

## TURKS IN PANIC--DACIA IS SEIZED

### UNCLE SAM WILL NOT ASK ANYBODY TO EXPLAIN

No Hostile Action to be Taken Because of the Blowing up of Two American Ships by Mines in European Waters.

### REGRETTABLE, BUT NOT HOSTILE ACTS

Strict Neutrality of President Wilson is Not to be Changed Because of the Loss of the Carib and Evelyn.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PARIS, Feb. 28. (Sunday)—A French prize court in all probability will decide whether the American steamer Dacia, bound for Bremen with a cargo of cotton, was purchased in good faith by an American citizen or whether her sale was engineered by the Hamburg-American line to prevent capture. The minister of marine announced tonight that a French cruiser stopped the Dacia in the English channel and that she is being escorted to Brest. Attaches of the ministry of foreign affairs had retired for the night when the report was received here but it was assumed a speedy test case will be made of the Dacia seizure.

are in the collection which have since been destroyed and the officials frankly state that to hold any particular nation responsible for the mines that destroyed these American vessels flying the stars and stripes, is an utter impossibility. As a matter of fact, officials reported for the government's attitude toward the European belligerents very plainly declare that President Wilson has in no way changed his attitude of strictest neutrality because of the loss of two American merchantmen. These craft accepted the hazard of navigating waters contiguous to the scene of hostilities and the administration takes the view that their loss was "regrettable, but in no way on account of hostility."

Naturally Germany wanted the capture of the ship and would have saved them if she could. And the allies had no interest in their capture, which are absolutely guaranteed by their own consular representatives as non-contraband. Secretary Bryan in explaining tonight that it was impossible to make public any details of existing negotiations with any belligerent powers, took occasion to deny specifically that Ambassador Page at London had been told by the British foreign office that England, after consulting with her allies, had decided that it must push drastic reprisals against Germany, even to the extent of declaring all conditional contraband, actual contraband.

The secretary stated that he "expected" that some word would come from England next week. He made it very plain by his attitude, however, that the British government had explained because Germany's submarine blockade was directed equally against France and England, that England considered all matters in connection with it, must be considered by all of the British allies. Therefore there might be even more delay before a final decision can be reached. There was little doubt in the minds of responsible officials of the state department, however, that none of the

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### DOWN TOWN PEORIA IN PANIC WHEN FIRE ROARED THROUGH BUSINESS DISTRICT LAST NIGHT

Blaze Was Fierce and Threatened to Spread to Heart of the City.

LOSS OF ABOUT \$400,000

High Wind Sent Sparks Two Blocks and Several Buildings Caught Fire.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PEORIA, Ill., Feb. 27.—Entailing a loss estimated at \$400,000, fire which began at five p. m., today, destroyed the German Fire Insurance building, on North Jefferson avenue, the Hamilton building, adjoining it, and threatened for a time to spread into the heart of the retail district.

Down town Peoria was in a panic. A high wind was blowing and showers of sparks were carried for a distance of more than two blocks. The Rouse building, a three story structure at Main and Jefferson streets, caught fire in a half dozen places, but was saved from destruction. A water tower on the top of the Orpheum theatre building blazed until the water was released. Two-story buildings in the vicinity were damaged by fire and water.

The flames reached their height at six o'clock. Practically all cars running into the residential districts were stalled. Bucket brigades extinguished hundreds of incipient blazes that started on the roofs of buildings in the block south of Main street between Jefferson and Madison avenue. Sidewalks were piled with store stocks and merchants more than a block away, started to move out their stocks before the fire was under control at six-thirty.

Attorney E. J. Abersol escaped from the German Fire Insurance building by jumping from a second story window and Charles Cramer, secretary of the insurance company, and two young women, descended a fire escape.

### GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
BERLIN, (via Amsterdam), Feb. 27.—Von Hindenburg has again outwitted the czar's advisers. Less than a week after his great victories east of the Mazurian lakes, the German war idol has executed two sudden strokes that may sweep the Russians out of Poland.

The new strategic moves of "the old man of the lakes" were revealed in dispatches received here from east Prussia tonight. The grand duke's army protecting Warsaw from the north has been split in two. The Polish capital may be in the Kaiser's hands before early spring. Von Hindenburg struck first along a line leading south from a point east of Augustow to the Russian fortress of Ossowetz. A German army that fought its way through Tyck under the eye of the Kaiser, moved in a southeasterly direction until its left wing was in contact with the right wing of the army that inflicted disastrous losses on the fleeing Russians in the swamps east of Augustow. The two armies pressed forward, threatening the important railway leading from Warsaw to Petrograd, over which the Russian armies in Poland maintained their communication with the czar's capital. The grand duke saw his great peril. First from Grodno to the north; then from the region north of Warsaw, he pushed large bodies of Russians to check the German advance.

