

PREPARATIONS FOR GREAT BATTLE ON WESTERN FRONT

Count Von Bernstorff and German Embassies Are Examined at Halifax

GERMAN LEGATION FROM U.S. EXAMINED AT HALIFAX

Credentials of Departing Hun Ambassadors Are Examined—Notorious Tauscher and Von Igel Among Those Aboard

Halifax, N.S., Feb. 17.—The task of examining the credentials of the various members of the German party on board the Scandinavian-American liner Frederick VIII. en route from New York to Copenhagen, was begun this morning by a corps of Canadian immigration and customs officers. The ship was last night taken to a secluded portion of Halifax harbor for this purpose. A small army of officials were taken out to the steamer this morning, and it will depend on whether they find everything satisfactory with the papers of the German party, which includes Count von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador to the United States and other higher consular officials leaving for the Fatherland, whether the ship is long detained in Halifax.

Thorough Search The most careful secrecy prevails about the operations of the officials, but the make-up of the examining force—it is composed of immigration officials, translators, and women examiners—indicated that the work was to be careful and thorough.

Plotters Aboard Rumors that it was possible that Hans Tauscher and Wolf von Igel, who figured in the revelations connected with attempt to destroy the Welland canal, and reported on the vessel, might be removed by the British naval authorities, were without confirmation this morning. One of the immigration officers said that no orders had been issued for the removal of anybody from the ship at present. Action would only be taken

after the party's credentials had been examined. Close Watch Last night the Frederick VIII. was under the glare of a searchlight from a patrol boat all night, while this morning the ship was held about allowing boats approach close to the liner, were carefully enforced. Members of the German party were early on deck this morning, though their views from the ship are not inspiring, consisting of a jail on one hand and a brewery on the other. The passengers on the ship will, under no circumstances, be allowed to land. They were reported well, though Countess Bernstorff is reported suffering slightly from the nervous attack due to circumstances under which she has been called upon to leave her native land.

Americans Anxious Geneva, via Paris, Feb. 17.—Many Americans who have been living in Germany, are reported to be waiting near Singen and Konstanz for permission to cross the frontier into Switzerland. It is reported from Schaffhausen that only a few Americans have entered Switzerland from Germany since Ambassador Gerard and his party arrived at Berne. The Swiss and Spanish ministers at Berne are said to be giving every assistance in their power to the Americans still in Germany. Considerable financial loss has been suffered by those who have already reached Switzerland. One hundred marks which, before the war, were worth 125 francs, are now valued at only 83 francs. The Germans are reported to have closed and sealed the American consulate-general at Warsaw.

COMING OF SPRING FORESHADOWS GREATEST BATTLE OF THE WORLD

With Relaxation of Zero Weather Which Has Gripped Both British and Enemy Lines on the West Front, Preparations are Rife—German Forces are Numerically Weak, and Effort is Made by Re-Arrangement of Troops to Deceive British

British Headquarters in France, Feb. 16, via London.—(From staff correspondent of the Associated Press)—The cold, which has held the western front frost bound for nearly a month, is gradually moderating, and it is easy to sense all along the battle line an unmistakable quickening which tells of the approach of spring and foreshadows the coming to grips of the greatest armies yet assembled in the world war. Already these armies are reaching out toward each other, testing various parts of the lines and attempting to discover the most likely point of contact for the beginning of the titanic struggle that is expected to make this the decisive year of the conflict. In anticipation of eventualities, the Germans have removed the civilian populations from the cities and towns in proximity to their lines, but no such precaution has been felt necessary behind the allied front.

Artillery Active Never silent, the British guns are beginning to roar more and more steadily. To-night they are booming with particular violence in the sector of the Somme. From a distance, the bombardment might easily be mistaken for the grumbling echoes of a passing summer storm. The chorus of guns rises and falls like great peals of thunder, and there are flashes in the darkened sky like the play of lightning along the horizon.

