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WEATHER—MOSTLY FAIR

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NOMINATION DAY IN PROVINCE; FRENCH DEFEATED BY GERMANS; U. S. STILL ON VERGE OF WAR

UNITED STATES IS STILL STANDING ON THE BRINK

President Wilson and Cabinet Discuss Ruthless German Campaign for One Hour—Official Washington Admits That Present Uncertainty Cannot Continue Much Longer.

WILSON HAS DEFINITE OPINION AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE—WASHINGTON WANTS TO KNOW WHY GERARD'S TRAIN WAS HELD UP AT MUNICH (BAVARIA)—DELICATE SITUATION.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The ruthless German submarine campaign and its effects upon the United States were discussed late today by President Wilson and the cabinet. The meeting lasted only an hour, and afterward it was said no new steps had been decided on.

Arming of American merchantmen and the economic effects of the partial tie-up of shipping out of American ports were the subjects on which the cabinet centered attention. Secretary McAdoo is compiling a list of vessels held in port, and Secretary Redfield is making a comprehensive analysis of the inroads submarines are making on shipping generally.

Consideration is given by the government to all the different phases of the situation that have developed since the break in relations with Germany, including the detention of the Yarrowdale prisoners, the crisis with Austria, the plight of Americans in Turkey, and Belgium relief.

High officials took pains today to emphasize that the great fundamental problem before the nation is the illegal submarine campaign itself. Against this campaign the United States has made the most vigorous protest possible, short of war, but the administration realizes that so long as permits American ships to be held in port for fear of attack by submarines it, in effect, is acquiescing in the German policy. This state of affairs, it is admitted, cannot be permitted to continue indefinitely.

What the United States must do to end it, and when, are the only questions. The president is understood to have a very definite opinion as to what should be done, but he has not yet decided that the time to do it has come.

The press despatches from Berlin, announcing that the seventy-two seamen brought in by the Yarrowdale, had been released, caused the demand that the men be freed to be withheld pending official advice on the subject. A cablegram was sent to the Spanish ambassador at Berlin asking whether the report was true. It is not doubted, as it has been assumed from the first that Germany would not hold the men after rumors reaching there of the imprisonment of German sailors in the United States had been cleared up.

Waiting For Departures. Another inquiry was sent the Spanish ambassador to ascertain the cause of delay in the departure of the American train from Munich which Mr. Gerard previously had reported would leave "some day this week" with eighty-six consuls and their families and an unknown number of other persons.

An earlier despatch from the Spanish ambassador said Germany had promised to facilitate the consuls' departure as much as possible. It is understood, however, that for military reasons the Germans insisted that the remaining Americans all go out on one train-load and that there has been delay in concentrating them at Munich.

Two important moves by Great Britain to meet the submarine menace were announced during the day. A new danger zone was proclaimed, seeking to block practically the whole route of exit towards the Atlantic of the German U-boats from their bases in Germany and Belgium. With the

LLOYD-GEORGE WILL TALK ON MONDAY

London, Feb. 16.—Premier Lloyd George will not make his anticipated announcement Monday regarding the further restriction of imports and the encouragement of agriculture, which was to have been delivered in view of the submarine menace.

An official statement issued tonight says that "owing to the unexpected delay in the completion of necessary negotiations with the dominions and allied and neutral countries in connection with the restriction of imports," the statement which the premier proposed to make on Monday has been postponed until later in the week.

A despatch from London, Thursday night, said it was understood that while the list of prohibited imports would be extensive and cover many trades, there would be no reduction to the bare necessities of life.

The prohibitions, it was added, were to be made at the instance of the controller of shipping, after careful consideration of the tonnage available and the risks to be run, and that they were intended to provide a margin of safety for a varied and ample food supply.

HOW SOLDIERS MAY VOTE

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD. Ottawa, Feb. 16.—Authority has been granted and instructions went forward tonight to officers commanding units on active service within the provinces of New Brunswick to issue special transportation regulations to bona fide soldier voters by rail or boat to and from the places where they are entitled to vote. The assistant director of supplies and transports will proceed to New Brunswick to supervise the issuing of the transportation by the New Brunswick Election Act. Soldiers who are not on the voters' list may vote provided they take the necessary oath of age and residence.

