ENVOYS BUSY IN WARRING NATIONS

United States Is Now Clearing House For Diplomacy.

LARGER STAFFS ARE NEEDED

Entrance of Italy Imposes Huge New Burden on All Our Embassies—Belligerents Presumed to Pay the Cost, but Suggestion Is Made That We Do It.

Washington.—With Italy in the war, the United States comes near to being the diplomatic clearing house of the whole world.

If the United States should go into the war the diplomacy of the world would be near the point of blowing up.

Austrian diplomatic and consular affairs have been turned over in Italy to the American officials.

This will be one more big burden shouldered off on the overworked American agents in several countries. Already Americans are handling these affairs for warring powers all around the world.

The addition of the complicated concerns of Germany, Italy and Austria will necessitate special provision of more personnel and further drafts on this country's resources of people trained for this kind of service.

Until now Italy and the United States have been the only first class powers not involved in the war. In ordinary circumstances the Italians would have been asked to divide with the Americans the duty of playing first friend to the warring nations.

But in the present instance it was impossible because Italy was nominally the ally of Austria and Germany. If she had followed her arrangement with them she would have gone into the war on their side. It was from the very beginning apparent that she would not do that. Both sides were exerting every influence to enlist her, and it was therefore inexpedient for either belligerent to intrust its diplomatic concerns to her.

Photos by American Press Association.

1, GERARD, BERLIN; 2, T. N. PAGE, ROME; 3, PENFIELD, VIENNA; 4, SHARP, PARIS; 5, MORGENTHAU, CONSTANTINOPLE; 6, W. H. PAGE, LONDON.

Thus the United States from the beginning was indicated as the central office of diplomacy.

It would be well nigh impossible to catalogue the duties that fall to the diplomatic agents of the mutually friendly power which takes over this set of relations when war breaks out. In England, for instance, there was a large populatioin of Germans and Austrians. Some were naturalized; some were not. Many of both classes were property owners. Some were anxious to get out of the country; others were just as anxious that they should not be forced out of it. American agents had to look after their interests.

When the war got fairly under way camps for prisoners of war began to be established in all the warring countries. Complaints came from these, and American diplomats had to look after the interests of British and French and Russian prisoners in Germany and Austria and vice versa. Commissions have been sent to supplement the efforts of the regular diplomatic establishment in this regard.

Not the least difficult services required of the American consuls and diplomats have been in connection with the colonial internments of belligerents. Thus there have been established in India, in Canada and in Australia special camps for taking care of citizens of enemy countries. Many hundreds of men are held in the big internment establishments, while their families have required attention elsewhere because they have not been formally interned, but left largely to shift for themselves. These cases have created a set of problems, not new to diplomacy, but never so large as in the present war.

SQUIRRELS DIG UP FOSSILS.

Little Diggers Reveal Ancient Indian Graveyard.

Santa Monica, Cal.—A peculiar discovery has been made of a fossil bed up the coast at the mouth of Topanga canyon. Some years ago a man living there unearthed some excellent specimens of fossils and supposed Indian bones. Recently a large heap of black dirt was noticed at the edge of the beach, and upon investigation it proved to be the burrow of a family of squirrels.

The little diggers had piled up on the surface of the sandy soil perhaps 250 pounds of black sand, in which were pieces of clam shells, fossils and bits of human bone. There were even rocks weighing close to two pounds. The dirt was just as it had been dumped by the animals, and bones and fossils were mixed together with the rocks and sand. The bones have been identified as those of human beings, several specimens showing conclusively that they at one time had constituted the framework of a stalwart Indian brave.

Theories have been advanced by men interested in osteology, but no definite conclusions have been reached. They think that the bones are those of Indians, but that they are hundreds of years old. The squirrels must have burrowed many feet, or else the beach in the years past was nearer to the mountains than it is at present.

