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PROBS—FAIR

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GERMANS WORRIED OVER ABSENCE OF TWO SUBMARINES FROM THEIR BASE AT CUXHAVEN

CONFLICTING REPORTS FROM THE WAR THEATRES

Russians and Austrians Still Struggling in Carpathians With Neither Side Able to Advance — No Word of Additional Disasters on Account of Submarine Blockade — No Change in Situation in Western Area.

London, Feb. 22.—A despatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company says reports from the German frontier state that much uneasiness exists at the German fortified sea port of Cuxhaven concerning two large submarines which have not returned to their base. The under-sea boats are said to be two days overdue and it is feared they have been destroyed.

London, Feb. 22.—The wisp of modern warfare, the submarine, by means of which Germany has declared she will blockade the British Isles, daily becomes a factor of more and more importance in the great war in Europe with respect to its influence on the policies of the nations engaged in connection with the contraband question, so vital to neutral states. Almost coincident with the unofficial reports that Austria proposes to follow the example of her ally by making war on merchant ships in the Adriatic, came the announcement by Premier Asquith, in the British House of Commons, that the much-discussed retaliatory plan of Great Britain, though still tentative, was much broader in scope than has been previously suggested, in that it was a matter for the consideration of all the Allies, concerning which a joint note from the Allies might be expected.

The statement was likewise made in the House of Commons that the British government might deem it necessary to alter its decision whereby cotton, up to the present, has not been classified as contraband.

The day passed without news of any additional merchant ships, belligerent or neutral, having fallen a victim to a German submarine, but three small British craft are missing, and fears are expressed as to their fate.

Amsterdam reports that two German submarines are overdue at their base, Cuxhaven, but whether they have been sunk is not known. Traffic in the North Sea remains somewhat disorganized, Dutch and Scandinavian steamers showing a reluctance to go to sea, owing to the menace of both submarines and mines. Reports from Copenhagen that traffic between Sweden and England has been temporarily discontinued are not officially confirmed.

The British newspapers print today two conflicting versions of the recent Allied governments plan joint policy of reprisal.

Framing Joint Agreement on Matter of Retaliation for Germany's Submarine Blockade—On a Broader Scope than at First Expected.

London, Feb. 22.—The allied governments have not yet decided upon the precise attitude which it is proposed to adopt in retaliation against Germany's recently initiated belligerent policy, but a speedy agreement is expected. Replying to a question in the House of Commons this afternoon, Premier Asquith said:

"The allied governments are considering what action it would be proper to take in the way of reprisals against the German policy of attacking and destroying British allied and neutral merchant vessels, without warning and without any attempt being made to save the lives of civilians and innocent crews."

"Pending a decision, which I hope will very soon be announced, I cannot make a statement regarding the nature or scope of the measures to be taken."

As to the form in which the decisions will be published Premier Asquith said: "There certainly will be a note from Great Britain, and I hope there will be a joint one."

NO MOVE YET BY WASHINGTON

Definite Information About Sinking of the Steamer Evelyn Still Lacking.

CIVIL SUIT BY THE OWNERS IS CERTAIN.

Wilson and Bryan Confer on Disaster to American Steamer off German Coast.

Washington, Feb. 22.—President Wilson conferred with Secretary Bryan tonight concerning the destruction of the American steamer Evelyn off the coast of Germany last Friday, but in the absence of definite information, as to the cause of the wreck, no course of action, beyond diplomatic inquiry was decided upon.

Having learned unofficially that a part of the Evelyn's crew, when cast adrift from the sinking vessel, headed for the coast of Holland, Secretary Bryan cabled to American Minister Henry Van Dyke, at The Hague, the same message he previously had sent to Ambassadors Page and Gerard, at London and Berlin, asking that every care be extended to the crew, and an investigation of the facts of the occurrence be made through all available agencies.

Earlier in the day Secretary Daniels instructed the naval attaché of the American embassy at Berlin to make an investigation of the matter, and report such technical information as was possible for him to gather.

It was conceded in official quarters that if the nationality of the mine were not determined, and if no proof were obtained to show whether official notifications to neutral vessels concerning the courses they should steer were being followed by the Evelyn, there would be virtually no ground for diplomatic protest.

A civil suit, however, by the United States War Risk Insurance Bureau and the owners of the vessel and cargo is certain to follow upon such evidence as can be gathered through the official inquiry now being made. While the case of the Evelyn continued today to absorb attention, the facts that no international convention now in force governed the laying of mines, and that it had been impossible for other neutral governments who had lost vessels in similar manner during the present war to fix the responsibility for the accidents, removed some of the tension which first reports of the wreck produced.

SHOULD CLERGY FIGHT? SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION

More Conservative in Hierarchy Say Clergymen Should Go to Front Merely as Chaplains.

