

ALLIES ON WESTERN FRONT DAMAGE THE GERMAN LINES

CALLS GERMANY NON-AGGRESSIVE, PEACE-LOVING

Dr. Von Kuehlmann Has a Wonderful Story for the Russians.

SAYS GERMANY HAS NO DESIGNS ON COUNTRY

Will Avoid All Interference in Internal Affairs of Slavs.

Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—Germany was pictured as a peace-loving, non-aggressive nation in the speech of Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, at the concluding session of the recent conference at Brest-Litovsk. Dr. Von Kuehlmann said the Germans should have no fear that Germany held any designs on Russia.

"I need only refer to Trotsky, (the Bolshevik foreign minister), to the permanent basis of the German policy, which, up to the time when war with Russia was forced on the German people, consisted in the preservation of good and friendly relations toward our eastern neighbors," Dr. Von Kuehlmann declared.

Will Not Interfere.

"Germany's policy will always continue—as soon as the war has reached a satisfactory conclusion—to strive for the friendliest relations with newly organized Russia by avoiding all interference in its internal affairs."

Dr. Von Kuehlmann said the German idea in drawing the frontier lines for Poland, Courland and Lithuania was "to observe the racial points of view as suggested by the Russian delegates and we have done this in accordance with historical demarcation and ethnographical position."

Future of Poles.

"As regards the future lot of these peoples," Dr. Von Kuehlmann continued, "although we believe their wishes already have been expressed in accordance with the principle of self-determination, we are ready by a systematic extension of existing representative bodies to provide for the possibility of a further expression of the national will on the broadest possible basis." The determination of the time and form of this expression of popular will must be decided by existing representative bodies in those territories.

As to a separate peace with Ukraine, Dr. Von Kuehlmann said, the Central Powers must reserve the right to be consulted as to what states they should recognize. They had recognized the Ukraine, he added, and there was no use discussing that question any further.

Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, expressed surprise that Trotsky had introduced the subject of the Ukraine at the peace conference.

"The relations between the Ukraine and the Petrograd government," said Count Czernin, "do not concern the Central Powers, and our conclusion of a peace with the Ukraine cannot be regarded as an unfriendly act toward the Petrograd government. We signed no treaty of alliance with the Ukraine against the Petrograd government, but only a treaty of peace which makes the Ukraine, so far as the Central Powers are concerned, merely a neutral state."

Replying to Trotsky's inquiry regarding the frontier south of Brest-Litovsk, Dr. Von Kuehlmann said: "In drawing the frontiers we attempted merely to find a middle course between racial divisions and the historical frontier."

CAPITAL AND LABOR IN U. S. NAME COMMITTEE

Washington, Feb. 15.—Capital and labor have named the five representatives each was asked by the government to appoint to outline a basis of relations for the period of the war. First sessions of their deliberations probably will be held next week after each side has named one other man to represent the public making a board of 12.

Announcement of the personnel of the men who were chosen by the National Council for Industrial Security and the American Federation of Labor will be withheld until the acceptance of several of the men asked to serve have been received.

At Least Fifty-three Children Perished In Montreal Fire

However, It is Admitted by Rev. Mother McKenna of Grey Nunnery That There is Possibility That Few Babies Had Been Entirely Cremated in the Flames, Though This Cannot Be Established Definitely Until There is Roll Call of the Nunnery Children.

Some of the Infants Were Removed by Sympathetic Citizens and Have Not Been Located, But Number is Known—Loss of Life is Record in Montreal—Nunnery Not Heavily Damaged—Archbishop Holds Service for Dead.

Montreal, Feb. 15.—The number of infants known to have perished in the fire in the top story of the west wing of the Grey Nunnery here last night, still stood at fifty-three at a late hour to-night. However, it was admitted by Rev. Mother McKenna as a possibility that a few babies had been entirely cremated in the fire, though this could not be established definitely until there was a roll call of the nunnery children. This could not be accomplished today, it was believed, as some of the sympathetic people who last night bore away to their homes babies rescued from the flames and smoke had not reported to the nuns.

