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FRIDAY MORNING MARCH 2 1917 —FOURTEEN PAGES

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IN 28 DAYS 11 Villages Captured; 2133 Germans Taken Prisoner, Including 36 Officers; Advance of Two Miles Made on Eleven Mile Front

Senate Reading Room
Older 17—97
SENATE P O OTTAWA

NEW LIGHT ON HUN INTRIGUES STIRS BRITAIN

Overtures to Mexico and Japan "Most Sensational Plot of War."

WAR IS INEVITABLE

British Public Considers United States Cannot Further Defer Step.

London, March 1.—The time is long since passed when any fresh orientation of the German policy is calculated to astonish the British public, but the revelation of the plot to induce Mexico and Japan to attack the United States provided this country with a first-class sensation tonight.

The Associated Press Washington despatch gave the late afternoon paper the first news, which was displayed under startling headlines, such as "Great Hun Plot Unmasked," "Most Sensational Plot of the War," "Amazing Revelation of German Duplicity."

The edition of the papers was early exhausted. The immediate idea of the man in the street was: Here at last was an undoubted casus belli for the United States, the only matter for curiosity appearing to be how soon an actual declaration of war might be expected. The news was too late for editorial comment in the afternoon papers, and the government officials approached declined at the present juncture to make any statement for publication.

Perhaps next to the effect of the news in America, the attitude of Japan excited the public mind most. Nowhere, however, did the idea prevail for a moment that Japan could be detached from the entente alliance. Altogether, while the greatest confidence is felt that such an intrigue could only recoil on its authors, the British public is watching with greatest interest further details and developments.

Wilson's Shrewdness.

The Daily News, in an editorial, says:

"The German proposals were doubtless marked by a certain superficial astuteness, but only Germany could believe that solicitations by such a state as Mexico would suffice to de-

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 5).

May Throw More Light on German Plot in Mexico

Nogales, Ariz., March 1.—A department of justice agent seized here today a trunk belonging to W. H. Schweltz, who claimed to be a former German army officer, and who escaped last July from federal officers several days after he had been arrested in connection with an alleged plot to smuggle aeroplanes from the U. S. into Mexico.

Germany Unkaisered!

The Kaiser is a gone coon. So, all of his brood. The Hohenzollerns' divine right must give place to a people's government.

The Kaiser has about wrecked Germany; made the German people the most suspected, the most distrusted, nation of our time.

There is no hope for the Kaiser or his brood in any case; the only hope for the German people is to cut clear of the Kaiser.

The allies will treat with a German people cut free of the Kaiser; if the Germans hold with the Kaiser they will be fought to a finish.

It can't be Kaiser and people; it may be a people unkaisered.

The battle rally of the allies is now, and of the Teutons will soon be, Unkaiser Germany.

Photograph of the suffrage women who were received at the city hall at noon Thursday by Mayor Church, who congratulated them on having secured the franchise after so many years of effort.

GOVERNMENT REFUSED OFFER OF NICKEL COMPANY'S PLANT

Attorney-General Lucas, During Heated Nickel Debate, States That Definite Offer Was Made to and Turned Down by Federal Government at Beginning of War.

That the International Nickel Company, upon the outbreak of the war, offered to turn over their plant and output during the war to the Dominion Government and that the offer had been declined was the astounding statement made in the legislature last night by Attorney-General I. B. Lucas. Mr. Lucas made the statement somewhat heatedly during one of his many interruptions of Hartley H. Dewart's second speech on the nickel question. Mr. Dewart apparently did not take the statement seriously, but characterized it as one of the many reckless assertions made by the government in order to meet an emergency.

Mr. Dewart's slashing attack on the government in respect to nickel was made during the course of the budget debate. He called the attention of the house to the fact that in December last Hon. Howard Ferguson at Mimico denied that any nickel-bearing lands had been alienated to the Canada Copper Company since the Conservative party came into power. Mr. Dewart said the records showed that 592 3-4 acres had been sold to the Canada Copper Company since June, 1915, for $3 an acre. He had called attention to a sale of 337 acres in his speech on the address, and Mr. Ferguson's explanation had been that some prospector had performed the mining duties and became entitled to the patent and had transferred it to the Canada Copper Company. Amid applause and laughter from the opposition benches, Mr. Dewart explained that this poor unknown prospector was none other than C. H. Hitchcock, for years the mining geologist of the Canada Copper Company. But Mr. Ferguson, he said, had made no explanation at all of a still more recent transfer to the Canada Copper Company of 355 acres of nickel-bearing land, finally consummated the very day this session of the legislature opened.