With the forces defending Warsaw thus depleted, Von Hindenburg threw the extreme right wing of his Mazurian lake conquerors against the Russian at Przasnysz, sixty miles north of Warsaw. These fortifications were stormed and fighting of a violent nature is now in progress. It was officially admitted today that heavy Russian reinforcements have temporarily halted the German advance south of Przasnysz. This was just what General Hindenburg anticipated. The grand duke's armies defending Warsaw saw on the right bank of the Vistula have been drawn on so heavily that serious resistance to the Germans moving eastward through Plock and Pionsk, cannot be maintained at this time. Already the Russian fortified position at Vysogorod on the right bank of the Vistula and less than forty miles from Warsaw has been shelled by German long range artillery.

Out-brained and out-fought, the Russians are now menaced by three separate drives that threaten to force the evacuation of Poland. Berlin papers today expressed the view that not only has the Russian threat against east Prussia disappeared for all time, but that Von Hindenburg will soon hold all Poland.

The war department tonight again characterized the fighting in France in the past week as of little importance. The French have battered vainly at the German entrenchments in the Champagne region all week, it was declared, without making perceptible gains.

### WAS AN ENGLISH MINE.

BERLIN, Feb. 27. (Via wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—The Norwegian foreign office, according to advices received here tonight, has been informed that the Norwegian steamer Regin sunk in the English channel, was destroyed by a British mine. German admiralty officials asserted that the British admiralty purposely gave out the report that the Regin had been torpedoed by a German submarine, to cause ill-feeling to be directed against Germany.

### MAKES JOFFRE MAD.

BERLIN, (via Sayville) Feb. 27.—General Joffre, French commander, is becoming exasperated because so many French machine guns are falling into the hands of the Germans, according to a communication to the war office today.

### RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PETROGRAD, Feb. 27.—Przasnysz has been recaptured by the Russians. The czar's troops have taken 3,600 German prisoners. The Germans are retreating northward toward the Prussian border in great disorder, hotly pursued by Russian cavalry, according to an official statement issued by the war department today. Coupled with success of the Russians north of Warsaw, came official reports tonight of fresh victories along the Niemen and Bobr rivers. Russian artillery fire practically annihilated an entire German battalion on the Bobr.

The Austrians who were defeated south of Stanislaw, have renewed their attempt to take a new offensive toward Lemberg, through Rosenow. They have been beaten off with severe losses, the Russians taking 1,261 prisoners and five cannons.

### FRANCE

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.]  
PARIS, Feb. 27.—By a series of brilliant bayonet charges, the French gained new victories in the Champagne region. It was announced in the official communiqué from the war office tonight. North of Meunil-Hurlus, the Germans were driven from a series of trenches, the French advancing nearly 600 yards. Two machine guns, a cannon and 100 prisoners were taken by the French.

Fighting has been resumed along the sand dunes near the Belgian sea coast. A French patrol captured a German trench near Lombartzyde, annihilating its occupants. Vigorous French assaults near St. Mihiel and to the north, in the region between the Argonne and the Meuse, reported in tonight's dispatches, presaged a concerted attempt to lift the pressure upon the fortress of Verdun.

For the first time in several weeks the French have renewed their efforts to cut off the German force that occupies the west bank of the Meuse at St. Mihiel or force its retirement. As rapidly as the Germans pontoon the river at this point, French artillery wrecks the temporary bridges and drives the German engineers back from the river bank.

North of Verdun, the crown prince's army is strongly entrenched. Excepting the fighting in the Champagne, the main French attacks of the last four days have been directed against the German trenches in this locality.

### TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
CONSTANTINOPLE, via Athens, Feb. 27.—The Turkish war office today admitted that the outer forts of the Dardanelles were damaged under heavy bombardment by the allied fleet on Wednesday. The Turkish casualties were five killed and fourteen wounded. The bombardment was resumed on Thursday, the enemy retiring out of range Thursday afternoon.

An official statement from the French admiralty this afternoon said the outer forts on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles were silenced at 5:15 p. m. Thursday. The British admiralty statement tonight indicated that forts on the European side were put out of action Thursday afternoon and destroyed on Friday.

### ATTACK SUEZ CANAL.

BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Feb. 27.—Turks operating against the Suez canal, have brought up a number of heavy guns in the El Kantara region to the north, according to despatches from Italian sources received here tonight.

### Charged With Swindle.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27.—On allegations that 4,000 persons, scattered all over the country had been swindled out of approximately \$1,250,000, a federal grand jury today indicted nine former officers and salesmen of the United States Cashier company, on charges of conspiracy and misuse of United States mails. The officers indicted were Frank Menafee, president; Thomas Bilyou, manager and inventor of five money changing and computing machines, which the company was organized to manufacture; F. M. Lemon, sales manager and Oscar Campbell, director. The indictment also alleges that the five so-called inventions which were listed on the books of the company as assets valued at \$500,000, were not covered by patents as the officers and salesmen are said to have represented.

