

TO BACK UP

Germany Is Willing to Rescind Her War Zone Order

When England Stops Holding Up Cargoes of Supplies.

GIRARD OFF TO SEE KAISER

U. S. Ambassador Called to German Battle Front.

Confer With Emperor Over Most Serious Situation.

TRIES TO QUIET BERLIN PRESS

Wilhelm Frowns on Angry Anti-American Feeling.

"Who's Afraid of America—She Has No Army," Is the Cry.

WIPE OUT ENGLISH SHIPS

Kaiser Gives Godspeed to German Submarine Fleet.

All Germany Wild Over Latest Teuton Undertaking.

Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—The Montag Zeitung of Berlin, in an article referring to the stand of the United States asks what harm America can do to Germany and says: "She has no army, and her fleet would not dare to approach nearer our shores than does the English. The expulsion of Germans from America would mean her ruin. America's threats are simply ridiculous, and it is more than ridiculous for us to take them in earnest."

Wipe Out England's Ships. Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—Kaiser Wilhelm will give his blessing to German submarines as they take to sea on the mission of starving out England. The Kaiser will go to Cuxhaven, the German naval base, on Thursday, February 18, when Von Tirpitz's new policy of raiding British merchant traffic is formally launched, and will urge his under-sea warriors to wipe English merchantmen from the seas.

Dispatches from Berlin today declared this announcement had created wild enthusiasm there.

The German press spoke of the "christening of Germany's newest and most powerful submarines by the emperor and expressed the hope that their crews will feel that they are embarking upon a "most righteous crusade in defense of the fatherland."

The Kaiser will leave the eastern battle front on Monday for Cuxhaven. It is possible he will see the American Ambassador Gerard until he has finished the German submarine godspeed.

Elaborate plans are being made for the emperor's reception at Cuxhaven, according to Berlin dispatches.

Announce New Plan. Washington, Feb. 15.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador today, presented to the state department a note from his government announcing that Germany stands ready to consider receding from its announced intention of attacking British merchantmen if Great Britain will withdraw its effort to prevent foodstuffs going to Germany for the civilian population.

The note declares Germany's plan to attack British merchantmen was a retaliatory measure, adopted because of the alleged violation of international law by Great Britain, in trying to starve the non-combatant population out of Germany and the latter government is ready to withdraw from its purpose as expressed in the naval zone decree, as far as it applies to merchant vessels, as soon as Great Britain either of its own volition, or as a result of representations from the neutrals, expresses her willingness to return to the usual practices of international law.

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AMERICAN WOMEN'S AID.

London, Feb. 15.—Under supervision by American women, canteens are to be established at all the leading railway stations in London, where sandwiches, coffee and other light refreshments will be supplied free to soldiers in uniform.

Thousands of soldiers pass through London daily, frequently without sufficient money to buy food.

In work at railway stations, the American women who have been looking after stranded Americans and Belgian refugees, have learned of the great need for canteens where the soldiers can be promptly provided with "nourishing" food without cost. The war office is so well impressed with the women's plan that its assistance in carrying on the work has been assured.

The Duchess of Marlborough has accepted the chairmanship of the philanthropic committee of the Society of American Women in London. This already has a number of workrooms established for the employment of women thrown out of work by the war, but the need is so great that a marked extension of this work is planned.

AIRMEN TRIED TO KILL KING NICHOLAS IN PALACE

The Austrians Have Renewed the Attack on Montenegro.

Fleet of Warships Bombarbs the Port of Antivari.

DECISIVE POLAND BATTLE

Is Expected When Russians Finish Reforming Their Lines.

Both Sides Are Claiming Victories in the Carpathians.

London, Feb. 15.—After a long period of inactivity, fighting between Austria and Montenegro has been resumed. An Austrian fleet has bombarded the Montenegrin port of Antivari and two Austrian aeroplanes attacked with machine guns the palace in which were King Nicholas and the other members of the Montenegrin royal family.

Of the great struggle in Poland, Galicia and Bukovina, there is little new information. A decisive battle in

ITALY NOW FACES PERIL IN FLOODS

In Rome River Tiber Is 50 Feet Out of Banks.

Waters Rapidly Approaching the Apostolic Palace.

OLD BRIDGES ARE INUNDATED

One Built 100 Years Before Christ Is Under Water.

Second Venice in Streets of Raging Torrents.

Rome, Feb. 15.—Italy, having just passed through a period of grave anxiety, as a result of destructive earthquakes, is now facing a new peril

CLAIMS CITY CLERK WAS NOT RIGHT MAN TO DO IT

Captain Coney, Before City Commissioners, Objects to Action.