Sold Nickel Land Last Year.

Mr. Dewart also showed that in the last year over 1500 acres of nickel-bearing land had been sold to a Mr. John E. Hodge of Minneapolis, and that in 1913 2685 acres had been sold to the Canada Copper Co., mining

(Concluded on Page 9, Column 1).

FACTS ABOUT NICKEL

THE International Nickel Company offered the Dominion their product for the duration of the war in August, 1914, and were refused, according to Hon. I. B. Lucas in the legislature yesterday.

H. H. Dewart was accusing the government of selling the Canada Copper Company, affiliated with the international, 592¾ acres of nickel land near Sudbury, and 2685 acres, reserving the minerals. They had patented 1583 acres of nickel land to John E. Hodge of Minneapolis for $4,750, the last sale being made since this session opened. The minister of mines had stated repeatedly that no nickel lands had been alienated since the Conservatives came into power.

To indicate the German character of the International Company, Mr. Dewart showed that the late Wilhelm Merton of Frankfort, and H. R. Merton and Co., London, thru which the International Company made all their overseas sales, was a trusted adviser of the kaiser.

ENEMY ENTANGLES U.S. IN MESH OF INTRIGUE

Von Bernstorff on Orders From Berlin Threw Deep Net of Plots Over Country, Washington Says.

Washington, March 1.—Count von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador, was instructed from Berlin to arrange the dismantling of German warbound ships in American harbors at the same time he received the Zimmerman note for transmittal to Mexico.

This added thread in the mesh of German intrigue spun around this country while Germany was still protesting friendship, was allowed to become known today with the inference that full and detailed instructions were sent Bernstorff from Berlin to make war by this country impossible. Officials refused to disclose any of the other elements in the German plot, but indicated that it was general and wholesale.

The next step expected from abroad is a complete statement by Mexico of her attitude. Despite the long chain of suspicious circumstances tending to connect that country with Germany's intrigues, officials expect an indignant repudiation by the Carranza government.

It is assumed also that Japan will take advantage of the opportunity to reaffirm her loyalty to the entente and her friendship for this country.

AMERICANS ABOARD BRITISH SHIP SUNK

Survivors of Galgorm Castle Are Thirteen Hours in Lifeboats.

ONE BOAT MISSING

Two Americans Included Among Twelve Men Believed to Be Lost.

Queenstown, March 1.—The British barque Galgorm Castle has been sunk by a German submarine. The survivors include two Americans, Harry Merret of Beaver Falls, Pa., and Harry Richardson of Boston. They were 13 hours in the boats. Captain Frampton of the Galgorm Castle, his wife and twelve of the crew passed thru Cork today. They had been landed at a western port.

The Galgorm Castle was shelled and sunk Tuesday evening by a submarine, which started firing at a mile and a half range and continued until two boats got away from the ship.

Harry Merret (or Merritt) one of the two American survivors on the first boat said that a second boat was lost sight of during the night and possibly was swamped, as bad weather prevailed.

The missing boat contained the chief and third officers and ten men, including two Americans, named Jackson, ordinary seaman, and David Walker, cook.

The sinking of the Galgorm Castle was previously reported from Paris.

FRENCH BREAD CARDS TO PREVENT WASTE

Consumption Will Be Regulated, Minister of Provisions Announces.

Paris, March 1—Announcement that bread cards would be instituted in France to prevent waste was made today in an official communication issued by Edouard Herriot, minister of provisions. The announcement says:

"To avoid wastage, the minister of provisions has decided to regulate the consumption of bread by instituting cards. Instructions will be given to the prefects of the different departments to put the new regulations into effect."

The minister also is studying measures to be enforced in the large centres of population to assure that preference shall be given to the wounded ,ill, children and the aged in the distribution of milk.

DINEEN'S ENGLISH HATS.

