

SINKING OF AN AMERICAN STEAMER DARKENS CLOUDS OF WAR MENACING NATION

Wanton Destruction of Algonquin By U-Boat and Refusal of Submarine Commander To Assist Americans When Appealed To By Captain Admittedly Draws Tension Tighter, But Washington Takes No Step

PREPARATIONS HASTENED

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, March 15—An unwarned attack made upon an American ship on Monday morning, in which the vessel was sunk and the crew refused help by the commander of the attacking German submarine, was reported yesterday officially by United States Consul Stevens from London.

The news has been received with a silence in official circles that is more ominous than all the protests and threats that have followed similar violations of international law by Germany, the principal effect of the unmistakable overt act on the part of Germany being a speeding up of the preparations under way for war.

No lives were lost in the shelling and torpedoing of the Algonquin, but this is purely accidental. Twenty shells were fired at a range of four thousand yards, at which distance the plain markings of the ship as an American must have been unmistakable. During the shelling the Algonquin came to a stop and the crew put off in the small boats. The submarine then discharged a torpedo, which completed the destruction of the vessel.

Ten Americans were in the crew of the big steamer, which was owned by the American Star Line, and was given American registry just a few months ago. They were forced to flee to their small boats despite the threat of stormy weather, and without being given time in which to gather their few belongings.

As they piled into the boats the shelling continued the U-boat commander moving closer so as to avoid missing his victim, until he was almost on the doomed steamer. The shell fire however, failed to send the steamer down and the torpedo was resorted to. Then the submarine turned and ignoring cries for assistance from the men they had just made homeless on the seas the Germans disappeared.

In his statement to the press after his arrival ashore the captain of the Algonquin, an American citizen, declared that he had appealed to the commander of the U-boat for assistance.

"It's coming on to blow," the American said, "can't you give us a tow toward shore?"

But the German commander refused. "I'm too busy for that," was all he said, and abandoned the Americans to their fate.

The shelling began about six o'clock on the morning of March 12 and lasted for some time, before the final torpedo was fired that ended the career of the steamer.

The loss suffered by the owners when the Algonquin was sunk is placed at \$700,000, ship and cargo. The steamer was transferred to the American flag.

The sinking of the steamer almost immediately brought to the attention of the British government the wanton destruction of an American steamer. The German bank in Mexico and the German legation there are being guided by the entire financial and diplomatic affairs of the Carranza government.

The official declined to make a statement until the full details of the destruction of the Algonquin should have been received here, but it was evident that the tension had been pulled just a little tighter by the affair, just a little nearer to the snapping point.

The unofficial view is that there is nothing in the incident of the destruction of the Algonquin that materially changes the situation. The President, it was pointed out, has already taken steps to place the nation in a state of armed neutrality, and it is felt that the only answer to Germany's latest crime against humanity is to go on steadily arming American ships so that they may have the wherewithal to answer back when attacked by the Teutons.

The fact that the Algonquin carried foodstuffs, contraband of war according to the German list, and that she was but recently transferred to American registry—a transaction which the German authorities might take advantage of to plead as a reason for their assault—are not taken in official circles as outweighing the fact that the ship is reported to have been destroyed without warning.

Neither does the fact that no lives were lost mitigate the situation or lighten the condemnation of Germany's latest outrage.

RECEIVERS TAKE OVER MEXICAN STATE BANKS

(By The Associated Press.)
CITY OF MEXICO, March 12—The liquidation of the state banks of Mexico provided for by recent decree, is progressing rapidly. Commissioners which correspond in a measure to Federal receivers in the United States have already taken over the state banks in Vera Cruz, Puebla, Queretaro and Guanajuato.

GERMAN FINANCIERS ARE HELPING MEXICO

Neutral Diplomat Brings Word That Teutons Are In Charge

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, March 14—Confidential diplomatic reports brought by the representative of a neutral nation stationed in Mexico, and now passing through here on his way to Europe, are that Germany has strengthened the position of the Carranza government. The German bank in Mexico and the German legation there are being guided by the entire financial and diplomatic affairs of the Carranza government.

CHINA DIV NEW SHIP

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
LONDON, March 15—It was announced yesterday by the president of the China Mail Steamship Company that the concern plans to increase its capitalization by ten million dollars. Eight millions of this will be used for the purchase of four or five new steamers for immediate service. The company's stock was subscribed largely among the Chinese in the United States and China.

REFINERY ANNOUNCES INCREASED PROFITS

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
NEW YORK, March 14—A huge increase in profits was reported today at the annual meeting of the American Sugar Refining Company. The profits from all operations are reported for 1916 as \$9,756,379, as against \$2,991,465 for 1915. The turnover approximated \$200,000,000, showing a manufacturing profit of about four and one-half per cent.

