarines, While Eight Small Steamers Victims of Enemy's Blockade.

London, Feb. 24—The German blockade of the British Isles has been in effect for a week with the result that so far as is known two Norwegian, one French and five British steamers have been sunk or torpedoed by submarines, with the surprisingly small loss of four lives. Two of these steamers, the Belbridge and the Dinorah succeeded in reaching port.

(Continued on page 2)

BRITISH CRUISER CAPTURES VALUABLE PRIZE FROM THE GERMANS

Montevideo, Feb. 24.—The German steamer Gotha, loaded with provisions for the German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, has been captured by a British cruiser, according to reliable advices, and taken to the Falkland Islands.

The steamer Gotha was last reported as leaving Buenos Ayres, Feb. 2 with supplies. She is a vessel of 6,653 tons, and belongs to the North German Lloyd Steamship Company. She was built at Bremen in 1907.

BLOCKADE OF GERMAN EAST AFRICA COAST

Allies Serve Notice of Naval Blockade to go Into Effect Next Sunday.

Paris, Feb. 24.—The governments of France and Great Britain have caused notice to be served on the Governor of German East Africa of a naval blockade beginning Feb. 28. The four days notice will be allowed to neutral ships in which to leave the blockade zone.

PRUSSIAN DIET HEARD SOME PLAIN SPEAKING

London, Feb. 25.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Copenhagen says that private reports from Berlin concerning the budget debates in the Prussian Diet assert that one of the features was a strong attack by one of the members of the Diet on Austria for the alleged feebleness of her assistance, an dparticularly on her inability to deal a decisive blow to Serbia.

The official report of the debate does not mention this alleged speech.

FEARED BRITISH ARMED MERCHANT CRUISER LOST WITH CREW OF 280 ABOARD

The Clan MacNaughton Missing Since February 3—Twenty-two Men of the Newfoundland Naval Reserve Among the Crew.

London, Feb. 24.—The official information bureau announced this morning that the Clan McNaughton, an armed merchant cruiser, is missing. The vessel was last heard of February 3, and it is feared that she has been lost. Wreckage believed to be from the cruiser has been found.

The text of the bureau's announcement follows:

"The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that H. M. S. Clan MacNaughton, an armed cruiser, commander, Robert Jeffreys, R. N., has been missing since February 3, and it is feared that the vessel has been lost

"An unsuccessful search has been made and wreckage supposed to be portions of this ship has since been discovered.

"The last signal received from the Clan MacNaughton was made in the early morning of February 3, and it is feared that she was lost during the bad weather which prevailed at that time."

From the fact that there is no regular cruiser in the British navy named Clan MacNaughton, and that there is a merchant steamer of that name, it can safely be assumed that the British naval authorities have taken the merchant vessel and made use of her as an auxiliary warship.

The merchant steamer Clan MacNaughton was built at Glasgow in 1911, and was of 4,985 tons gross. Her length was 429 feet, beam 53, and depth 34 feet. She has been in the Indian service, for she reached London from Calcutta November 4, last year. She was owned by Cayzer, Irvine & Company, of Glasgow.

Two hundred and eighty men lost their lives when the Clan MacNaughton went down.

Among the crew of the Clan MacNaughton were twenty men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve.

Twenty officers and 260 men were on board the warship. The commander and the principal officers belonged to the Royal Navy, the others to the Royal Naval Reserve.

NORWAY MEANS BUSINESS UNLESS EXPLANATION IS FORTHCOMING SOON

Copenhagen, Feb. 24, via London—Public opinion in Norway is greatly disturbed over the torpedoing in the English Channel off Dover of the Norwegian steamer Regin, presumably by a German submarine, according to an article appearing today in the newspaper Politiken, and as soon as a report covering the disaster is received it will demand that the Norwegian government send to Germany a communication, the meaning of which it will be impossible to mistake.

It has been intimated, the paper says, that all exports from Norway to Germany will cease until a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming, one which will outline the course that Germany propose to follow with regard to Norwegian shipping.