Huns Remodel Troops New groups of divisions have been recently identified along the German lines bearing out reports of great troop movements now going on in Germany. British officers, however, say that this concentration is not so formidable as it appears at first sight. They say that many of the so-called new divisions of their opponents are merely a rearrangement of old divisions. These statements are based on information carefully collected during the continuous trench raids. In a raid undertaken this week an apparently new Bavarian division was located. It was afterwards discovered that this corps had been made up from old divisions, namely the fifth and sixth and seventh. Another manoeuvre carried out by the Germans has been a combing out of regiments and divisions by which groups of 25 of the youngest were taken from each company in the line and sent back to Germany to form new units or corps d'elite. British officers believe that it is on their corps d'elite that Field Marshal von Hindenburg is placing his greatest reliance.

ine warfare by Germany, Field Marshal von Hindenburg stated to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg: "Everywhere our front is invulnerable. Our supply of reserves is ample, the troops in good spirits and absolutely reliable." Foe on Defensive The British point of view is that the last three words of this statement constituted an admission that doubts were entertained in German circles as to the reliability of their troops. There is no disposition, however, to underestimate the stubborn resistance that the Germans have the power of making. The evacuation of Grandcourt by the Germans and other minor successes won by the British in their initial operations are interpreted as meaning that the Germans are prepared to give way at some points in order to fall back upon carefully prepared main lines of defense, lines that have not been hammered by bombs and shells after the manner of so many of the present front trenches.

Regiments Reduced According to the information obtained here, the gaps in the companies have not been filled; and the diminution in numbers has been covered, in some instances, by reducing infantry regiments from four battalions to three. One infantry company was recently encountered with a rifle strength of 72 out of a regulation complement of 175. Landsturm regiments have recently been identified on the front line. They had formerly been employed in patrolling the Dutch frontier and protecting lines of communication. According to prisoners, the picked men of the landsturm are in the trenches, while those who are unfit for the hardships of the front line, are on duty at the depots in the rear. Utilizing the landsturm battalions in this way permits the organization of the young men divisions in Germany, and it is these latter, British officers say whose movements are now reported, and who are depended upon to withstand the shock of the coming battle. Many boys of 17 and 18 have also been found in the German trenches by the British raiders.

"Our Front Invulnerable" The British staff is keenly interested in a report that, prior to the declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany, Field Marshal von Hindenburg stated to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg: "Everywhere our front is invulnerable. Our supply of reserves is ample, the troops in good spirits and absolutely reliable." Foe on Defensive The British point of view is that the last three words of this statement constituted an admission that doubts were entertained in German circles as to the reliability of their troops. There is no disposition, however, to underestimate the stubborn resistance that the Germans have the power of making. The evacuation of Grandcourt by the Germans and other minor successes won by the British in their initial operations are interpreted as meaning that the Germans are prepared to give way at some points in order to fall back upon carefully prepared main lines of defense, lines that have not been hammered by bombs and shells after the manner of so many of the present front trenches.

ENGLAND POLICED BY A FORCE OF WOMEN

And to Such Good Effect That They Hope for a Permanent Place in the Country—How the Work is Done in War Time

London, Feb. 4.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—I think we have won a permanent place for the woman policeman in England," said A. Domer Dawson, commandant of the women's police service, in response to an inquiry as to the present status of the organization. We have at least proved our usefulness, although we have not accomplished as much as we would have done if we had been given a better chance on a wider opportunity. But we mustn't complain. We are young as an organization. We are growing steadily in power and influence. That is something.

The Beginning The women's police service was founded at the beginning of the war for the purpose of training a body of women who might be used as "substitute police" more especially as protective and preventive agents among women and children. "At that time," remarked Miss Dawson, "there seemed almost no opening for a practical demonstration of what women police could do as there were still many policemen on duty." In three years the change has been rapid. Some eight or nine cities have placed trained policemen as regular parts of their forces. The sphere and scope of their activities has steadily increased. Perhaps the biggest opening for their activity, in view of the present national emergency, has been found in the munition factories. Here many hundreds are required.

In Munition Factories. The policeman in the munition factory is part detective, part chap-

ron, part welfare worker, part constable or watchman. In the main, however, her work concerns the young women workers and is covered by the expression "preventive and protective." The course of training which the policewomen undergo under Miss Dawson's supervision is a stiff one. There is attendance at police courts to learn the methods of procedure and instruction on special duties and on various aspects of the law relating to women and children. There is a first aid course, with stretcher and fire drill, and there is also a laboratory course of practical patrol work on the London streets to teach the recruit how to handle the every day tasks with tact, firmness and helpfulness. BUSY LIFE. The policewoman's work in the factories means an interesting and busy life, said Miss Dawson. "They are responsible for the keeping of the gates, examining workers passes, stopping and escorting of strangers and visitors. There are generally two gates to a big munitions plant, one controlled by men police, the other by women police. Male workers and visitors usually enter by the gate guarded by male police, while women and girls use the other. "In some factories the women police do most of the work of patrolling the factory area. They protect the younger workers from the rougher element and they travel on work trains to prevent rowdiness. At most of the factories, the police women are sworn in and have the full powers of an ordinary constable.