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GERMANY INDIFFERENT TO AMERICAN ACTION

Will Carry Out Ruthlessness Plan Despite United States

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, March 15—Former Ambassador Gerard, who reached Washington yesterday reported to the state department immediately after his arrival and held prolonged conferences with Secretary Lansing and Mr. Polk counsel for the state department. He did not see President Wilson as the chief executive is still confined to his room in the White House with a severe cold and is making no public statement. According to statements issued by officials after the conference the former ambassador told Secretary Lansing that Germany fully intends going forward with her submarine campaign no matter what the outcome may be with the United States. All pretense of peace talk has been abandoned in the Kaiser's capital, he said.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT WEATHERS BIG GALE

Succeeds in Passing Indian Cotton Duties Despite Fight

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
LONDON, March 15—The Lloyd George government yesterday successfully met the first real test since its organization, when it defeated the efforts of the strong Lancashire delegation and passed the Indian cotton duties measure in both the Lords and the commons. The resolution was adopted by a handsome majority after the Premier had announced that the entire question would be reconsidered after the war.

PONTIFF LIKELY TO SCORE RUTHLESSNESS

Intimates Important Statement Will Be Made At Consistory

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
PARIS, March 15—The Pope has decided to make an important pronouncement regarding the war in the coming consistory, on March 22, according to a despatch from Rome. It is reported that the Vatican will protest against "unrestricted" naval warfare.

THROUGH ACCIDENT CRIPPLE CAN WALK

(By The Associated Press.)
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, March 15—As the result of an automobile accident south of here two months ago, Miss Helen Martin, a cripple, will be able to walk nearly normally, her physicians say. A companion in the wreck was killed.

SUGAR MEN WARNED TO PREPARE FOR SLUMPS

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
CHICAGO, March 14—Truman G. Palmer, secretary of the United States Sugar Manufacturers' Association, at the annual meeting today told the members to prepare for a slump in prices when the war is over.

ARMY AVIATORS ARE NAMED BY DEPARTMENT

According to a special order received from the War Department, ten officers of the army, who have been on duty at the signal corps aviation school, San Diego, California, as students, have been ordered to report to the examining board to be examined to determine their fitness and qualifications for rating as junior military aviators in the aviation section of the signal corps. Following are the officers concerned in the special order:

First Lieutenants: Walter W. Wynne, cavalry; James F. Byron and Benjamin G. Weir, infantry; Clinton W. Howard, Field Artillery; Joseph T. McNamery, Twenty-first Infantry; Earl L. Naiden, cavalry; Harry R. Anderson, cavalry; George Pulsifer Jr., Thomas J. Hanley Jr., and Benjamin W. Mills, infantry.

BRITISH PRESS FORWARD GAIN IN EAST AND WEST

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
LONDON, March 15—The British in France and Flanders are still backing their way forward, and in the neighborhood of Bapaume, the doomed German stronghold on French soil, they yesterday secured a still tighter grip they have upon the Teutonic lines. In Mesopotamia, also, the Allies are advancing rapidly, and have now gained more than thirty miles above Bagdad, the goal which the British troops under General Maude set themselves after the fall of Kut-el-Amara at the surrender of General Townshend, months ago.

It was officially announced last night that the British under General Maude have succeeded in recapturing the cannon lost to the Turks at the time of the surrender of General Townshend at Kut-el-Amara. The Turks had parked the guns in Bagdad, where they were found when the British entered that city.

Constantinople reports officially the abandonment of the ancient city and the retreat of the invading British forces and announces that the Turks have retreated upon Samarra, a fortified town on the Tigris, seventy-five miles north of Bagdad. The British, marching with victorious armies, are now less than ninety miles to the east of Samarra, where they have taken the important position of Keremanshah, Persia, and threaten to flank the Turks and drive them still farther north and west in the direction of Aleppo and Alexandretta.

But although the advances of the British in Mesopotamia and the nearness of their juncture with their Russian allies is causing much talk and attracting the attention of the military observers and experts, the public at large in France and England is more interested in the happenings on the western front, where the fighting has been fierce and bloody, and the battle is reported to be raging with unrelenting fury.

The German commanders are apparently striving with might and main to hold to their positions surrounding Bapaume, and are apparently unable to withstand the shattering effect of the British artillery, now massed in large numbers, with unlimited supplies of ammunition and with vast numbers of men, ready to take advantage of the gaps cleared by the guns.

General Haig is knocking hard at the gates of Bapaume, from the neighborhood of Thilly, and from Grivillers, which the British took Tuesday night, in a series of heavy assaults.