600,000 BOY SCOUTS IN U. S. TO BE IN WAR

New York, Feb. 16.—Six hundred thousand boy scouts throughout the United States have been ordered by their national council to prepare for active service in the event of war. The announcement says that among the services they will be ready to perform are:

Rendering first aid to sick or injured, handling messages by wire, wireless and semaphore, distributing notices and gathering statistics for the use of the civic authorities, co-operating in the protection of property by accepting definite assignments for the purpose of giving alarm in case of danger, collecting information concerning supplies, acting as messengers and orderlies and co-operating with agencies organized for relief work.

"DOC." SMITH, ROBINSON, G. M. LAGER, SWEENEY AND REST OF "PLUNDERBUND" UP AGAINST IT

Col. Black, Hon. Mr. Mahoney, A. J. Legere, A. E. Trites and Dr. Price are Making the "Wellkin Ring" in Old Westmorland—Outlook Bright for Cause of Good Government.

Special to The Standard. Sackville, Feb. 16.—From all parts of the county come most encouraging reports as to the prospects of the government candidates in Westmorland. In every parish the friends of the party are very optimistic as to the outlook. It is freely stated by good government candidates that there are many defections from the opposite ranks, due largely to the presence on the opposition ticket of members of the old government which was so emphatically rejected in 1908.

Mahoney Popular Still. There is little question what Sackville and the parishes of Botsford and Westmorland will do for Hon. P. G. Mahoney, Col. F. B. Black, A. J. Legere and A. E. Trites on the 24th. Sackville can be counted on to roll up a bigger majority than in the last election for the government candidates, while in Botsford, Mr. Mahoney's native parish, there is a splendid determination that there shall be no such accident as happened in May last. On this occasion Botsford and Westmorland will be strongly in line with Sackville on the 24th in contributing strong support to the four government candidates on polling day. During the last two days the candidates for honorary administration of public affairs have been holding meetings in the parishes of Mourmcock, Botsford and Westmorland. Last night Col. Black and A. J. Legere of Moncton addressed a largely attended meeting at Mourmcock West and tonight the same two candidates spoke to a good audience at Pro d'n Haut. Both meetings were highly satisfactory to the party.

Hon. P. G. Mahoney, A. E. Trites, the other two candidates, and Leonard Gay, spoke to a large meeting at Bayfield Corner, Botsford. The hall was crowded and the feeling for the government cause was excellent. A. W. Eobson, an influential farmer, presided. Bayfield will give Hon. P. G. Mahoney and his ticket a rousing majority.

At Point de But. Hon. Mr. Mahoney, A. E. Trites and Leonard Gay addressed a fine meeting at Point de But, where the candidates received a grand reception. Point de But will be strong for the government candidates.

Tomorrow night A. J. Legere and others speak at Scadoun, near Shediac, and Col. Black and others will talk the same evening at Midgie, Sackville parish.

On Monday evening big meetings in the interest of the government candidates will be held at Shediac, Dr. Smith's home town, and Port Elgin.

Smith Weak at Home. In the by-election last June Dr. Smith, president of the New Brunswick Opposition Association (so-called), president of the Liberal Association of Westmorland, and Grit boss of Shediac parish, was only able to carry his home parish over Hon. Mr. Mahoney by 15 votes in a total vote of 1377. On Feb. 24, the general election will undoubtedly lose his own parish.

The government workers in the different parishes have never displayed greater enthusiasm, and there is a strong fighting organization in every district. The campaign in Westmorland is going strongly for the government.

WHAT VON BERNSTORFF SAID TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Feb. 17.—The Scandinavian-American liner Frederick VIII., with Count Von Bernstorff aboard, arrived here tonight.