Threatens to Take Anti-Commission Fight to Courts.

PETITIONS VALID, HE SAYS

Coney Says Every Signature Should Have Been Counted.

Commissioners Then Adopt Burge Report on Inaccuracies.

Unless Captain P. H. Coney makes good his threat to take the matter into court, the movement to have the city clerk a special election to vote on the rejection or retention of the commission form of city government is dead.

At the meeting of the city commission today C. B. Burge, city clerk, made his formal report of his examination of the petitions presented February 3 asking for special election. He reported that there were 16,978

TO BRIBE ITALY IS GERMAN PLAN

Germany's Inducements for Her to Enter the War.

Expected To Be Offered Before End of This Month.

ONE PROVINCE OF AUSTRIA

Guarantee of Protection to Her Mediterranean Interest.

She Must Help Turkey Drive Out the English.

Rome, Feb. 15.—The Idea Nazionale, a newspaper published in the interests of the Nationalist party, in its issue of today, publishes a forecast of

RIGHTS OF STARS AND STRIPES TO GEO. E. LERRIGO

Topekan, in China, Given Benefit of Special Legislation.

Naturalization Papers at Last to British Subject.

VOTED LONG AS AMERICAN

Did Not Discover He Was Without Rights Until 1912.

Only Kansan Allowed This Privilege by Congress.

As the result of a special act of congress, George E. Lerrigo, a brother of Dr. C. H. Lerrigo of this city, and formerly for a number of years secretary of the Young Men's Christian association in Topeka, probably has the distinction of being the only Kansan ever obtaining his naturalization papers by special action of the national lawmakers.

A bill introduced in congress by Senator Thompson of Kansas granting Lerrigo his rights of American citizenship has passed both houses of congress and was signed by President Wilson Thursday, February 11.

George Lerrigo is well known in Topeka. He was formerly connected with Y. M. C. A. work in this state for a number of years and was secretary of the association for several years prior to the time that the present association building was erected. He is now engaged in Y. M. C. A. work in China, being secretary of one of the more prominent Young Men's institutions of the Orient.

The Germans drove the enemy out of Senzern in the Lauch valley (Alsace). Rempach was evacuated by the enemy.

North of Tilsit (East Prussia) the enemy was driven out of Pustuponen and pushed in the direction of Taurrogen. On both sides of the frontier in the eastern lake district, engagements are in progress with the retreating enemy. German troops are advancing rapidly everywhere.

German detachments marched in the Kolno district against the enemy advancing beyond Lomza.

In the Vistula district the Germans gained further ground and occupied Racionz.

In previous engagements besides a number of prisoners six guns were taken.

In Poland, on the left of the Vistula, there were no important changes.

The Day in Congress. Washington, Feb. 15.—The fight over the administration ship bill awaited action in the house. Miscellaneous bills were considered under the unanimous consent rule in the house. Democrats prepared for a caucus tonight on the administration ship bill.

Count officials state this morning that the police failed to notify them of the murder until 11 o'clock this morning. It meant that the county was not placed in a situation to make an investigation until at that time.

Some of Her Crew, Trying to Escape, Are Drowned.

London, Feb. 15.—2:25 p. m.—The British steamer Wavelet, 1,918 tons, Captain Cook, from Pensacola, Fla., January 15, via Newport News, January 25, for Leith, Scotland, encountered a mine in the British channel and was badly damaged.

The skipper, by prompt action, succeeded in beaching his steamer near Deal. A small boat from the Wavelet, carrying the first officer and a number of the crew, left the ship when it appeared as if she would founder. The boat was capsized in the heavy seas and all the men in it were drowned.

SHOP BY JITNEY IS TOPEKA PLAN

Telephone Call Will Bring Car to Homes in City.

Motor Service Began in Topeka at Early Hour Today.

SCORES OF CARS HERE SOON

Nickel Transit on Rubber Tires Is Well Patronized.

One Girl, a Prospective Bride, Saved by a "Jitney."

A telephone call will bring a jitney to the home of any woman in Topeka within ten minutes for a shopping tour. And a call from any department store will just as promptly furnish transportation to take her home.

The jitneys started in Topeka this morning and within two hours had proved a paying venture. And furthermore, the management of the jitney car service predicts that there will be scores of nickel machines running on regular routes and schedules within a few days.

Raymond Well, an actor, heads the company. He headed the Weils stock company at the old Majestic theater six years ago. Wells came here last week from Illinois, where his stock company is now playing and where he has an interest in a jitney company there.