London, Feb. 22.—Coinciding with the news of the death of the first British clergyman killed in the war, Rev. Captain Lionel Stone, curate at Halloway, the question of should a parson fight is the subject of much discussion, the Times having two columns of correspondence today. Many able-bodied clergy state that they cannot urge loyalty without showing it, but the bishops and the more conservative type of churchmen hold that such clergy should be content to proceed to the front as chaplains, or Red Cross workers. It is a fact that the theological colleges, both Anglican and Non-Conformist have been seriously depleted. The Wesleyan Methodist Conference this year expects a great shortage of candidates for the ministry.

Mr. Frupp pointed out the iniquity of disfranchising men who were themselves fighting for liberty and citizenship. Unless they passed such a measure they would take away this liberty from their own Canadian volunteers.

Then came Hon. George F. Graham with a shallow cry that he was not opposing the measure and immediately called into criticism it and placed every obstacle in its way that his imagination could conceive. They could not preserve the secrecy of the ballot, he argued, and in any event it would be undesirable to sow the seed of discord amongst men who were fighting shoulder to shoulder. It would cause quarrelling, he exclaimed. Altogether he said the difficulties were tremendous.

Then Dr. Clark of Red Deer asked how Mr. Frupp proposed to have the men at the front "seized of the issue." He threw out some insinuations and hinted that the government had treated badly those who had gone to the war.

This brought Hon. Robert Rogers to his feet and in the course of a few pithy remarks he uttered significantly this warning: that he knew he expressed the earnest hopes and wishes of every member of the House when he said he hoped it would not be necessary to hold a general election before the termination of this war.

This is the situation. The government has no desire to bring on an election before the end of its term of office but if one is considered necessary it will be because the Liberal opposition has rendered it so. Already the truce has been broken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Wm. Pugsley, Hon. George F. Graham, F. B. Carvell and others. Charges for which there has not been the slightest foundation have been laid, and in one case in particular a most gross breach of parliamentary etiquette, as well as public decency has been made. This was by Mr. Pugsley in connection with the purchase of submarines by the Canadian government. He had moved for production of papers concerning these and instead of waiting for the papers, which Mr. Hazen had ready to give him, he launched into innuendo and attack, knowing well that if he allowed himself the opportunity to read the papers an attack would be impossible. It is hard to believe that the government will forgive this extraordinarily indecent attack which was designed in malice and perpetrated with falsehood.

RUSSIANS PREPARE FOR ATTACK ON TURKISH CAPITAL

CONCENTRATING LARGE FORCES AT ODESSA READINESS TO SHIP THEM TO MIDIA ON BLACK SEA, 60 MILES FROM CONSTANTINOPLE — TURKS PREPARE TO RESIST ALLIES ENTRANCE INTO SEA OF MARMORA.

Copenhagen, via London, Feb. 23.—The Deutsche Tages Zeitung publishes an official despatch from Sofia which says the Russians are concentrating large forces at Odessa in readiness to ship them to Midia, on the Black Sea, 60 miles northwest of Constantinople, for an attack on Constantinople.

London, Feb. 23.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Athens says that the Turks, expecting the entrance of the Allies fleet into the Sea of Marmora, have sent troops and heavy artillery to all the islands in that sea.

MAJOR GENERAL HUGHES MAY GO TO BATTLE FRONT

Growing Opinion that Minister of Militia May Follow His Desire to See Active Service for the Empire.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—The opinion is growing that Major General Sam Hughes will shortly announce his retirement from the office of Minister of Militia and proceed to England with the second contingent. It is well known that General Hughes, when war broke out, would have preferred to buckles on his sword and go with the first contingent, but he found that impossible owing to the mass of detail and organization work which confronted his department.

It is also known that the objections of Sir Robert Borden to his leaving Canada at the present time have weighed strongly with General Hughes, and it is just possible that he may still comply with the wishes of the prime minister and remain at the post of executive duty.

The Minister of Militia, however, has his department now working with the utmost smoothness. The mammoth task he had to undertake is largely done and an arrangement may be entered into whereby the portfolio may be kept open for him and this fighting veteran of the South African war and the Northwest rebellion allowed to take his place on the firing line.

UNPATRIOTIC BRITS WOULD ROB CANADA'S SOLDIERS OF VOTE

EVERY CONCEIVABLE OBJECTION TO GIVING SOLDIERS AT FRONT CHANCE TO VOTE IN EVENT OF ELECTION. PUT FORTH BY OPPOSITION, WHEN BILL IS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE TO GIVE MEMBERS OF EXPEDITIONARY FORCES CHANCE TO EXERCISE THEIR FRANCHISE.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—Every conceivable objection that could be raised against giving the soldiers of Canada an opportunity to record their votes if an election occurs while they are fighting the battle of the Empire was put forward tonight by Liberal leaders, when A. R. Frupp's bill was under discussion. The purpose of this bill is to give that opportunity to the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and to the men who may be mobilized at different points of the Dominion, probably far from their homes.

Mr. Frupp pointed out the iniquity of disfranchising men who were themselves fighting for liberty and citizenship. Unless they passed such a measure they would take away this liberty from their own Canadian volunteers.

