

HUN PLOT AGAINST UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED

The British Continue to Successfully Pursue the Fleeing Turks Up the Tigris

BRITISH ALLOW FOE NO RESPIRE ON TIGRIS

Advance of Gen. Maude's Forces in Mesopotamia Continues After Capture of Kut-el-Amara; British Now Sweep on to Fabled City of Bagdad

London, Feb. 28.—The British forces on the Tigris have pursued the Ottoman troops which fled from Kut-el-Amara fully 30 miles along the left bank of the stream, and have engaged the enemy from three sides. The scene of the fighting is on the opposite bank of the river from the Tomb of Ezra, a place of pilgrimage for the Jews. The report despatched last Monday by the general officer commanding in Mesopotamia gives the following: "The close pursuit of the retreating enemy has been steadily continued through out Monday, and our advanced troops were this afternoon engaging the enemy from three sides at a point on the left bank of the Tigris over 30 miles west-north-west of Kut-el-Amara.

"During his flight the enemy has abandoned quantities of arms, ammunition, tents, equipment, and stores of all kinds, and has thrown some of his guns, including four 5.9 howitzers, into the river.

"The British gumbot Firefly, which was lost on the retreat from Ctesiphon, has been recaptured, and in addition one Turkish ship has been taken, and one destroyed.

"The total of prisoners taken on Sunday amounted to 360. All reports for today have not yet been received, but up to the present our captures are 11 officers and 150 men."

On to Bagdad The rapid advance of the British expeditionary force under General Maude, up the Tigris after the capture of Kut-el-Amara from the Turks, has revived interest in the various phases of the long-halted campaign for the ancient city of Bagdad, capital of the Caliphs and founded in fabled story.

Last Spring before General Townsend's force at Kut was forced to surrender to the Turks, 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 respectively 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, and one Russian cavalry detachment, indeed, did succeed in crossing the mountains of the Persian frontier, joining the army of the British General Gorringe below Kut-el-Amara after Townsend's surrender.

The fall of Kut, however, really spelled the collapse of the Entente plan, if one here was to effect the capture of Bagdad by these joint and converging operations. Turkish forces released by the capitulation of Townsend in late April, reinforced the Turkish army defending against the Russian advance in Persia, and General Baratoff, who had penetrated

the vicinity of the Mesopotamian border from which Bagdad is less than 100 miles distant, was obliged to retire. Soon the Russians found themselves back at Kirmanshah, some 100 miles eastward of the border, and in the Summer were driven from that place and later on even from Hamada nearly fifty miles further from the frontier. The promised Russian advance southward from Brides, in Southern Turkey, Armenia about 350 miles north of Bagdad, also failed to materialize. The fighting between Turks and Russians in Persia since then has for the most part been in the vicinity of Hamadan and of Sultanabad, which is still further east.

May Move in Force Obviously, with the British still so far east 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, the Turkish forces into at least temporary demoralization, the prospect of co-operative movement again opens. As yet there have been no indications of any contemplated move in force by the Russians in either Persia or Armenia. It was about this time last year, however, that their armies in Persia were set in full motion, and it may well be that they were awaiting this year the outcome of the British operations at Kut before starting a new offensive campaign.

BOMBS ON BROADSTAIRS

Were Dropped To-day by Enemy Airplane One Woman Slightly Injured as a Result

By Courier Leased Wire. London, March 1.—1:47 p.m.—A hostile airplane dropped bombs today on Broadstairs, it is announced officially. "The announcement follows: "Today a hostile airplane bombed Broadstairs. One woman was slightly injured."

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Weather Bulletin Toronto, March 1.—Pressure is abnormally high over the continent and highest in Missouri. The weather in Canada is everywhere fair and generally cold. Forecasts. Moderate winds, chiefly westerly, fine today and on Friday with no decided change in temperature.

VOLUNTARY AND SYSTEMATIC

Is Alibi of Germany For Her Retreat Upon the Ancre Front

By Courier Leased Wire. Berlin, March 1, via Sayville.—"On both banks of the Ancre several days ago, for special reasons, a part of our advanced positions was voluntarily and systematically evacuated, and the defense has been placed in another prepared line. Our movements remained concealed from the enemy. Rearguard posts, acting carefully, hampered his troops, which on the 27th hesitation grouped forward, occupying without fighting the strip of land which was abandoned by us, and which is lying in ruins. Yielding in the face of a numerically superior attack, as had been ordered, these minor detachments inflicted considerable sanguinary losses upon the enemy, and up to now have captured 11 officers and 174 men and 4 machine guns, and to-day still dominate the field in front of our positions.

"After a strong artillery fire in the morning hours of yesterday the British attacked near Le Transloy and Sully. The attack near Le Transloy failed before our barricade and also near Sully where the attack was repulsed at night in hand-to-hand fighting. The enemy who had entered was ejected by a counter-thrust, and lost twenty men in prisoners. At two places, which are of minor importance and of narrow lines, British riflemen's nests have been found.