At 7 o'clock this morning, seven cars started from the Grand theater for three distinct routes. Eighteen and Kansas avenue to Garfield park; West Sixth street to Polwin and West Tenth street. By 9 o'clock there were twelve cars in operation and Mr. Wells expects to see twenty jitneys running by nightfall. The cars will stop at 11 o'clock at night.

From the first, the jitneys in Topeka were a success this morning. On trip No. 1, each car came toward the city loaded with contented passengers. Every car stopped at each tour at the Grand theater, where they announced the passengers for the next trip. Books are kept and it is estimated that the new business will pay a big dividend to drivers, car owners and managers.

Saved a Topeka Bride. An interesting incident connected with the jitney bus occurred this morning. A young woman was standing on a street corner and she was crying bitterly. She had just missed a street car. She tried to get a taxi but failed and she was glad to catch the 7:40 o'clock Rock Island train to go to Kansas City and get married. It was late and she knew that she would miss her train and delay the important affair. But just then a jitney bus came along. The driver saw her crying and learning the cause of her distress said, "Jump in." And the bride-to-be did so and caught her train just in time.

Another feature of the jitney will benefit Washburn and high school students. If three or four Washburn students want to ride to their homes in an automobile, they just have to call and a car will be sent out to take them to any part of the city for a jitney.

At the present time, Mr. Wells and Mr. Baltzell, his assistant, are arranging schedules and routes. The only thing they want in more cars. "We can use every automobile in Topeka and still make money," said Mr. Wells this morning, "and I believe that we can have a sufficient number in a week to thoroughly cover the city and render excellent service."

Joplin, Mo., a city much smaller than Topeka, has tried the jitney business. A Joplin man began with six cars. There are now 60 in operation in that city, all making money, and all being run under the management of one concern. Anybody in Topeka who is concerned, anybody in Topeka who

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HERE'S THE GERMAN FLEET AS IT HUGS COAST NEAR KIEL; ENGLISH WAIT OUTSIDE



German war fleet with steam up near Kiel.

northern Poland is looked for when the retreating Russians reach positions on which they decided to make their stand. In Bukovina another important contest is in progress.

The long drawn struggle in the Carpathians shows no sign of approaching an end. Both the Austrian and Russian war offices claim victories along this front.

German newspaper continue to comment on the American notes, some of them taking the stand that this country's representations to Great Britain are less vigorous than those to Germany. It is asserted that the British is England's account of her use of the American flag.

A Rome dispatch states that Prince Von Buelow, German ambassador to Italy, shortly will make proposals for the intervention of Italy in the war on the side of Germany in return for territorial concessions.

In the form of floods. Everywhere streams are out of their banks, due to heavy rainstorms which have continued for several days.

In the low inland quarters the people have been driven from their homes or are prisoners in the upper stories of their houses. The military authorities have taken cognizance of the situation and troops have been sent to aid in rescue work and to provide food to sufferers, cut off from supplies.

In Rome the River Tiber is more than fifty feet out of the normal banks and is rising at the rate of two inches an hour. The one bright spot in the situation is that the weather early today showed signs of clearing and this gives hope that the waters will soon recede.

The Leonine City, as the vatican quarter of Rome is called, is in the lower part of the town and this section is generally flooded. The water has not reached the Apostolic palace of St. Peter's. Pope Benedict is taking a sympathetic interest in the situation and has instructed all the parish priests to display the greatest energy in aiding their distressed parishioners. The pope himself spent a good deal of his time Sunday in watching the rising waters just below the Apostolic palace.

Two hundred patients in the hospital. (Continued on Page Two.)

registered voters; that the number of signatures necessary to make the petitions sufficient for the calling of an election is 4,245, and that the petition bore only 2,290 valid signatures. The city commission approved the report.

Captain P. H. Coney, Henry Euler and Frank Thomas were present in behalf of the petitioners. Captain Coney read an impassioned speech he had prepared in which he denied that the city clerk was the proper person to check over the petitions and declared that the city's action in the matter was wrong from beginning to end and that the matter would be tested in court. He also declared that there is not one single signature on the petitions which is not valid, or which should not be counted.

With the exception of a tilt between Capt. Coney and W. C. Ralston, city attorney in which the city attorney claimed Capt. Coney had completely reversed himself in his construction of the laws in the case, Capt. Coney did all the talking. The city commissioners were contented to "sit tight" and say nothing, holding that the next move is "up" to Capt. Coney.

It is understood that other petitions are being circulated in an effort to secure enough additional names to make them valid.

"We will get six thousand more signatures," said Frank Thomas, as he left the room.