The company was organized in September 1910. On January 31, 1914, it sold out to a Terre Haute, Ind., firm.

It was alleged the company never manufactured any machines on a commercial scale.

### THE WEATHER

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Forecast: Illinois—Cloudy in north; probably rain or snow in south portion Sunday and Monday.  
Missouri—Cloudy Sunday; probably snow or rain south and central portions; Monday cloudy.  
Iowa—Generally fair Sunday and Monday.

Local Observations.  
Feb. 27. Bar. Ther. Wind W'th'r.  
27 a. m. 30.35 27 NE C'dy  
27 p. m. 30.32 34 NEPT C'dy  
River stage 7 a. m. 12.8.  
Change in past 24 hours, rise 4.  
Mean temperature, 31; highest, 36; lowest, 27. Lowest Friday night, 27.  
FRED Z. GOSWISCH, Observer.

### ENGLAND

[By Ed. L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.]  
LONDON, Feb. 27.—Ten big battleships including the powerful dreadnaught Queen Elizabeth and at least thirty smaller warships formed the Anglo-French fleet that reduced the outer forts of the Dardanelles, the admiralty announced tonight. Landing parties of marines executed a successful rear attack on the fortresses. The Agememnon, British battleship, suffered the most severe damage. She was engaged at close range with the forts of Sedd-El-Bahr. A shell burst on her deck, killing three men and wounding five.

The allied fleet, preceded by mine sweepers, has entered the channel and with the aid of the marines is making a determined attack upon the Turkish forts inside the entrance. The fortress of Dardanos already has suffered severely from the warships' shell fire. Mine sweepers today swept the channel free of floating explosives for a distance of four miles.

The admiralty's official statement tonight gave the marines full credit for their work in aiding in the reduction of the forts and supplied important details, indicating that the strength of the allied fleet is much greater than was unofficially reported. The marines, the admiralty announced, did particularly effective work on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles entrance. They attacked the Kum-Kale from the rear, while the French warships were battering her front, forced the Turkish garrison to flee and pursued them across the Menderes bridge. The marines lost one man killed and three wounded in yesterday's fighting.

The battleship Yulphur, which was engaged in the bombardment of German forts at Taing Tao last October, has joined the allied fleet and participated in the bombardment of the outer forts. Other British vessels engaged on Thursday were the dreadnaught Queen Elizabeth, the pre-dreadnaught Agememnon and the battleships Irretrievable, Vengeance, Albion and Cornwallis, as well as Vice Admiral Carden's flagship, the Inflexible. Besides these, the French warships Gaulois, Charlemagne and Suffren and a number of smaller vessels were in action. The outer forts were silenced in Thursday's bombardment. The marines completed the work of destruction yesterday.

### WILL ORDER BLOCKADE.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The allies have come to a virtual agreement that a blockade must be decreed against Germany and her allies in retaliation for submarine attacks upon merchant vessels. As a preliminary step, a note will be addressed to the neutrals early next week, notifying them of such a step. Notification came from high authority tonight that Premier Asquith will make public Monday afternoon this announcement.

### AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
VIENNA, (via Amsterdam), Feb. 27.—There is bitter close fighting south of Taulcia and around the Wysskow pass region in the Carpathians, it was announced in official statement at midnight. The enemy has been heavily repulsed, the ninth Finnish regiment losing 300 killed and 300 wounded and 750 prisoners. In eastern Galicia, fighting around Stanislaw continues with Russians resisting the Austrian advance.

### In Railway Business Now.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The interstate commerce commission's inquiry into the Rock Island railway's affairs closed today. The last hours were devoted largely to testimony calculated to show that every effort is being made now to operate the Rock Island as a railway property and not as the basis on which pyramid financial schemes as earlier evidence appeared to show was the case of the first financial control by the tin plate crowd, Lee, Leeds and the Moores. Henry O. Mudge, present president, impressed persons at the hearing today with the fact that he is a real railway man and it appears from his statement that he had a right to be. He began as a section hand.

### Rural Credits Legislation.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Decisive action generally admitted to insure rural credits legislation by congress was taken up by the house late today. Parliamentary moves forced a situation where the house will definitely vote Monday on tacking on some sort of a rural credit bill as a ride to the annual agricultural appropriation bill. Friends of rural credits were jubilant tonight. They predicted it will be up to President Wilson to accept or veto a rural credit plan of some kind.