THEATRE... SPECIAL... TWIST... 17... b. 19... LAMP... SCENERY... ROAD... and He... ADIAN NORTH... REGULATIONS... HOME... RESIDENCE... COUNTRY... VARDEN... CROMPTON'S.

LONDON DOES NOT FEAR STARVATION

Returns of the Port for Past Eight Months Give Reassurance to All HUN DEPREDACTIONS And Submarine Warfare Cannot Succeed in Ruining Trade

London, Feb. 17.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—"The returns of the Port of London for the past eight months have not encouraged the hopes of the Germans of starving London or ruining its trade by the depredations of submarines," says the latest report of the Port of London Authority on conditions at the great London docks. The tonnage entering and leaving the port shows a substantial decrease as compared with the preceding year, but the quantity of goods actually unloaded shows a decrease of only three per cent., the tonnage being 1,829,000 this year as compared with 1,885,000 last year. Prohibitions of the import of several classes of merchandise have been in force during this period, and have undoubtedly affected the figures appreciably. The stocks of goods, especially foodstuffs, which warehouses has actually increased 22 per cent., being 687,000 tons against 564,000. The present stocks are the largest in the history of the docks of London. As compared with pre-war times, the traffic of the port of London has increased from 1,549,000 tons in

1912 to 1,829,000 for the corresponding period this year. The detailed report indicates increases in receipts of most articles of food. Wheat, sugar, rice, cheese, and cocoa, all show an improvement. Meat and tea show a decrease.

The supply of timber is of next importance to foodstuffs, says the report. Difficulty in handling has been acute in this respect, owing largely to the enlistment of one-third of the 700 timber porters, who handle and stack the timber after it has been discharged by the stevedores. The irregularity of the arrival of timber-laden ships has also been a trying factor. A few days ago thirteen timber vessels arrived at the docks on a single tide. But in spite of such difficulties, the stock of timber at the docks has increased from about 200,000 tons to more than 350,000 tons.

Much of the work of the docks is being done by soldiers from some of the numerous dock laborers' battalions, specially recruited for work of this kind here and in France.

PRESUMED DEAD. By Courier Leased Wire. Toronto, Feb. 17.—Mr. Justice Britton to-day decided that Mr. Lewis Smith, who left his parents' farm in Norfolk county in 1906 and has not been heard of since 1909, is presumed dead, and directed administration of his estate by his mother. Smith, who was twenty four when he left home wrote regularly and frequently to his old home, but disappeared from St. Jose, Idaho, in 1909 and was never heard of afterwards.

FIREMEN INJURED. By Courier Leased Wire. Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—Four firemen were injured in a blaze, which last night completely destroyed the five story Scott-Bathgate wholesale building on Notre Dame street, causing loss to various wholesale firms, estimated at two hundred thousand dollars, with insurance unknown. Fireman N. W. Foster had his wrist broken when a floor collapsed and Captain Kelly, Bert Todd and I. Barclay were bruised and shaken up.

NO INCREASES. By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, Feb. 17.—Proposed increased postage rates on newspapers and magazines and provision for one cent postage on drop letters finally were eliminated from the postal bill to-day on a point of order by Senator Lodge that they had no place on such a measure under the Senate rules. This action is expected to end the fight at this session for the provisions.

COOKING UTENSILS. "Warecres" Demonstration of "Warecres" Cooking Utensils all this week at CROMPTON'S.

Transportation is a Problem in Germany

Second Only to Troublesome Food Question is That of Railway Service in the Hun Empire

At the beginning of the war Germany had a surplus of railway carriages, freight cars and locomotives, which had been provided expressly against emergency. In consequence transportation in the first two years of the war was adequate for all the usual demands made upon it. The factories in which rolling stock ordinarily is produced and repaired, however, are needed urgently at present for other purposes. Moreover, the shortage of oils has made it impossible to keep the cars in proper condition. The German surplus, deteriorating from month to month, has gradually gone to pieces. Shortly before the correspondent left Berlin it was described by an unusually outspoken German railway official as "miserable."

RARE AND REFRESHING FRUIT—1917 CROP.