All day long today ambulances of the city and motor cars of citizens and sleighs of various institutions and individuals were drawing up before the Grey Nunnery at the Guy street entrance, with babies who had been snatched from death last night and aged and infirm people who had been removed from the nunnery during the excitement of the fire.

The reception rooms and halls of the big Catholic institution were filled with nuns, soldiers and relatives of those who have been making their home at the Nunnery. Every returned soldier who has been in the military hospital in the Grey Nunnery, under the Creche where the fire occurred, was accounted for today, according to Major Hall, O. C. of "A" unit, military hospital, and none of the sick or wounded soldiers, who were compelled to leave their quarters last night suffering injury thereby, so far as is known.

In connection with the taking of temporary or perpetual vows by thirty-two novices in the nunnery this morning Archbishop Bruchesi, who presided, reminded the sisters that when the first hospital, built by the founder of the institution, Rev. Mother Youville, was destroyed by fire, that brave woman chanted a Te Deum. His Grace asked the sisterhood of the Grey Nunnery to follow the founder's example, which they did and chanted the Te Deum.

Montreal, Feb. 15.—During the night the firemen recovered a number of bodies of babies burned to death last evening when the Creche of the Grey Nunnery caught fire. At 8:30 this morning there were 53 little bodies in the mortuary of the playroom of the institution taken out by the men of the salvage corps. There were 170 babies in the section destroyed. This morning the sisters were trying to find out how many of their charges were missing. This was rendered a difficult task because many of the infants were taken into private homes and had not been returned.

There were over 1,100 inmates of the nunnery, all told, many aged men and women being in the number and some of them helpless and bed-ridden. Besides there was a hospital for returned soldiers, wounded or sick, this being directly underneath the babies' dormitory. Heroic rescues by the sisters and good work on the part of the firemen and the soldiers prevented a much greater loss of life.

The loss of life in the fire is a record for Montreal. The destruction of the Grey Nunnery comes as a climax to a long series of destruction of public buildings in the province for which no clear reason can be found, but which are generally credited to defective wiring or faulty heating system. It was discovered that one church around Quebec which had been destroyed by fire had used for its wiring system the ordinary little wire used for electric house bells. Legislation was passed at Quebec at the last session of the provincial legislature compelling all electricians who worked on wiring in public buildings to secure a certificate of competency from the government.

Archbishop Bruchesi was on the scene all night and this morning the Rev. Father Barrette held a service for the dead in the chapel of the Grey Nunnery and heard the vows of nineteen young ladies who were entering the cloister.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Feb. 15.—In Marysville, town marshal, Frank Saunders, last night, arrested a man belonging to the town in whose possession was found a bottle containing liquor.

THE TEUTONS ARE STILL AT WAR WITH RUSSIA

Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—That Germany and Austria were still at war with Russia was the belief expressed by Dr. Richard Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, at the concluding session of the recent peace conference at Brest-Litovsk. Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the Bolshevik foreign minister, had made his final statement. Russia was out of the war, and her armies would be demobilized, but that she would desert from signing a formal peace treaty.

The acts of war, Dr. Von Kuehlmann said, ended when Russia and the Teutonic allies signed the armistice, but when the armistice ended the warfare must be revived. He added that because one or two of the contracting parties had demobilized their armies this fact would in no wise alter the situation.

EIGHT NAVAL SHIPS SUNK!

Teutons in Swift Raid with Destroyers Attack and Send Number of Small Submarine Chasers to Bottom.

London, Feb. 15.—Eight British craft which were hunting submarines have been sunk by a raiding flotilla of enemy destroyers, it is announced officially.

After having sunk these vessels, seven of which were "drifters" and one a trawler, the enemy destroyers returned rapidly northward before they could be engaged. The destroyer raid took place in the Straits of Dover, the official announcement states.

Text of Statement.

The text of the admiralty statement reads: "A swift raid was made by a flotilla of large enemy torpedo boat destroyers at 1 a. m. today on our patrol forces in Dover Straits."

"The following craft, which were occupied in hunting a submarine which had been sighted by the patrol, were: Trawler James Pond, drifters Amie Murray, Cloverbank, W. Hillott, Cosmos, Silver Queen, Veracity and Christina Craik.