Get properly hatted at Dineen's early in the season and be satisfied. All the new English spring styles for men have arrived, Heath, Hillgate, Christy and Tress hats in full shade and shape variety. The English hat will be a scarce commodity later this season, so make your selection while the Dineen stock is in all its completeness of variety. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street. Store open until 10 o'clock Saturday night.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

ON the Ancre in northwestern France, the Germans did not end their withdrawal yesterday, but they continued to yield ground, according to the British official communication of last night. The British advanced their line north of Miraumont yesterday an average distance of 600 yards on a front of a mile and a half. At Souchez, in the northern neck of the big salient between Gommecourt and Lens, the British discharged gas and then they made a raid, taking some prisoners. Making other raids northeast of Givenchy, Lens and La Bassee, the British entered the German positions and took eight prisoners.

* * * * *

The British official communication also gives a resume of the operations in France of last month, showing that their record is, perhaps, the best February record for any army since the war began. They took 2133 German prisoners, including 36 officers, and they captured or had surrendered to them by the withdrawal of the Germans, the following eleven villages: Ligny, Thilloy, LeBarque, Warlencourt, Pys, Miraumont, Petit Miraumont, Grandcourt, Puisieux-au-Mont, Serre, and Gommecourt. In view of the British success, it is improbable that the Germans, if they do undertake a last great offensive, will undertake it against the British army.

* * * * *

The action of the British yesterday in advancing their lines on a mile and a half front north of Miraumont, shows that no matter whether the Germans are retiring voluntarily or involuntarily, Sir Douglas Haig is pro-

(Continued on Page 2, Cols. 3 and 4.)

U.S. CONGRESS AUTHORIZES ARMING OF MERCHANT SHIPS

Conspiracy Proof Is Clear President Wilson Declares

Sensational Document Came Into Possession of U.S. Government Only Few Days Ago.

Washington, March 1.—In response to a request from the senate, President Wilson tonight transmitted a report from Secretary of State Lansing saying the published text of the German foreign minister's note to the German minister at Mexico City, directing an attempt to ally Japan and Mexico against the U. S. in case of war was authentic; that it came into the possession of the government during the present week, and that in his opinion it was incompatible with public interest to send any further information to the senate at present.

Enemy Continues to Yield; British Line Goes Forward

North of Miraumont Advance of Mile and Half is Made, With Successful Gas Attack Near Souchez.

London, March 1.—Tonight's official communication reads:

During February we captured 2133 German prisoners, including 36 officers. The following villages were either captured or surrendered to us by the withdrawal of the Germans: Ligny, Thilloy, Le Barque, Warlencourt, Pys, Miraumont, Petit Miraumont, Grandcourt, Puisieux-au-Mont, Serre and Gommecourt.

The enemy continues to yield ground in the Ancre. North of Miraumont our line advanced today an average distance of 600 yards on a front of one and a half miles.

We discharged gas this morning south of Souchez, followed by a raid, in which we took some prisoners. A British raiding party also entered German trenches northeast of Givenchy, Lens and La Bassee and captured eight prisoners.

Under cover of a heavy artillery bombardment, a hostile raiding party succeeded last night in reaching our trenches near Ablaincourt and Rancourt. In both cases the enemy was ejected by our counter-attack. A few men are missing.

There was considerable mutual artillery activity today in the Ypres sector.

U.S. WAR DECLARATION AWAITED IN GERMANY

Berlin, March 1, via London.—The tension of the last 48 hours eased a bit this morning on advices that Washington was not contemplating precipitate action in regard to the sinking of the Laconia. Official circles, the press and the public continue to manifest calm indifference as to future developments.

The absence of editorial comment is accounted for by the lack of dependable news from Washington on which conclusions may be based. The press merely reiterates that Germany has spoken the final word in regard to submarine warfare, and that the Rubicon has been crossed.

CANADA TO PROHIBIT EXPORT OF POTATOES

Ottawa, March 1.—It is understood that the government has practically decided to prohibit the export of potatoes from Canada and that an order in council embodying this decision will be passed.

Prices in the domestic market have reached unprecedented figures, one of the reasons being the great quantities that are shipped out of the country. Maritime province dealers, for instance, are sending the tubers in ship loads to the West Indies.

The seriousness of the situation suggests some drastic action such as is now proposed.

BRITISH SHATTER TURKS IN FIGHT ALONG TIGRIS

London, March 1.—The remnants of the Turkish forces retreating from Kut-el-Amara have been shattered completely, according to information given out in the house of commons today. The Turks, it is said, would reach Bagdad only as a disorderly mob.

This information was received from General Maude, commander of the British expedition on the Tigris front, and was announced by Henry W. Forster, the financial secretary of the war office.