"On the west bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) in the morning a French attack was prepared. Our annihilating fire prevented its execution."

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WASHINGTON STIRRED TO THE DEPTHS OVER PROOF OF GERMANY'S TREACHERY TO U. S.

Mexico Communicated With Japan in Connection With the Plot But Proposal Met With Reception Not Expected in Berlin—The Villa Raid Now Said to Have Been Instigated by the Huns

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, March 1.—Revelation of how Germany, expecting war with the United States, as the result of her submarine campaign of ruthlessness, plotted to unite Mexico and Japan with her, for an attack on the United States has stirred the capital to its depths.

Members of Congress, many of whom have been hesitating before President Wilson's request for full authority to deal with Germany in the present situation went to the Capitol to-day reading documentary evidence of the intrigue which proposed to separate Japan from her allies and add the United States to the list of nations which Germany hopes to see conquered in her dream of world domination.

How Germany, confident that unrestricted warfare is the instrument by which she will bring England to her knees, proposed a triple blow, is revealed in a set of instructions from German foreign minister Zimmermann to German minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City, which was transmitted through Count von Bernstorff, late German ambassador here. At one sweep Germany proposed to weaken the Entente alliance by the defection of Japan, strike a crushing blow at England's naval power by cutting off the vital supply of Mexican fuel oil and thoroughly engage the attention of the United States by an invasion in which Japan was to be invited to join and for which Mexico should be rewarded by reconquering her "lost provinces"—Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. This astounding document, dated Berlin, January 19, 1917, contents of which have for some time been in possession of the United States Government, shows plainly that Germany, while making protestations to the United States that she had no intention of resuming her sea campaign of ruthlessness, was making the final arrangements for its execution two weeks before it was announced, and had even gone so far in consideration of the consequences that she proposed to meet them by the attack with Mexico and Japan upon the United States.

To American officials the startling disclosure throws new light on Germany's real attitude toward the United States. It shows that while the Administration has been going to utmost lengths to avoid an armed clash with Germany, even to the extent of repeatedly enduring flagrant violations of neutrality on American soil, Germany with diplomacy so suddenly revealed by the outbreak of the European war, has been numbering the United States among her enemies and making provision to meet such a situation.

The evidences at hand are that if Mexico, as Germany suggested, communicate to Japan the proposal of an attack on the United States, it met with a reception in Tokio which was quite contrary to what Berlin had expected. It is thought here that Germany's proposal that she intended to withdraw from the Pacific as part of the making of peace, was carefully planned long ago to attract Japan to Germany's schemes with prospect not only of occupying the German possessions in the Pacific adding to her domination of that great region, but of settling the long standing friction with the United States. Observers here believe that the breakdown of the scheme, so far as Japan was concerned, was signaled when the Mexican government suddenly reversed its attitude and announced that it had no intention of cutting off of the British supply of natural fuel, as had been plainly indicated in General Carranza's proposal to make peace in Europe by cutting off exports of foodstuffs and munitions from neutrals.

GERMANY'S PLOT IS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED IN CAPITAL OF U. S.

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, March 1.—Full official confirmation of Germany's intrigue to ally Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States was revealed last night by the Associated Press, was given to-day at the White House, the State department and in the Senate.

On the floor of the Senate it was announced that Democratic senators had been authorized to state that the revelations, including the text of the instructions from German Foreign Minister Zimmermann to German von Eckhardt at Mexico City, were correct.

On motion of Senator Lodge, the Senate at once took up a proposal to ask the President to communicate the facts to Congress officially. After considerable discussion, Senator Hardwick insisted upon an objection to immediate consideration of the Lodge resolution in order that there might be time for deliberation by the foreign relations committee. In the Senate. Washington, March 1.—The communication of Germany to Mexico and Japan, proposing an alliance against the United States as published to-day was brought up in the Senate when it convened, by Senator Lodge, who introduced a resolution proposing that the President inform the Senate if the note signed "Zimmermann" is authentic. Senator Swanson of Virginia, said he was authorized to state it is "substantially correct."

CONGRESS READY FOR ARMING MERCHANT SHIPS

Opposition to Wilson's Request Dwindles Rapidly as German Plot to Turn Mexico and Japan Against U. S. Becomes Known

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, March 1.—Spurred by increasing menace from Germany, House leaders to-day planned to seek action before night on the bill authorizing President Wilson to arm ships, and rush it to Senate, where an agreement exists not to pass a similar measure before to-morrow. Opposition dwindled rapidly as members of congress learned of the German plot to involve Mexico and Japan in war with the United States and additional reports came in of the torpedoing of the Laconia and the detention of four American consuls in Germany.

The House bill which contains no authorization for the President to use "other instrumentalities" in defense of neutral rights, and would prohibit government war insurance for ships carrying ammunition, might reach a vote by four o'clock this afternoon, under a special rule, which Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee expected to press to-day.