"After having sunk these vessels, the enemy destroyers returned rapidly to the north before any of our forces could engage them."

AVOID DISASTER, SAYS SOMERSET

Duke Declares Attempt Being Made to Take Command of Armies Out of Hands of Successful Generals.

London, Feb. 15.—The rumors of the compulsory retirement of General Sir William Robertson as chief of staff, which began after the Daily Mail's sharp attack on him and Field Marshal Haig a few days before the meeting of the supreme war council at Versailles and constituted the subject of a large part of the debate in the House of Commons this week, continue to be discussed by the newspapers.

The Times takes the point of view that no one cares a rap which first class soldier is selected for this or that great military appointment. It says unstinted confidence is reposed in Field Marshal Haig because the army trusts his leadership, which is a vital factor in the army's morale. But as to the work of others, in the nature of things, next to nothing can be known.

In the letter to the Morning Post, the Duke of Somerset takes a strong stand, saying: "It is apparent that an attempt is being made to take the command of our armies out of the hands of our generals who have so successfully carried on the war and to put ignorant civilians in actual command of our forces. We cannot afford such a disaster."

German Forces Fail To Start Their Offensive On Day Advertised

On the Contrary Both British and French Armies Deliver at Widely Separated Points on the Western Front, Smashes at the Teuton Line—Attacks Result in Capture of Prisoners and Infliction of Casualties on Enemy.

Canadians on Famous Lens Sector Keep Up Their Raiding Operations Against Germans, Again Entering Trenches and Bringing Back Prisoners—British Again Hit Turks in Palestine—Intense Aerial Activity on Western Front.

Friday the date set by influential German newspapers for the starting of the much advertised German offensive, has passed, and no aggression on the part of the enemy materialized. On the contrary both the British and French armies delivered at widely separated points on the western front smashes at the German line. These attacks, although they were merely in the nature of raids, were successfully carried out and resulted in the capture of prisoners and the infliction of casualties on the enemy.

Canadians on the famous Lens sector kept up their raiding operations against the Germans, again entering trenches and bringing back prisoners. Near Courcy the French undertook successfully a similar manoeuvre which bore fruit in the bagging of a number of Germans.

In the Butte Des Meuniers region of Champagne, where the French, aided by American batteries, executed a brilliant stroke earlier in the week, a lively artillery duel was in progress at last accounts, with the Americans, in all probability, participating. Likewise near Verdun and in the Woivre reciprocal bombardments of a violent character are in progress.

Much Aerial Activity.

Along that sector of the front, east of St. Mihiel, where an American force is holding the line quiet is prevailing for the time being owing to the inclement weather and the morass which has formed as a result of heavy rain. The Germans in front of the Americans are busily engaged in repairing trenches and constructing new dugouts to replace those which have been shattered recently by the accurate aim of the American gunners handling their 75's.

Over the entire front the aerial activity by both sides continues intense with both the Entente and German airmen endeavoring to locate opposing positions or to spy out troop concentrations.

French aviators have again carried out a brilliant foray into Germany, attacking with bombs numerous towns of military importance, notably Metz, the famous fortress, which lies some twenty miles north of the American sector in Lorraine. Large quantities of explosives were dropped and conflagrations were observed.

Strike the Turks.

The British again have hit the Turk line in Palestine a hard blow. North-west of Jerusalem they have penetrated Turkish positions to a depth of two miles on a front of six miles.

Seeking out in the Straits of Dover, German torpedo boat destroyers, early Friday morning made another of their sudden attacks on small British craft, sinking eight of them—seven drifters and one trawler. Having carried out their work of destruction, the Germans beat a hasty retreat to the north before British naval forces could engage them.

Rumanian Peace.

Late German newspapers assert that there are indications that peace negotiations between the Central Powers and Rumania are in prospect. It is assumed by some of these newspapers that Rumanian delegates already have reached a given point where they will discuss with representatives of the Central Powers details for the conference.

Although reports of the conference at the Imperial German headquarters between Emperor William and the military and political leaders have indicated the probability of further fighting between the Teutonic allies and the Rumanians, the Bolshevik government's withdrawal from the war has been reiterated by M. Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister.