Before Count Von Bernstorff left New York harbor he expressed to a representative of the Associated Press his personal views on the new German submarine operations, the possibility of the United States being drawn into the war, his readiness to retire from active life and the doubts he held about reaching Germany in safety.

Discussing neutrality of the American people, he said that "naturally a person's sympathies are where he does business," and he defended Germany from the charge of being a violator of the rights of humanity or the principles of international law by her blockade, "to try to starve out the non-combatant populations—our women and German babies," and then by calling attention to an American note which declared the British blockade to be illegal and indefensible.

Of the possibility of averting war, the ex-ambassador said he considered that to be "conditional upon Germany being able to bring the Entente to its knees before anything happens to involve the United States." He was emphatic in declaring that "the submarine campaign is bound to increase in intensity as the weather gets warmer."

"Of course," he said, "we will get through the British and French blockade and there should be no danger from our submarines. I guess they will know we are coming and will let us alone, even if they should happen to see us."

"However, whether I get home or not does not really make much difference. I have had my fun; I have enjoyed myself and I am no longer as

GERMANS WIN TEMPORARILY NEAR CITY OF RHEIMS

Striking at French Line in Champagne, Crown Prince Takes Ground to Hold Mile or More.

British Enter German Positions Southwest of Souchez—Huns are Driven Back Northeast of Armentieres.

Striking at the French line in Champagne, midway between Verdun and Rheims, troops of the German Crown Prince have taken ground to a depth of half a mile on a front of a mile and a half. The attackers captured 858 prisoners, including twenty-one officers and twenty machine guns.

The Crown Prince had not been active since his partly successful attack on French positions northwest of Verdun on Jan. 26. The latest thrust in Champagne comes a few days less than a year after the beginning of the attack by him on the outlying fortifications of Verdun.

South of Ripont, between Tahure and Cernay, was the scene of the German success. Most of the ground gained was contained in the German De Champagne Farm and on Hill 185, which lies about one-third of a mile south of the farm. The latest French official statement mentions only artillery activity in the vicinity of Malsons De Champagne, and declares there was no infantry activity there.

Berlin's Report. Berlin's supplementary report mentions no further activity in Champagne. Except for raids by British, French and German troops at various points along the front in France, and two small engagements in Galicia, there has been no important infantry fighting on the other battlefields. Official communications report much aerial activity on the western front.

Shipping, totalling at least 9,536 tons, has fallen prey to the German submarines, according to the latest reports. All the seven vessels sunk, which include a sailing vessel and a trawler, were of British registry. Of the five steamers sunk, the tonnage of one, the Kynul, is not available. The Hopedoor, of 3,740 tons, was the largest victim reported.

German Statement. Berlin, Feb. 16, via Sayville.—Troops of the German Crown Prince, in attacks against French positions south of Ripont, in the Champagne, yesterday, the war office announced today, on a front of about a mile and a half captured ground to a depth of half a mile. The Germans took 850 prisoners, including twenty-one officers.

French Statement. The official French statement gives Hill 185, in the Champagne district, two-thirds of a mile east of Tahure, which probably is the point referred to in the German statement. It is on the high road between Somme-Py and Cernay, about thirty-five miles west of Verdun, and thirty miles east of Rheims.

The Berlin statement continues: "The attack, which was preceded by heavy fighting near Havanna, 25,000 are slain in Abyssinia."

Belgian communication: "All along the Belgian front artillery activity is being maintained day and night."

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HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR HAVANNA 25,000 ARE SLAIN IN ABYSSINIA

Havana, Feb. 16.—Heavy fighting occurred last night between rebels and government troops near Hoyo, Colorado, 17 miles west of Havana. Several of the rebels were killed.

YORK COUNTY COUNCIL. EXPELS SECRETARY SMITH. Frederickton, Feb. 16.—The York Municipal Council will not conclude until tomorrow. The Board of Health bills have delayed the council considerably. Secretary J. W. Smith, of Nashuaque Village, having been unable to explain certain matters to the satisfaction of the council. This offi-

cial has had several clashes with a number of the councillors and as a result he was expelled from the council chamber today.