General Haig is now engaged in straightening out his lines and preparing to continue his forward movement, and his left wing is also continuing its gradual enveloping of Bapaume, with the object of flanking Bapaume from the North. The net results of the fighting yesterday was the advance over a front of more than two thousand yards in the neighborhood of Achiet le Petit, and to the south of the village, while in the vicinity of Bu-Marta, the British lines flung forward over a thousand yard front for substantial gains.

Despatches from the British headquarters at the front made public yesterday afternoon, announced that the high ridge overlooking the town of Bapaume from the northwest, and regarded by the British as the "promised land" in their struggle to dominate the situation, has now passed into the hands of General Haig's troops.

The British now have the advantage of the highest ground from which they look down upon the famous German stronghold and a wide extent of the country beyond.

Officers believe now that they are in a position to take Bapaume itself when orders come for such action. Orville's a supporting point, was captured last night.

Along the Narayuvka river in Galicia, there was fresh fighting yesterday and the Germans succeeded in driving the Russians out of the trenches in some positions and capturing many machine guns and some prisoners.

TEUTON PLOT DISCLOSED BY ARREST OF SOLDIER

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
EL PASO, March 15—What is believed to be the echo of the great German plot against the United States was heard yesterday when the military authorities here announced the arrest of Sgt. Alexander Fruechter, a German-American of German birth, and a member of Troop K, Seventeenth Cavalry, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Sergeant Fruechter is now in the guardhouse of the fort, charged with desertion. His arrest was followed by the discovery, it is said, of papers and letters, which are declared to have implicated him in the plot against the nation which was revealed in the capture of the famous Zimmermann letter offering Carranza German and Japanese assistance if the southern republic rose against the United States.

The letter and papers in German are said to have thrown considerable light upon the conspiracy, and the military authorities are frankly anxious to secure as much more information as possible regarding the movements of this American citizen.

It is known that they are watching carefully many of the German-American friends with whom it is known that Fruechter was intimate in an effort to unearth further details of the plot.

According to additional information which army officers are said to have obtained, it is to the effect that Fruechter was authorized to offer to Carranza to raise a regiment of German-Americans to fight against the United States. This command was to have been organized in Chihuahua, and was to be made up for the most part of German reservists.

WYOMING GOVERNOR HOLDING TWO POSTS

(By The Associated Press.)
CHEYENNE, Wyoming, March 15—The official document proclaiming Frank L. Houx governor of Wyoming is signed John B. Kendrick, who resigned to take his seat in the United States senate, bore the signatures of Frank L. Houx as governor and also as secretary of state. The new executive will continue to look after the duties of both offices and draw the two salaries during the remaining twenty-two months of Governor Kendrick's unexpired term.

Governor Houx has served as secretary of state for six years and for the greater part of his twenty-two years residence in Wyoming, has been active in Democratic party politics, having served as mayor of Cody and municipal judge of the town before his election to the office of secretary of state in 1910.

The new governor is a native of Lexington, Mo., and 62 years old and was educated for a business career in Kansas City schools. Later he turned to law and then to real estate and the cattle business, for a time being engaged in Cheyenne but he has decided that he should reside in the governor's mansion and his own home will be vacated.

BOND ELECTION UP TO SUPREME COURT

Problem Raised By Recent Balotting Upon Proposed Issues Laid Before Tribunal

The problem of whether or not the proposed issue of \$480,000 of municipal bonds for water and sewer improvements passed at the recent election was passed up to the supreme court yesterday in a petition from David Kalanokou, county clerk.

The petition, prepared by Deputy City Attorney Cristy, sets forth that the results of the election were incomplete and undeterminable in that the number of rejected ballots and the number of voters presenting themselves at the polls to vote is not recorded by the inspectors of election. The petition asks that a court justice preside at the opening of the sealed packets containing these results according to the requirements of the law.

Chief Justice Robertson has set ten o'clock tomorrow morning for a session at which to count the ballots and check the results.

The petition shows that the total votes cast for and against both the water and sewer bonds, excluding blank and rejected ballots, gives the necessary sixty per cent for each issue of bonds.

GERMAN RAIDER IS CAUGHT BY CHASERS

Tokio Authorities Report Success In Indian Ocean Pursuit

(Special Cablegram to Nippon Jiji.)
TOKIO, March 15—The German converted cruiser and commerce raider which appeared in the Indian Ocean and sank the Japanese steamer Pakao Maru recently was captured by a Japanese and British naval force sent to search for the cruiser, according to despatches from the British India yesterday.

The German converted cruiser is of about three thousand tons and was not well equipped, but it is believed by the authorities that she has set float torpedo mines. Steamers were given special precautions. Japanese and British cruisers are taking the German ship to an Indian port.