CHILD DIES OF BURNS

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Feb. 15.—As a result of being badly scalded a few days ago, Walter Baiser, age twenty-one months, son of Sapper William Baiser, died today when three indictments were returned against Edmond Rousselot, under the espionage law.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE U. S. IS UNDER LICENSE

Plan Part of Programme of the American and Allied Governments.

POLICY WILL RELEASE VESSELS FOR TROOPS

Less Essential Exports and Imports Will Be Reduced to Minimum.

Washington, Feb. 15.—All the foreign trade of the United States—exports and imports—was put under license today by President Wilson as a part of a general programme of the American and allied governments for releasing ships to transport troops and supplies to Europe.

The less essential exports and imports will be reduced to a minimum and material regarded as necessary will be transported by the shortest route possible. The allies are working in close cooperation with the United States and the trade routes of the world in many instances will be shifted to bring the most economical operation of tonnage. The allies already have cut their foreign trade sharply, but will make further reductions as a part of the general plan. American representatives sitting in London will work with allied representatives in eliminating and re-arranging ocean commerce to free ships for war service.

Have Final Powers.

Licensing of American exports and imports will be handled through the war trade board which has created a special tribunal committee with final powers in deciding the country's foreign trade policies. The board, which already issues licenses for the large number of commodities over which the government has exercised export and import control, will work with the state department, the department of commerce and the shipping board, in arranging trade routes.

The shipping board has formed a special division under the direction of Gay of Harvard University, to prepare statistical data on shipping and commerce. To bring about a proper coordination between the shipping board and the war trade board, it is likely that a controller of ships and cargoes will be named to see that the ships are used in the most economical manner.

There will be no hasty decisions, it was said tonight, in determining what exports and imports are to be eliminated. Trades interested will be given hearings and the plan is to put the programme into effect as gradually as is possible in view of the imperative need of diverting vessels to the war zone.

Neutral Tonnage.

American ships taken out of the non-hazardous trades and put into trans-Atlantic service will be replaced where it can be done by neutral tonnage for which the government now is negotiating. This tonnage will not fill the need entirely, however, and licenses for such tonnage, as non-essential will not be granted.

Control of exports and imports and of bunker coal by the United States and the allies gives them control of neutral tonnage and officials predict that virtually all the ocean-going ships owned by the neutrals will be in the American and allied services before many months.

Control over exports and imports will be used to bargain with both the allies and the neutrals for products the United States must have to prosecute the war.

HAIK CONGRATULATES CANADIAN TROOPS

For Successful Part They Took in Raid Near Hargicourt Feb. 12.

London, Feb. 15.—(Via Reuters's Ottawa agency)—Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British armies in France, has sent a message of congratulation to the Canadians who took part in the successful raid near Hargicourt on February 12.

TEN MEN ON BIG VESSEL LOST LIVES

Survivors of Steamship Miguel de Larrinaga Arrive in New York from St. John.

New York, Feb. 15.—Traditions of the sea were upheld heroically by Captain Williams and nine members of the crew of the British steamship Miguel de Larrinaga, who volunteered to perish that others might live when the vessel foundered in mid-ocean February 6, according to survivors who arrived here today from St. John.

Rather than overcrew the lifeboats containing twenty-seven men Captain Williams announced his purpose to stick to his ship which was fast sinking. He called for nine volunteers to stay with him and make the boats safe for the others. Two of his officers, a gunner and six seamen lined up before him and declared they were willing to take a chance of being rescued before the steamer sank.

A British warship sighted the vessel and boats were launched, but the fury of a hurricane made it impossible to take off the ten men who for forty hours had clung to the half submerged steamer, knocked about and pounded by heavy seas.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR TO MAKE SPAIN FIGHT

New York, Feb. 15.—How a \$15 a week telephone operator posing as "His Excellency, the Marquis Edmond Roussetot de Castellon, confidential representative of His Majesty, King Alfonso XIII. of Spain," opened negotiations with the banking house of J. F. Morgan & Company for a loan of \$25,000,000 and by promising that Spain would enter the war on the side of the Entente Allies, brought the state department into the matter, was revealed in the federal court here today when three indictments were returned against Edmond Roussetot, under the espionage law.