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War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A.M.

MESSAGE FROM AMERICAN CITIZEN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.
President Wilson received the following cablegram from Austin Hoy, whose mother and sister were lost when the Laconia was torpedoed without warning by a German submarine: "I am an American citizen, representing the Sullivan Machine Co. of Chicago, living abroad, not as an expatriate, but for the promotion of American trade. I love the flag, believing in its significance. My beloved mother and sister, who were passengers on the Laconia, have been foully murdered on the high seas. As an American citizen outraged, and as such fully within my rights, and as an American son and brother bereaved, I call upon my Government to preserve its citizens' self-respect and save others of my countrymen from such deep grief as I now feel. I am of military age, able to fight. If my country can use me against these brutal assassins, I am at its call. If it stifles my manhood and my nation by remaining passive under this outrage, I shall seek a man's chance under another flag."

BRITISH DVANCES.

LONDON, Feb. 28.
British troops occupied the important village of Gommecourt to-day, and captured the villages of Thillois and Pusieux aux Mont as well as advancing their line more than half a mile northeast of Gommecourt. This announcement was made in the official from the British headquarters in France, which records several raids of minor importance. The following is the text of the statement: This morning we attacked and captured a portion of an enemy trench to the northwest of Sully Saillies, and took 85 prisoners, including two officers, also a machine gun. Our advance north and south of the Ancre has continued. During the night we occupied Gommecourt; to-day we have captured the villages of Thillois and Pusieux aux Mont, together with the trench systems adjoining them. We have also pushed our line forward a thousand yards to the northeast of Gommecourt. A successful raid was carried out last night in the neighborhood of Clercy. Our troops reached the enemy's second line and captured twenty-two prisoners. We also entered the

enemy's positions northeast of Arras and southwest of Lens and bombed several occupied dugouts. An enemy raid northeast of Armentieres was repulsed with loss. Much valuable reconnaissance work was carried out by our airplanes. Yesterday a number of air fights took place and three of our machines were brought down.

PRESS SPECULATION.

LONDON, Feb. 28.
(Special Canadian Press Cable by Stewart Lyon.)—In London there is much speculation in the press as to the meaning of the enemy's retirement on the Ancre. The general view is that it means the beginning of a real big movement which will involve the evacuation of the entire salient now dangerous and costly held by the Germans in the region west of Bapaume and Arras. British guns now command the only railway by which the southern part of the salient can be provided with food and shells. The road system also is menaced by General Gough's possession of Serre. The Evening Standard presents its military correspondent's opinion that the Germans voluntarily gave up this strip of ground two miles wide in order to forestall and upset an intended attack by the British on a large scale. It is as if the devil had been suddenly removed when the powerful hammer stroke was about to be struck. delay is necessitated on our part by digging new trenches in front of the German line and displacing heavy as well as light artillery. This may be the aim of the enemy. The French view is quoted to the effect that the Germans retired in order to prevent overwhelming disaster. In any event the next big struggle in this part of the front must be for the command of the Bapaume ridge, a series of heights north of the Ancre, covering Bapaume on the southwest.

ANGLO-FRENCH CONFERENCE HELD.

PARIS, Feb. 28.
An Anglo-French conference was held at Calais yesterday and to-day. Those participating were Premier Briand of France, General Lynskey, French Minister of War, General Robert G. Nivelle, Commander-in-Chief of the French Field Forces, Premier Lloyd George of Britain, General Robertson, Chief of the Imperial Staff at the British Army Headquarters, and Field Marshal Haig, Commander of the British Forces in France.

'OVERT ACT' IS BOUND TO COME.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.
Referring to President Wilson's statement in Congress in asking for power to arm American ships, and that the "overt act" had not yet occurred, the Cologne Volks Zeitung, a copy of which has been received here,

says, "It is only due to a lucky accident that American ships have not been sent down. Unless American ships avoid the danger zone the 'overt act' is bound to come. There is no doubt the arming of American merchantmen will mean a fight between the submarines and American vessels, which necessarily will produce a state of war."

IN MESOPOTAMIA.

LONDON, Feb. 28.
The rapid advance of the British Expeditionary Force under General Maude, on the Tigris, after the capture of Kut-el-Amara from the Turks, revived interest in the various phases of the long halted campaign for the ancient city of Bagdad, famous in fable and story. Last spring before General Townshend's forces at Kut were fogged to surrender to the Turks the Russian operations in Persia and Armenia were counted upon to aid in driving against the Ottoman armies defending Bagdad. The three branches of the drive were directed, from the south by the British on the Tigris, from the east by the Russians in Persia and from the north by Grand Duke Nicholas' forces in Turkish Armenia. A junction between the Tigris forces and those in Persia was at one time thought to be in prospect. One Russian cavalry detachment did succeed in crossing a mountain on the Persian frontier and joining the army of the British General Gorringe, below Kut-el-Amara, after Townshend's surrender. The fall of Kut really spelled the collapse of the Entente plan, if one there was, to effect the capture of Bagdad by these joint converging operations. Turkish forces released by the capitulating Townshend late in April reinforced the Turkish army contending against the Russian advance in Persia. General Dernaikoff, who had penetrated to the vicinity of the Mesopotamia border, from which Bagdad is less than a hundred miles distant, was obliged to retire and soon the Russians found themselves back at Kermanshah some hundred miles eastward of the bor-

der. In the summer they were driven from that place and later even from Hamadan, nearly 50 miles further from the frontier. The promised Russian advance southward from Billis in Southern Turkish Armenia, about 350 miles north of Bagdad also failed to materialize. Fighting between the Turks and Russians in Persia since then has for the most part been in the vicinity of Hamadan and Sulthanah which is still further east. Obviously with the British still tied fast at Kut there could be small encouragement for operations looking to a juncture. With that place again in British hands, however, and General Maude's forces now within 75 miles of Bagdad, on an air line, and apparently having thrown the Turkish forces into at least temporary demoralization the prospect of a co-operative movement again opens. As yet there have been no indications of any contemplated move in force by the Russians either in Persia or Armenia. It was about this time last year that their armies in Persia were set in full motion. It may be that they were awaiting this year the outcome of the British operations at Kut before starting a new offensive campaign.