That is natural, for the change is made by the yearly washing of quantities of sand and rocks from the interior down to the mouth of the canyon. The old burying ground is now probably many feet below the surface, and only the busy little ground squirrels know the exact location of the rest of the bones.

GALLIPOLI GUARDS TURKISH PENINSULA

Was Once a Beautiful City, but Has Gone to Decay.

Washington.—"The city of Gallipoli, toward which the allied forces are fighting, guards the neck of the Gallipoli peninsula, where the peninsula joins the mainland, near the elbow formed by the Dardanelles strait and the Sea of Marmora," begins a bulletin issued by the National Geographic society. The description of this key position to the best protected of all of the world's water avenues, a position to which the interest of all the nations is now turned with much questioning, continues:

"Gallipoli is the last bar that locks the Dardanelles, and secures Marmora sea as a Turkish lake. It is a powerfully fortified city, its defensive works having been begun in modern style in 1878, when the Russians threatened to take possession of Constantinople. The work of strengthening this port has been carried on at irregular intervals since. When the Bulgarians were attacking the lines at Chatalja, the Turks, who felt that they might expect an endeavor to turn their flanks by way of Gallipoli and Marmora sea, worked feverishly upon the port's redoubts. While Gallipoli is not comparable in strength to the greatest fortresses of Europe, it, nevertheless, with its modern batteries and extensive outworks, forms a proper conclusion to the mightily fortified water lane leading down to the Aegean sea.

"This 'city beautiful' of the Greeks (Kallipolis) was the first point in Europe to be won and maintained by the Ottoman hordes. It is today anything but a beautiful city. Its streets are narrow, immethodical and dirty, while most of its houses are overworn wooden structures, in which decay and untidiness mix to an unpleasing picture. There are few buildings of any architectural interest, though the great leaden domed bazaars appeal to the imagination of the westerner. Some few and uncared for relics of eastern empire and Grecian times have been left to normal decay by the Turks.

"Until Turkish occupation and the putting into effect of the suspicious, intolerant and shortsighted policies of exclusion and exclusiveness of the orient Gallipoli seemed destined, as a well placed port upon one of nature's natural avenues of water trade, to become one of the greatest of all the commercial cities of the near east. Through the centuries of Turkish rule it has slept an almost dreamless sleep. Today, with a population of 25,000, with few ambitions and little understanding of its advantages, it has, however, under the Young Turk regime, given some evidence of a reawakening."

NOT A NIBBLE; FINED $20.

Angler Finds He Doesn't Have to Catch Fish to Be a Fisherman.

Perth Amboy, N. J.—It isn't necessary to catch fish to be a fisherman in New Jersey. Alec Buckowskit was seated beside Kessler's pond with a pole and line in his hand.

He hadn't had a bite since he arrived there at daybreak. But a game warden got him, and Justice Pickersgill ruled that he was a fisherman and fined him $20 for not having a license.

Order to Shave Stirs French.

Paris.—The decision of the military authorities that soldiers at the front must be clean shaven as a hygienic measure has brought forth a storm of protest from a large number of bearded men on the firing line.

ITALY ADDS TO TRADE TROUBLES

Complications In Mediterranean Confidently Expected.

DIPLOMACY'S EFFORTS VAIN

Briton and German Red Tape Effectively Closes Practically All Commercial Channels—Americans Who Seek Imports Are Forced to Wait Until Termination of the War.

New York.—The entrance of Italy into the European war has added greatly to the embarrassments attending American commercial relations with Europe.

These have been growing more serious in the last three months. The dispositions of both Great Britain and Germany have been persistently less and less considerate of the interests of neutrals, and lately a feeling of disgust with all effort to carry on certain lines of foreign trade with the continent has taken possession of some of the business elements in this country, much to the regret of the commercial agencies of the government.