Then came Hon. George F. Graham with a shallow cry that he was not opposing the measure and immediately called into criticism it and placed every obstacle in its way that his imagination could conceive. They could not preserve the secrecy of the ballot, he argued, and in any event it would be undesirable to sow the seed of discord amongst men who were fighting shoulder to shoulder. It would cause quarrelling, he exclaimed. Altogether he said the difficulties were tremendous.

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BELDRIDGE'S CARGO WAS FOR DUTCH GOV'T

Norwegian Steamer Torpedoed by German Submarine Now Anchored in the Thames

London, Feb. 23. 2.55 a. m.—The Norwegian tank steamer Beldridge, which was torpedoed several days ago near Folkestone by a German submarine, is now safely anchored in the Thames unloading her cargo. The Norwegian legation in London declares that her cargo was consigned to the Dutch government, thus disposing of the rumor that it was intended for Germany.

HON. MR. PERLEY MAKES REPLY

To Criticism for Appeal for Clothing and Comforts of Canadian Troops.

London, Feb. 22.—The cabled reports of Mr. Turriff's attack on Sir Geo. Perley in regard to the latter's appeal for clothing and comforts for the Canadian troops, on being brought to the Acting High Commissioner's notice, elicited the remark: "Everybody's doing it."

While declaring that he had no wish to make any explanation of an action of his unless requested by the government, Sir George Perley pointed out to the Montreal Gazette representative that the existence of scores of organizations designed to look after the comforts of the troops, whether Imperial or Colonial, indicated that the necessity of giving such help was proven, an outstanding instance was Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, to which no one would take exception. Every one acquainted with military life knew that much depended upon the quartermasters. Some regiments had all they wanted, while others went short. Regarding the Canadian papers which had just arrived with reports of his visit to France, Sir George maintained silence, refusing to affirm or deny, but he commented on the indiscretions of the same papers in publishing the movements of the contingent which, he said, was also incorrect.

Another Disaster? Copenhagen, Feb. 22, via London, Feb. 23.—The Swedish steamer Vasa, which arrived at Esbjerg today from Norfolk, picked up in mid-ocean an iron steamer, bearing the name "Theodore Palmer, New London."

The American schooner-barge Theodore Palmer Palmer, of New London, has been engaged in the coal carrying trade between Virginia and New England ports. Available shipping records, however, do not give her recent movements.

STEERING GEAR OF EMPRESS WAS IN GOOD ORDER

Pilot Who Steered Ill-fated C. P. R. Liner Out of Mersey on Last Trip Says.

LYOYD'S INCREASE THE TRANS-ATLANTIC WAR RISK PREMIUMS

London, Feb. 23.—The Lloyd's underwriters have advanced war risk premiums on trans-Atlantic passages nearly one half. Coastal risks have also been increased. Lloyd's rate for trans-Atlantic passages is now from one and one-quarter to one and one-half per cent.

The government, however, continues to write business at its old rate of one and one-twentieth per cent.

PLAN TO HELP OPERA SINGERS IN DISTRESS

Committee Being Formed in Paris to Help Operatic People Suffering on Account of War.

Paris, Feb. 22.—A committee is being formed in Paris by patrons of music representing France, Great Britain, Russia, Belgium and the United States with the object of creating and endowing an institution for the relief of distressed opera singers, chorists and musicians. Forty opera houses in France and Belgium have been indefinitely closed.

Otto H. Kahn, chairman of the executive board of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, it is understood, is directing American participation in the plan. It is intended to convert one of the Parisian theatres into an operatic academy, in which Jean De Reszke and Henry Russell, director of the Boston Opera Company, will assist.

NO WORD IN HOLLAND OF THE EVELYN'S CREW

Dutch Marine Department Heard Nothing From Survivors of American Steamer Sunk by Mine off German Coast.

Berlin, Feb. 22 (via London)—Further reports concerning the sinking of the American steamer Evelyn yesterday off Borkum Island, in the North Sea, show that only one man of the crew lost his life. This man was frozen to death in a small boat after the sinking of the steamer.

The Evelyn, which sailed from New York, January 29, with a cargo of cotton for Bremen, struck two mines, but the crew had time to get into life boats. Some members of the crew were taken by a German ship to Helligoland while the others were landed in Holland.

The Hague, via London, Feb. 22.—Inquiry of the coast guard stations in North Holland, have brought the reply that nothing has been seen or heard of that part of the crew of the American steamer Evelyn who were reported to have proceeded for Holland after the steamer was blown up. A very dense fog prevailed throughout yesterday and today along the coast.

The Dutch Marine Department also is without information concerning the missing men of the Evelyn's crew.

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ENGLAND MAY PUT COTTON ON THE CONTRABAND LIST

London, Feb. 22.—The British government may reconsider its ruling permitting the entrance of cotton into Germany. This was intimated in the House of Commons this afternoon by Harold J. Tennant, Under Secretary for War.

Mr. Tennant stated that when the decision was reached not to make cotton contraband, the government believed that the requirements of Germany were already satisfied, but he added, "this attitude must be revised from time to time."