German proposals to Italy which reads as follows:

"Before the end of February Prince von Buelow, the German ambassador to Italy, will present to the Italian government a concrete proposal for Italian participation in the war on the side of Germany. This consists of the cession by Austria of the province of Trent and the rectification of the eastern Italian frontier by the addition of a strip of land going as far as the Isongo river. In addition Germany will pledge herself to conclude a new treaty with Italy which will afford protection to Italy's Mediterranean interests.

"In exchange, Italy is to take part at once in the war. She will occupy Tunis and help Turkey drive the English from Egypt which will return under the dominion of the sultan of Turkey. In addition the Italian fleet will attack the Anglo-French naval forces in the Mediterranean."

Continuing the Idea Nazionale says that Prince von Buelow, referring to Trieste, made this statement:

"It is impossible to give Trieste to Italy because this seaport is the lung not of Austria but of Germany."

At the conclusion of one of his conversations with the Italian statesmen, Prince von Buelow, according to this newspaper, made use of this phrase:

"Either Italy will be friendly towards us or we will treat her worse than we are treating England."

COME TO TOPEKA WAS FALSE ALARM

Flying Squadron of America Will Visit Capital City.

Three-Day Campaign, April 17-19—C. M. Sheldon a Member.

The Flying Squadron of America, the famous antiozone organization of which the distinguished Dr. Charles M. Sheldon of this city is a member, will conduct a three-day campaign in Topeka, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, April 17-19. Meetings will be held in the auditorium.

The Squadron is visiting every capital city in the United States and making a nation-wide fight against the sale and use of intoxicants. There will be vocalists with the organization.

At the meeting of Topeka ministers and others interested at the Commercial club quarters at noon today several committee members were named to take care of local arrangements. There will be several additional chairmen to be appointed. The chairmen named: D. O. Coe, place of meeting committee; C. E. Eldridge, ushers; Elton S. Clark, music; Gilbert Fenton, young people; Dr. Roy B. Guild, cooperation on the part of business interests.

The chief of police of Ogdensburg, N. Y., twelve miles down the St. Lawrence river from Brockville, had heard nothing of the passage of the aeroplanes over Brockville or of excitement thereto. After receiving the report last night, Premier Borden notified Col. A. P. Sherwood, commissioner of the Dominion police. The lights around the parliament building, the royal mint and the residence of the governor general were immediately ordered extinguished.

This was the first time in its history that the mint has been darkened. Sharpshooters from the Dominion police were stationed on parliament hill and guards were held in readiness to repel an aerial attack should one be attempted.

ARE OUT OF FLOUR.

Citizens of Mexican Capital Must Eat Corn Meal.

Washington, Feb. 15.—There is no flour in Mexico City, state departments advise today, and bread is being made from corn meal. Carranza forces there disclaim any intention of evacuating the city. Zapata forces still hold some of the suburbs.

Gen. Gutierrez, who fled from the capital, is reported with General Banco at Valles, fifty miles west of Tampico, with 3,000 troops.

Flickerless Movie Machine. New York, Feb. 15.—Patents on a flickerless moving picture machine have been given its inventor, Dr. Dingshah Ghadiali of Surat, India. The patent covers an arc lamp which precludes possibility of film fires.

Weather Forecast for Kansas. Fair tonight and Tuesday; not much change in temperature.

MURDER IN TOPEKA

Raymond Strack Knocked Down Near His Home.

Police Arrest John Merkel on Charge This Morning.

Raymond Strack, a Santa Fe shopman, was fatally beaten last night a few feet from his home, 518 Larsh street, and died at 3 o'clock this morning. Four hours after his death, John Merkel, a Russian laborer, was arrested by Officers Woodward and Hill and is being held at the city jail on the charge of murder.

The deed occurred at 9 o'clock last night. Strack was found in an unconscious condition by his wife. He is of Russian birth, but works in the railway shops. According to the police, no one was an eye witness to the deed but circumstantial evidence, in their opinion, seems to point to Merkel. It is claimed that he has quarreled with Strack.

Strack never recover consciousness. He was taken to a local hospital by Dr. C. B. Van Horn.

Merkel lives at 544 Larsh street. A big, heavy club, said to have been the instrument of the assault, was found on the spot. Strack was struck in the head several times.

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SHIP HITS A MINE.

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JITNEY BUS WAVE SWEEPS COUNTRY; STREET CAR MAGNATES ARE SCARED



The jitney bus from the rear. Sweeping the country from the Pacific coast eastward is the "jitney" bus, the little rival of the street cars, and so sudden and extensive is its entry into the passenger-carrying traffic of the cities that the street car magnates are fairly dazed. The Los Angeles Electric Railway is losing \$2,000 a day.