### TURKEY COOPS WRECKED BY SHOWERS OF SHELLS

All Outer Turkish Forts Guarding the Strait, are Reported Silenced and Sultan's Capital is in Near Panic.

### ALLIED FLEET BATTERS DOWN OPPOSITION

Trainloads of Wounded Have Been Taken to Constantinople, While English and French Warships Claim no Damage Received.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
ATHENS, Feb. 28. (Sunday)—The Turkish cabinet is in a panic because of the destruction of the outer forts of the Dardanelles, according to a dispatch from Constantinople early today. It has been decided to transfer the capital to Broussa, Asia minor. Reports are prevalent in the Ottoman capital that unsuccessful attempts have been made to assassinate the grand vizier and the minister of the interior.

[By Ed. L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.]  
LONDON, Feb. 27.—Trainloads of wounded Turks are arriving in Constantinople as the allied fleet continues its methodical battering of the Dardanelles forts. Seven Anglo-French warships have penetrated the strait and are training 12-inch guns upon Turkish land defenses.

This was the information here tonight from Sofia and Athens. Sofia advices asserted that 600 wounded Turks were carried into the Ottoman capital, following destruction of the outer forts and that their arrival created a near panic in the sultan's capital.

A detailed story of the fighting, received at Athens, was relayed here tonight from Paris. It contradicted previous stories from Athens and declared that none of the allied warships had been damaged by the Turkish gunners.

Vice Admiral Carden's flag ship, the Inflexible, led the assault that resulted in the final destruction of the outer Turkish forts guarding the strait. Steaming in close, the inflexible opened fire with her eight twelve-inch guns on Sedd-El-Bahr, the strong-

est fort on the European side of the entrance.

Trailing her, came two other British battleships, shelling Okhanieh and Cape Helles on the European side. The British gunners hurled projectiles with deadly accuracy, while the Turkish reply was described as feeble and ineffective. The French, working in perfect harmony with the British warships, opened fire on the forts on the Asiatic side. The Gaulois began battering Kum Kalest at long range. Two hundred heavy guns from the Turkish forts roared a reply but their shells fell harmlessly about the French battleship.

At 3 p. m. a French aviator brought the information that the Gaulois' shells had been aimed with such remarkable precision that the fort was partially wrecked. The French battleships Suffren and Charlemagne then approached to within 2,000 yards of the fort. Steaming slowly by, they directed heavy gun fire upon Kum Kalest and at 5:15 aviators signalled that the Turkish gunners were fleeing and that the fortress had been leveled. The allied fleet then withdrew. At daybreak the following day, mine sweepers were sent into the channel under the protection of a cruiser flotilla. They did their work so successfully that the Gaulois made her way without danger past the entrance and into the strait early yesterday, directing her fire at the fortress Dardanos, just outside the strait. She was joined by the other French units, which had engaged another Turkish land defense when the last reports were received at Athens.

The inflexible, after reducing Sedd-El-Bahr, took up a position just inside the entrance and continued shelling the land fortifications inside the strait. An Athens dispatch reported the last Hungarian on the banks of the Danube in flames. The admiralty tonight officially designated the forts reduced

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### WHEN NIGHT FALLS IN AURORA, WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE FEARFUL TO GO OUTSIDE OF HOMES

Only One Clue to the Fiend Who Murdered Emma Peterson on the Street.

DOPE FIENDS ARE HELD

Little Hungary Scoured in Search of Man With Only One Mitten.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
AURORA, Ill., Feb. 27.—The man who crushed in the skull of Emma Peterson Thursday night, was tonight as far from the clutches of the law, as the murderer of Theresa Holland, slain here in February, 1914, and Jennie Miller, who was clubbed to death here last fall. A dozen clues that held promise today, tonight had been run to earth without avail. Ten suspects, all dope fiends, still

were held, but the authorities admitted tonight they have nothing tangible which would point directly to any one of them as the slayer who has terrorized this little "city of lights" and made women and girls fearful to go abroad from their homes after nightfall.

One faint, very slender thread, on which all efforts centered tonight in the man hunt, was the rough woolen mitten found near the scene of the crime. The police today learned where the mitten was purchased. A clerk in Podolsky and Cohen's North Broadway store, sold it. But he has sold scores like it. Notwithstanding this fact, detectives tonight scoured Little Hungary on the banks of the Fox river in an effort to match the glove. They found innumerable pairs like it, but none of the hardy workers in that neighborhood had only one mitten.

A coroner's jury today held the usual inquest over the girl's body. After hearing witnesses tell of the discovery of the crime and how it was committed, Mrs. Sophia Anderson, Emma's mother, was called. She could furnish no information that would throw light on the mystery. She collapsed as she left the stand. The inquest was concluded without findings. It was announced. The body will be taken to Chicago for interment, probably Monday.