ACTION PREDICTED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.
Opposition to Congress granting President Wilson authority to protect American rights and lives on the sea, began melting to-day, and Administration leaders confidently predicted action within another 24 hours. There were indications that many Republicans in the Senate, who thought in favor of the step proposed to insist that Congress should be called in extra session, would vote for the measure if requested by the President when the roll was called. The details of the destruction of the Cunard liner Laconia, published in the morning papers, telling of the suffering and death of an American mother and daughter among the passengers, had its effect during the day. Members in the House and Senate, whose communica-

tions had come largely from pacifists, began receiving telegrams from constituents, calling for vigorous action by the Government. Another aggravating incident was added to the situation to-day by the receipt of word from Germany that four American Consuls were being held there because a German Consul on the way from the United States to Ecuador had been delayed at Cuba. Statements of facts with a request of immediate release was cabled to-night.

TO ABOLISH SALOONS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.
The capital city of the United States will be "bone dry" after November 1st of the present year. This was made certain to-night when the Senate bill to abolish saloons in the District of Columbia passed the house by a vote of 275 to 137.

PROPOSED AN ALLIANCE WITH MEXICO AND JAPAN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.
The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany, in planning her unrestricted submarine warfare and counting its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States if this country should not remain neutral. Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her Allies and join in an attack on the United States. Mexico for her reward was to receive general financial support from Germany to reconquer Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and share in the victorious peace terms which Germany contemplated. German Foreign Minister Zimmerman at Berlin on January 19, 1917, was directed to propose an alliance with Mexico to General Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot. These instructions were transmitted to Von Eckhardt through Count Von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador here, now on the way home to Germany under safe conduct obtained from his enemies by the country against whom he was plotting

war. Germany pictured to Mexico by broad intimation that England and the Entente Allies would suffer defeat, and Germany and her allies be triumphant in world domination by the instrument of unrestricted submarine warfare. A copy of Zimmerman's instructions to Von Eckhardt, sent through Von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States Government.

ANOTHER AMERICAN LOST.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.
Wm. Eva also was lost when the steamer Laconia was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on Sunday night. He was an American citizen according to an announcement by Cunard line officials her to-night. He was 74 years old and lived in California where he was interested in mining properties. He served in the Civil War as a marine on the Union side, it was said.

CARGO SHIPS TO BE BUILT.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 28.
The Bethlehem Steel Co. at Sharrows Point announced to-day it had received contracts for two cargo ships of ten thousand tons each from the Cunard Co. These ships are the first to be built in this country for the Cunard Co. in 50 years.

WAR REVIEW.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.
On both sides of the Ancre in France, British forces continue to make progress. North of the stream, the important village of Gommecourt, and the village of Pusieux aux Mont with the trench systems near them have been captured, while south of the river the forces which previously had taken Ligny pushed eastward and occupied Thillois, about a mile southwest of Bapaume, and a trench at Sully Saillies. The capture of Gommecourt was followed by the driving of the British line a thousand yards northeast of that place. Whether the these sectors is not stated by the Germans offered resistance on any of British official report. On the re-

mainder of the front in France and Belgium, minor attacks and artillery duels continue. Near Clercy, Arras and Lens successful raids were carried out by the British. A German raid northeast of Armentieres was repulsed. Comparative quiet prevails in Russia and Galicia. Along the northwestern frontier of Roumania in the Jacobeni-Kimpolung sector the Teutons have captured several hill positions from the Russians and taken more than 1,300 men prisoners. Petrograd admitting the loss of the positions says, a counter attack gave the Russians possession of one of the positions. In the Tigris region the British in quest of Bagdad are following the Turks recently driven out of Kut-el-Amara. The latest British official statement says King George's men on Monday were engaging the Ottoman troops from three sides, thirty miles northwest of Kut, and that the Turks in their flight had abandoned quantities of arms, ammunition and other war stores, and thrown guns, including four howitzers, into the Tigris. No notable changes in positions have taken place in either the Austro-Italian or Macedonian theatres, where small encounters and artillery duels continue to prevail. For the first time since the commencement of Germany's intensified submarine campaign the past twenty-four hours brought no reports from London of vessels having been sent to the bottom by undersea boats or mines.

BELIEVE VESSELS LOST.

LONDON, Feb. 28.
At the Dutch Legation it was said to-day there was no confirmation of the report published early this week that the Dutch steamers Bandaan, Emland and Zeandijn, were still afloat. On the contrary, the latest information received by the Dutch officials led to the belief that the vessels had been lost. A search for the steamers proved unavailing.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.
It has been officially established that the American sailing schooner Lyman M. Law was not sunk by an Austro-Hungarian submarine, but by a German submarine.

DRINKS CUT DOWN.

LONDON, Feb. 28.
A resolution passed the Commons to-day requesting the catering committee of the House to observe in the sale of intoxicating liquors the same restrictions imposed upon the general public. Heretofore the sale of intoxicants in parliament had not been affected by any outside action.

To keep a gas stove from rusting, go over it once a week with a soft cloth dipped in linseed oil.

Hitt and Runn—They Start the New Year All Right, But--In the Wrong Way!

BY HITT