W. H. HUTTON NAMED IN FENNEL'S PLACE

To take the place of W. P. Fennell, who died several weeks ago in San Francisco, yesterday the liquor license commissioners appointed W. H. Hutton license inspector. He will take up his new duties March 16.

There were several applicants for the job but Hutton was the unanimous choice of the commissioners. He came from San Francisco three years ago and has been connected with the police force of the city, being clerk of the secret service. He served for a short time as probation officer of the juvenile court and is also a scout master of the Boy Scouts of America.

KILAUEA'S ACCIDENT WAS NOT SERIOUS

Arriving yesterday morning at two o'clock from Hilo, the interisland steamer Kilauea is once more in port, her accident, while it delayed her almost a full day, not proving serious otherways. The crack in the steam pipe was discovered in Hilo while the vessel was at the wharf and immediately subjected to pressure to determine its extent. It was serious enough to warrant immediate repairs, the discovery at that time probably averting a disaster liable to occur had the vessel gone to sea in that condition. The injury was repaired and the pipe subjected to heavy hydrostatic pressure, which proved its safety.

During the extra night that the vessel was compelled to stay over in Hilo, the passengers were put ashore as her license to carry passengers automatically was suspended by the accident.

The crack was discovered too late to reach Lahaina passengers who were waiting for the steamer and it is stated that they waited on the wharf most of the night wondering where the steamer was.

DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT PASSES AWAY SUDDENLY

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
LONDON, March 14—Closely following the physician's bulletin this afternoon that the condition of the Duchess of Connaught was "increasingly grave" came the official announcement of her death.

That little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Take a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and your troubles will soon vanish. For sale by all dealers, Benson Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

RAILROADS APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM OF EMPLOYEES

National Conference Committee Urges Brotherhoods To Refrain From Rash Action That Might Precipitate Strife In Crisis

POINT OUT GREAT NEED OF NATION FOR TRANSPORTATION

Issue Statement Declaring That Unions Had Promised Not To Strike, Which Is Denied By Representative of Trainmen

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)

NEW YORK, March 15—An appeal to the patriotism of the members of the four railroad brotherhoods not to take any "rash action that would precipitate industrial strife at this time of national crisis," was sent out last night by the National Conference committee of the railroads, an organization composed of the managers of most of the roads in the country.

In the appeal it is pointed out that the country is face to face with one of the most serious situations in its whole history, and urges the members of the brotherhoods, as well as their leaders, to remember this and to act accordingly.

Indications that the railroad workers of the country are preparing a strike that shall tie up the traffic of the whole land grew more evident as the day passed yesterday.

While the national chiefs of the railroad brotherhoods are discussing with Eastern brotherhood officials plans for the threatened nation-wide strike which may begin Saturday, representatives of the railway managers yesterday caused a sensation by making public what they declared to be a promise on the part of the men not to strike. The promise is declared to have been made by the brotherhoods at secret meetings in Chicago on January 13.

The railway managers quote the text of the agreement as saying: "Radical action will not be taken until a decision of the supreme court is handed down in connection with the eight-hour law."

W. G. Low, president of the trainmen's brotherhood, today said he would not discuss anybody's interpretation of the Chicago statement.

"We never said we were going to sit still indefinitely," he declared. "Our position has been that we would wait a reasonable time and who is to judge what that is? We have already been severely criticised by the men for failure to act."

"The men have given us unanimous support on the demands which we expect to present tomorrow," he added. "We are in no sense parties to the agreement which has been made between the railroads and the office of the attorney-general. As a matter of fact, our position is now exactly the same as if there was no such thing as the Adamson Law and no decision pending in the supreme court. If the law is upheld, we will then get what we asked for in the past and intend to ask for tomorrow at the coming conference. If, on the other hand, the Supreme Court throws out the bill as unconstitutional, then we are going to stand pat, for we shall not take less than that law gives us."

The President let it be known that he is amazed at the proposal of a nation-wide railway strike at this juncture in international affairs. It is stated authoritatively that he expects the railroads and the men, in conference today, to make every possible effort to agree.

Reports from Chicago announced that certain of the Eastern railroads have notified the shippers on Western lines of embargoes declared by the roads, due to the threat of a strike by the railway brotherhoods on Saturday.

The lines which are declaring embargoes against certain kinds of freight, in order to keep their rails clear for emergencies, are the Big Four, the New York Central and the Baltimore & Ohio.

PEEVED PRESIDENT LI MAY QUIT HIS OFFICE

(Special Cablegram to Nippon Jiji.)
TOKIO, March 15—General Li Yuen Hung, president of the Chinese republic, is reported to be planning to resign, due to the threats of a strike by the German, opposed the severing of relations with Germany and caused the resignation of the premier who is pro-Entente recently.