Only a few days ago a Chicago business man told a story of his own experience that illustrated this attitude:

"I have an order of $50,000 worth of drugs, chemicals, medicines and the like," he said, "bought and paid for in Germany. If I could get the goods into this country I could easily make $60,000 profit on them. But between the German stringencies about exporting things that they fear may help enemy countries and the allies' restrictions against commerce getting out of and into Germany I have found it useless to push the matter."

The difficulties that can be thrown in the way of simple commercial transactions when both Germany and England show a disposition to oppose them are illustrated by the case of a consignment of potash which was destined to an American fertilizer manufacturer. This concern, having been for years in the regular business of buying potash from Germany, had a large credit with the syndicate which controls the potash production and in which the German government holds a control. There was no question about the payment for the potash, because the money was already in the syndicate's hands.

The British authorities objected to the potash going out on the ground that they are trying to prevent commerce in general with Germany. But the particular case was so innocent that after a good deal of discussion the British authorities agreed to let this shipment come out.

Up to this time the Germans seemed anxious that the deal should be made. But just so soon as they learned that Britain had given way Berlin began to find objections. There must be absolute assurance that the potash would be used only for fertilizer making. This assurance was given, together with the promise that the American government authorities would be responsible for the execution of the pledge. But at this point further conditions were imposed. The Germans wanted inspectors, representing the American government, to follow the potash to the factories, watch all the processes and then certify that it had been used, all of it, for fertilizer.

This point was at length arranged. Then it occurred to the Germans that they would like to have an inspector of their own to inspect the American government inspector, see that he did his inspecting correctly—and half his expenses to be paid on this side.

That proved the last straw. The negotiation was dropped, and there is no present chance of that potash getting to this side till after the war.

Large movements of oils, dyes, chemicals, drugs, medicines, potash and various other German specialties are held up now by reason of the attitudes of both Germany and Britain. There has seemed to be little choice between the two countries so far as concerns their insistence on unreasonable conditions for commerce.

The British attitude toward shipments of cotton has been especially demoralizing to that trade. Commercial authorities of this government realize that Great Britain is determined at any hazard to keep cotton out of Germany. In the effort to do this the whole movement of cotton to the continent has become involved. About twenty-five cargoes of cotton are now held up, according to the authorities here, and there is no knowing what will be the final determination of the whole problem. The British willingness to take over and pay for cargoes that are seized does not give satisfaction from any point of view, while the delays in getting the business settled are constantly more and more annoying.

With the war area being extended by the appearance of Italy among the belligerents new complications and difficulties in the Mediterranean are certain. Down to the present the allies have been very considerate of Italian susceptibilities for obvious political reasons, and Mediterranean traffic has been mainly exempted from the onerous conditions imposed elsewhere. But Italy is now with the allies, and her forces will be united with theirs in extending the restrictions to Mediterranean traffic suspected of possibly being destined to any of the enemies of Italy and her allies.

OYSTER FARMING SUCCESSFUL

Remarkable Returns From First Practical Experiment In Louisiana.

New Orleans.—Remarkable returns have resulted from the first practical "oyster farming" experiment the Louisiana state conservation commission has undertaken in making use of the heretofore unused water bottoms of the state.

Sample shells from the bottom of Silver lake, in Terrebonne parish, have arrived at the office of the conservation commission, and, although planted nine months ago, clusters of oysters, some of them of marketable size, from eight to fourteen in number, were growing on each. These shells were the old or "shucked" shells that were planted on the bottom of Sister lake, or Lake Caillau, as it is sometimes called, to provide "clutch" for the young oyster or "spat."

This lake, having a water bottom of 800 acres, has the proper salinity of water for the growing of oysters, but lacked the necessary hard bottom or other solids for the oyster "spat" to attach itself and therefore prohibited any experiment in the growing of the bivalves.

Last year it was decided to sow the bottom of the lake with the old oyster shells, and on May 8, 1914, the commission distributed 10,488 barrels of old shells over the lake's bottom. Results were at once apparent, for by June 5 it was found that "spat" from the seed oysters sowed in the lake had attached and were in all stages of development. Inspector J. Labat worked under the direction of Frank T. Payne. The investigations showed that the oysters were growing at a rapid rate.