It became known authoritatively to-day that the President endorses the Senate bill, which includes the "other instrumentalities" clause and which would prohibit the use of government-owned ammunition vessels. The administration plan is to substitute the Senate bill for the House bill, and try to

force the lower body to accept the change. Senator LaFollette's attitude is the principal cause of uncertainty over the bill's fate. He started a filibuster when an effort was made to bring up the measure at 1 o'clock this morning, after the long night session on the revenue bill, and finally desisted when it was agreed to put off action until to-morrow. He has not indicated whether he intends to filibuster again.

The State department last night sent to the Berlin Government a request for immediate release of four American consuls, held there pending receipt of word that German consuls in the United States have been permitted to go to other posts in South and Central America.

As a result of the increasing gravity of the German situation, the administration is known to be giving extraordinary attention to preparedness measures, particularly to the question of universal military training, even though passage of a bill providing for this seems unlikely at the present season.

While the policy of armed neutrality, announced in the President's last address to congress, is to be continued if possible, the administration is taking into account the possibility of further aggressions necessitating the most thorough preparation.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U. S. AND GERMANY

Attempt to Re-open Them Made by Swiss Minister in America GERMANY IS HOPEFUL Of Avoiding War; Has Confidence in Austria

By Courier Leased Wire. Amsterdam, March 1.—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann has made a statement before the Reichstag in regard to the efforts made by Paul Schuler, Swiss minister to the United States, to bring about a re-opening of negotiations between the United States and Germany. According to a Berlin despatch to Reuters, Secretary Zimmermann said: "The facts are as follows: "On February 8, through the Swiss federal council, we received a telegram from the Swiss minister at Washington, to whom after the rupture of our interests in America were entrusted. The telegram was as follows: "In America the wish exists to avoid war should the German Government show an inclination to pursue the matter further."

"Every speaker here has expressly emphasized that a breach with America was regrettable and it would undoubtedly be still more regrettable if it came to war between Germany and the United States, between whom there are ancient friendly relations and no political antagonism. Economically, we are drawn to each other and should readily be economic allies. Thus it is comprehensible that the Imperial Government desires to endeavour to avoid every thing which might intensify the conflict. For these reasons we examine the suggestions which reached us from the Swiss minister."

Referring to the breach of relations with America, Deputy Schiffer, National Liberal, declared that there was no doubt that Austria would back up Germany in her attitude towards the United States. "Austria's attitude need not worry us," said Deputy Schiffer. "We are fully convinced of her loyalty toward the alliance." Herr Schiffer concluded his remarks by saying that although a large war indemnity would be a great benefit to Germany in the re-establishment of her economic position, yet Germany was undoubtedly strong enough not to perish without an indemnity.

Secretary Zimmermann in reply to enquiries regarding his reported food stuffs agreement with Denmark, said that he could not make public the result of the negotiations, but that there need be no anxiety that this agreement would strengthen in any way England's position. dTh. if

FIRST REHEARSAL. Don't forget the first rehearsal of the Brantford Choral Society, on Thursday, in Willard Hall.

HAIG'S FORCES NOW CLOSE ON BAPAUME

No Let-Up in Sweeping British Drive on Ancre Front; Three More Villages TAKEN IN ADVANCE Retreat of German Troops Continues Unchecked

By Courier Leased Wire. Paris, March 1.—The Germans have already fallen back behind Bapaume and the fall of that town is imminent, according to information from the front which has reached military circles here. The new German line is said to run along the road from Bapaume to Peronne and some distance in the rear of the former town.

During their retirement the Germans have systematically destroyed their dugouts and provision depots and rendered their trenches useless. An Australian patrol in one place found a chain stretched across a ravine and discovered in time that it was connected with a mine at either end. The German artillery fire is said to have been notable feeble during the recent retreat, but heavy guns are reported still in position at Bapaume, mounted on rails.

London, March 1.—The British are sweeping forward north of the Ancre and the Somme without pause. Three important villages and several square miles of territory abandoned by the Germans were occupied by Gough's troops yesterday. The British line is now less than a mile from Bapaume. The German retiring movement evidently continues unchecked, and apparently is spreading over the entire Somme line as far as the Sully sector, where the British also pressed ahead.

Gain of Three Miles The British advance attained its greatest proportions yesterday on the extreme left wing. Swinging forward north of Serre over a front of three miles, the British troops conquered the villages of Puisseux-aux-Monts and Gommecourt, and pushed on more than half a mile to the northeast of the latter place before they halted. Approximately three square miles of ground were added to the British lines in this single operation.

Further east in the sector immediately south of Bapaume the village of Thillois was captured bringing the British lines still nearer the great stronghold which has been their objective for eight months. The entire trench systems adjoining these three strategic points were overwhelmed at the same time, keeping Haig's advanced line virtually straight and free from dangerous salients its entire length, from beyond Gommecourt to Sully.