Mr. Forster said that more than 2500 prisoners had been taken by the British since Feb. 24, and that since the commencement of the offensive on Dec. 20, some 5000 Turkish prisoners had been taken. The total Turkish casualties in killed and wounded was estimated by General Maude at more than 20,000.

Restores British Prestige.

The rout of the Turks on the Tigris River north of Kut-el-Amara is expected by the military officials to do much to restore British prestige in the middle east.

An official statement issued today says:

"Telegraphing on Tuesday, the commander in Mesopotamia reported that thruout the day the pursuit of the beaten enemy had been continued by our cavalry and gunboats. A number of prisoners have been taken in course of the day's operations, together with at least six guns, three mortars, eight minethrowers, thirty pontoons, much bridging material, a large river vessel, and a quantity of equipment, arms and ammunition."

House Abandons Obstruction, Passes Bill by Overwhelming Majority, Provides for Hundred Million Dollar Bond Issue.

Washington, March 1.—Aroused by the disclosures of Germany's plot to unite Japan and Mexico with her in a war upon the U. S., and then convinced by official evidence of its authenticity, congress today abandoned the delays and obstructions which have checked President Wilson's efforts, to be clothed with express authority to deal with the submarine menace.

The house, after a ten-hour debate, and by an overwhelming majority, passed a bill to empower the president to arm merchant ships, and providing for a hundred million dollar bond issue. This bill, however, does not contain the grant of authority to use "other instrumentalities" which the president specifically desires, and would prevent government war insurance for munitions ships, a prohibition, which the president does not approve.

To Substitute Senate Bill.

When the house bill is received in the senate tomorrow, the senate bill, which the administration fully commends, will be substituted, and that is expected finally to be accepted by both houses as the law.

Official announcement was made at the White House today that the administration stands behind the senate bill "first, last and all the time," with its provision for "other instrumentalities." In the senate, an attempt to ask the president to disclose the government's source of information of the attempted intrigue with Mexico and Japan, on the supposition that it came from one of Germany's enemies, was defeated after a snarp and sensational debate. Instead, the senate merely asked for official notice of the authenticity of the despatch of instructions from German Foreign Minister Zimmermann to German Minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City. The president transmitted it immediately, with the statement that it would not be compatible with the public interests to reveal furher details concerning it.

Members of both houses of congress—some skeptical of the authenticity of the astounding revelations of Germany's intrigue, others feeling that it had been permitted to become public for its effect in congress and thruout the country—met the situation with mixed emotions which, with a few possible exceptions as the day's developments were unfolded, solidified into a decision to stand behind the president.

Peace Party for Bill.

Congressmen classed with the called "pacifist" group in the house who have been opposing a grant of authority to the president on the ground that it would be a step toward war, announced that they would vote for the armed neutrality bill in the belief that to arm the president to protect American rights might be the way to avoid war.

Republican senators who have been filibustering against the armed neutrality bill, not because opposed to it, but to force an extra session of congress, declared their conviction that the situation demanded united support of the president.

A congress badly divided, and in its dying moments, with its legislative program at sixes and sevens and charges of "playing politics" flying from every side, suddenly took on a new aspect. It was as if the cry "America first" had rung thru the halls of both houses and the response had been almost instantaneous.

In the senate, members who have opposed the president in his manner of dealing with Germany on the ground that it was leading to war, were found fighting influences which the president's supporters declared were calculated to embarrass him.

Stone Voted Down.

There were bitter references in debate to senators whom the president would be expected to look to for advice on foreign affairs. Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee was voted down in his own committee on his own draft of a resolution asking the president to disclose if the American Government's information concerning the latest phase of German intrigue came from one of Germany's enemies.

With the authenticity of the now celebrated Zimmermann instructions officially established to the senate and the armed neutrality bill passed the house tomorrow is expected to advance the situation to the next stage—the perfection of an armed neutrality bill acceptable to the president in all respects.

The question of an extra session of congress still is undetermined. President Wilson told inquirers he did not expect to call one, altho it developed that Democratic whips in the house were advising members and members-elect to be prepared to attend on March 6.

British Schooner Searched By Cuban Revolutionists

Mobile, Ala., March 1.—Cuban revolutionists boarded and forcibly searched the British schooner Fercelier in the harbor at Neuvitas, Cuba, Feb. 14, according to a story told here today by Captain R. R. Russell. All firearms and ammunition on board were carried off, he said.