In March, or nine months after the "clutch" was planted, the inspectors tonged up clusters from various parts of the lake and sent these to the commission for examination. The oysters were remarkably rich in flavor and of the prized salty taste.

SAYS SPEED WOULD HAVE SAVED LUSITANIA

Montana Doctor Saw Submarine Before Liner Was Hit.

Harlem, Mont.—Dr. Carl E. Foss, a young physician who sailed in the second cabin of the torpedoed Cunarder Lusitania, arriving here, asserted that he saw through his fieldglasses from the deck of the doomed ship half an hour before she was struck a German submarine and that the speed of the Lusitania, which he estimates was not more than about fifteen knots, was not increased. A few minutes later, the doctor says, the ship altered her course, which indicated to him that the ship's officers also had sighted the peril.

Photo by American Press Association.

DR. CARL E. FOSS.

In relating the story of his experiences Dr. Foss said he wished to preface it with the remark that he "heartily condemned the policy of a steamship line saving fuel at the expense of human life," his idea being that if Captain Turner of the Lusitania had been going at full speed or more than twenty-five knots she would not have been torpedoed.

Dr. Foss censured the conduct of some stewards, stokers and other members of the crew, but praised the men passengers for their attention to women and children. He noted a large number of the crew rushing up on deck and equipping themselves with life preservers, which they pulled out of big chests on deck. They made no effort, the doctor says, to assist the women and children to find life belts.

After Dr. Foss had gone below, feeling confident that the ship's commander had seen the submarine that the doctor himself had sighted and that everything would be done to elude danger, the torpedo hit the ship forward.

Licenses For Frog Shooters.

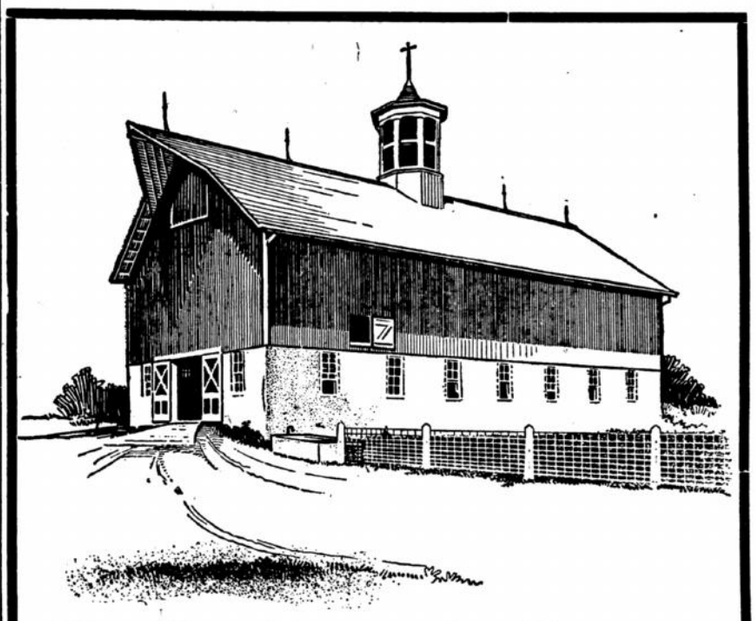
Franklyn, Ky.—Hereafter frog hunters in Simpson county will be required to take out a license, provided they operate with a gun. County Judge Hatter construes the game law to include frog shooting, and the county game warden has instructed all frog hunters to secure a license before shooting bullfrogs.

HORSES!

If you intend to buy a team or horse this spring come and look over my stock. I have some good ones at very low prices.

I am now equiped with a number of new buggies and wagons and ready to give first class livery service, heavy team work or draying.

TOM McCORMICK
GRAND MARAIS



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