From the London Bystander

FEAR OF HUN SUBS IN U. S. IS ABATING

War Insurance Rates Drop After First Panic From Undersea Warfare FREIGHT CONGESTION May Soon be Remedied, Ship Owners Ready to Do Share

New York, Feb. 17.—The Associated Press says: Owners and agents of ships declared to-day they were ready to do their part in relieving the railroad freight congestion. They predicted that exporters would have no cause for complaint that they could not find vessels to carry their goods—at least no greater cause than existed before the declaration of the German submarine blockade. Twenty-one merchant ships arriving here yesterday promised greater cargo space than the port of New York had enjoyed for some time. Fourteen of these came through the war zone. War risk insurance to-day showed a slight reduction from the high rates prevailing since the beginning of the German blockade. Quotations had been invariably ten per cent for transatlantic voyages now range from 8 to 9 per cent. The fast Cunard liners have been insured on an eight per cent basis. Most of the underwriters quote eight per cent on armed bulkfreighters and American vessels and nine to nine and a half per cent for other neutrals. Rates to the Mediterranean are 11 to 12 per cent. Opinion in shipping circles is that the cut in insurance is due to the protection offered shipping by convoys and patrols within the war zone and to the heavy weather which has decreased the effectiveness of U-boats.

STEAMER ASHORE By Courier Leased Wire. Lewis, Del., Feb. 17.—The British Steamer Sahara, from Cadix, Spain, yesterday on Ship Shoal, eight miles south of Cobb's Island, Virginia. The Cobb's Island coast guard station reports that the steamer is in "good condition, but badly ashore." The Sahara is in ballast.

CONSCRIPTION OF MONEY MAY COME

If Subscriptions to New War Loan Fail, Compulsion May be Introduced

London, Feb. 17.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—A warning given by Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his recent Glasgow speech, that compulsion may be resorted to if the present voluntary method fails to bring in sufficient subscriptions to the new war loan, has attracted widespread attention. The Chancellor used such terms as "the possibility of other ways of obtaining the money," methods which he said he "believed would be had for the country," but that if such steps were necessary "account would be taken of the contributions which had already been made voluntarily."

What was wanted, the Chancellor added, were small amounts from as many as possible. "Here at least," continued Mr. Law, "we may take a lesson even from our enemies. It has not been a custom in this country—I hope to see it changed—it has not been a custom for government loans to be widespread among the people. The fourth German loan had 4,700,000 subscribers of under 100 pounds (\$500) each. I want to see something of that kind in this country. I want to see every man have a spirit of emulation in the matter. The man who has not played his full part in the war unless he is prepared to do

something towards the success of a loan. "Do not run away with the idea that our new loan is so great a success that nothing more is necessary. The result of the publicity given the loan in the press is that there is an idea that it is already a complete success. I do not know whether it is a success or to what extent it is a success. "With this daily publication of big subscriptions there is a danger of people saying: "When others are giving millions and we see it every day in the newspapers, we must be under that delusion. The sums we need I expect to get, not in millions, but in hundreds from the people of this country."

MEMBER OF 125TH KILLED IN ACTION

Pte. Arthur Harwood, Oakland, Makes Supreme Sacrifice at the Front

The sad news of the death in action at the front, of Pte. Arthur Harwood, will bring sorrow to the hearts of his many friends. Pte. Harwood was a member of the 125th Battalion prior to being drafted to the front, having enlisted in the 32nd Battery in the autumn of 1915 and later transferred to the Brant Battalion upon its organization here. The young man's home was in Oakland, where he was employed as a tinsmith. At the time of enlistment he was 23 years of age.

Germans Make Fresh Overtures to the U. S.

In Case of War, Germany Would Have Citizens of Both Countries Allowed Freedom in the Other

Washington, Feb. 17.—The full text of the explanatory and supplemental clauses proposed by Germany as a protocol to the Prussian-American treaty was made public to-day at the state department. Liberty to All Briefly the protocol amplifies the treaty so as to place Germans in this country and Americans in Germany in case of war, on exactly the same footing as to all property rights, freedom from detention, concentration camps or sequestration of property, that are applicable to other neutrals. Those of either country might remain fully undisturbed in the other country as long as they please and not for the nine months period pro-

vided in the treaty. Merchant ships of either nation might not be seized or driven to sea unless under a safe conduct to their home ports, though all possible enemies and their captains and crews may be made prisoners. Huns Break Treaty Officials here have pointed out that while Germany's violation of several provisions of the treaty may be taken by the United States to have nullified the convention, the United States will still continue to live up to its spirit. Two proclamations have already guaranteed that German ships or private German property will not, even in case of war, be seized and used by the United States Government.