

## GERMANY ADMITS MISTAKE MADE

### SMOOTHING OUT WRINKLES CAUSED BY THE FRIEDRICH

No Occasion For Anybody to Become Alarmed Over the Sinking of the Grain Ship Frye by the German Vessel.

### CAN BE SETTLED WITHOUT BLOODSHED

Germany is Said to be Pained Over the Incident and to Declare Captain Did Not Use Good Judgment.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, March 12.—Preliminary reports placed in President Wilson's hands covering the sinking of the American sailing ship William P. Frye by the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich declare the act entirely without justification. It is already considered certain that the complete report will make the same claim. Until he has all details in his hands, the president will take no action. Meanwhile, officials here were expecting that Germany, of her own volition, will open the matter. They expect the German foreign office to take the matter up either with Ambassador Gerard at Berlin or through Ambassador Bernstorff in this country. But the mere assumption of responsibility and the payment of monetary damages will hardly prove satisfactory to this government. The sinking of the Frye was an unfriendly act, according to the construction placed upon the case by the international law experts and Germany will be expected to disavow and promise to punish the man responsible, the commander of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich. The United States can do no less than insist on this, officials say. There is no belief at the capital that there will be any break in relations between Germany and the United States. The case is for diplomats to settle. Any demands which this government shall make, will be granted, it is believed. The demand by Samuel W. Sewall, of Bath, Maine, one of the owners of the Frye, that the officers of the German cruiser be proceeded against as pirates, will be ignored. There is no

### TURKEY

[By Ed L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.] LONDON, March 12.—The Turkish commander of Smyrna has refused a demand for surrender. Rear Admiral Rierre's squadron, after a twenty-four hour truce, has resumed shelling the port. This message was received here from Athens today. Dispatches to Athens from Tenedos island said the boom of the warships' guns off Smyrna could be heard plainly there. Dispatches received at Tenedos said the British squadron, having reduced the outer forts, were shelling Turkish batteries from inside the harbor. The British squadron commander gave the Turkish military government twenty-four hours in which to hurry non-combatants out of town. Couriers sped over the city, spreading the news and within a few hours all the civilian residents who had not fled to the hills, at the beginning of the bombardment, were moving in a panic procession toward the Smyrna-Constantinople railway. For the first time since the Dardanelles operations and the bombardment of Smyrna began, the French war office has admitted that an expeditionary force is en route to Turkey. In a dispatch from Paris early today, it was officially announced such an army is on its way to the Levant. General D'Amade, commander of the French forces in Morocco, will assume command. The French war office did not state at what point these troops will be landed, but it was assumed here that they would disembark on the Asia Minor shore near the Dardanelles entrance. British troops and possibly some of the Australians at the Suez canal are aboard transports bound for the Dardanelles, it was unofficially reported.

### TOUGH PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED

Cabinet Meeting Today Discusses Mexican Situation and Developments in the Eitel Case.

### AVE DANGER ARISES

An American Assassinated in Mexico City, While "Legalized Piracy" on the High Seas is Still Going on. [By John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.] WASHINGTON, March 12.—The Mexican situation and developments growing out of the arrival of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich at Newport News crowded everything else to the background at today's cabinet meeting. The wanton killing of John B. McManus, a former Chicagoan, by Zapatistas alarmed the president and his advisors. It was felt this act indicated that Zapata might prove a real source of danger in control of Mexico City, despite the promise of disarmament and promise of punishment made by him to Senor Cordoba, the Brazilian minister, who is looking after American interests. The cabinet decided that the United States will insist on summary punishment of all of the soldiers responsible and that Zapata shall agree to protect all foreigners. The grave danger according to the advices presented to the cabinet by Secretary Bryan, is that Zapata will not be able to control his own troops. However, the belief was current that he would have material assistance from Villa who is expected to rush troops to Mexico City to cooperate with Zapata to help hold it. As far as the Prinz Eitel Friedrich is concerned, the United States will demand complete satisfaction for the sinking of the Wm P. Frye. It was agreed at the cabinet meeting that Germany eventually would accept complete responsibility for this act and would make financial amends. But it is expected that in this connection Germany will take advantage of the opportunity to plead justification in that the allies are trying to starve her out and that in sinking the Frye, the Eitel was making a just reprisal. It is understood that the cabinet meeting agreed the United States must make the sinking of the Frye an immediate issue and not allow it to drag along interminably. It affords the first concrete case where the government can define its absolute autonomy of what this government has not hesitated to characterize as "legalized piracy." The wanton destruction of merchant vessels by the belligerent powers and the interference with neutral vessels proceeding to and from neutral ports. Therefore it will be made the reason for a definite declaration by the United States of its position regarding the doctrine of the right of might on the high seas. Secretary Bryan reported to the cabinet meeting the last word received from England and France concerning their planned blockade against Germany. He is understood to have made it plain that there is no present likelihood that a definite agreement can be reached without protracted negotiations. Eitel Will Intern. WASHINGTON, March 12.—That the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich will intern at Newport News was the consensus of opinion among government officials here today. Experts describe the vessel as "all in"—wholly unseaworthy and beyond even repair which would not involve practically complete rebuilding. Nobody believed, however, that decision to intern would be announced speedily. Instead it is surmised that repairs will be made and coal and provision taken on and perhaps a start made for the open sea before hope of escape is abandoned. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Peters who in Secretary McAdoo's illness of appendicitis, was acting as head of the department, conferred today with the president concerning the sinking of the American sailing vessel Frye by the Eitel. As a result of their talk, orders were sent to Collector of the Port Hamilton, at Newport News, to secure, in addition to the sworn statement of the Frye's master, the story of every member of his crew, as well as the version of the Eitel's commander. The former was expected in Washington Saturday and it was thought likely the German officer would also visit the capital, in which event, should he wish to make a statement, Peters and Counselor Lansing of the state department, will go over the whole case with him.

### ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service] LONDON, March 12.—Fresh outbreaks of indignation over Germany's submarine warfare came from the British press today. For the first time, according to dispatches received here from Liverpool, one of Von Tirpitz's under-sea fighters has attempted to sink an ocean liner, with 106 passengers aboard. The Red Star liner Lapland, bound for New York, was the reported victim. She carried many American passengers. According to a message from Liverpool a German submarine pursued her as she slipped out of the Mersey. She crowded on full steam and escaped. The officers of the Red Star line refused to confirm the report. Liverpool correspondents said the news was received there in a brief wireless message. The British newspapers generally accepted the story as true and made it the subject of new appeals to the government to order drastic reprisals. The Lapland sailed at noon yesterday. She carried twenty-one saloons, thirty-six second cabin and forty-nine steerage passengers under the British flag and a heavy mail cargo. According to reports from Liverpool she had just cleared the bar at the mouth of the Mersey when she sighted the periscope of the submarine lying in wait. The captain of the coaster, The Helen, arriving in Liverpool several hours after the Lapland departed, brought word that a submarine was lying off the mouth of the Mersey. He reported that an under sea boat shot a torpedo at his vessel eight miles northwest of Mersey bay and that it missed its mark by only twenty yards. The morning newspapers today laid much stress on reports from The Hague that twelve of Germany's finest submarines have gone to the bottom since the submarine "blockade" was decreed. They predicted an early abandonment of the submarine campaign against merchantmen. BOMBARD WESTENDE. BERLIN, March 12. (Via wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—Two British warships, accompanied by several torpedo boats, hurried more than seventy shells upon the German positions at Westende on the Belgian sea coast yesterday, the war office announced today. The shells fired were ineffective. The warships retired when the German land batteries became active.

### DEATH HAD NO TROUBLE FORCING WAY PAST GUARDS

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Died This Morning in the Tarrytown Castle Where 300 Special Police Keep Strangers Away.

### HUSBAND AND SON WERE IN SOUTH

Wife of World's Richest Man Had Been Ill For More Than a Year, But Her Passing Away Was Unexpected.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, March 12.—Mrs. John D. Rockefeller died at Pocantico Hills early today, aged 75 years. The wife of the world's richest man had been ill for weeks, suffering from anemia and other ailments due to old age. She was precariously ill for a time last summer, of the same disease and it was on this account, in a large measure, the Rockefellers moved from his Cleveland home to his New York estate at Pocantico Hills, N. Y. The Rockefellers were married in 1864. Mrs. Rockefeller was Miss Laura C. Spelman. Pocantico Hills, the estate of the old king, is located about twenty-five miles north of New York City. There the Rockefellers have lived in feudal state. Since L. W. W. agitators last summer caused trouble at Tarrytown, near the estate, by threats of a raid of the Pocantico Hills property, Rockefeller has maintained a strong guard. In the big estate, he has lived secluded and guarded like an ancient baron. He had his own golf course and his own gardens. The only formal announcement concerning Mrs. Rockefeller's death obtainable, was a brief statement from the offices of the Standard Oil company that Mrs. Rockefeller had passed away at 10:30 a. m. It was not stated what was the cause of death. Absolutely all information regarding Mrs. Rockefeller's illness and death was refused at the Pocantico Hills house. Newspapermen were not permitted to approach the house. It was known that Mrs. Rockefeller was gravely ill ten days ago. She had several periods of improvement, however. Friends of the family said today that her condition yesterday was reported greatly improved. The Standard Oil company's offices stated that no arrangements for funeral services has yet been made. Husband Not Present. NEW YORK, March 12.—The wife of the world's richest man—Mrs. John D. Rockefeller—died today from general exhaustion and debility due to old age. Neither her husband nor her son were at her bedside, in the palatial Rockefeller home at Pocantico Hills, N. Y., when death came. Summoned by telegraph, the two are speeding northward from Miami, Fla., in a special train. Until their arrival tomorrow night, plans for the funeral will be withheld. The old king's wife had been ill for more than a year. Last October the couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary here, Mrs. Rockefeller having a period of good health. Earlier in the summer it was Mrs. Rockefeller's ill health that caused the old king to postpone his usual winter return to New York from Forest Hills, the Rockefeller's Cleveland estate. As a result, under an Ohio law, as he had lived in Cleveland for seven months, he was declared a resident of Cuyahoga county. Officials are now attempting to collect taxes on \$310,000,000 worth of the billionaire's stock and bond holdings. On Tuesday, a warm, spring-like day here, Mrs. Rockefeller's health was so improved that her physicians permitted her to be carried out into the garden, Pocantico Hills, to see how her favorite plants had withstood the winter's rigors. She seemed in good spirits then, and looked to be mending fast. Yesterday also, she had a particularly good day, according to friends of the family and it was not until early this morning that her condition changed to critical. At her bedside when she died were her sister Miss Lucy Spelman, her daughter Mrs. E. Parmalee Prentice, and several old servants and physicians. The Rockefeller estate, guarded by at least 300 special policemen, was impregnable today to newspapermen. The telephone was cut off, guards barred the way into the grounds and all servants kept in the house. The Standard Oil Co.'s offices at 26 Broadway made first announcement of the death. For two hours afterwards, employes at Pocantico Hills

### TURKISH CLAIMS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Berlin wireless) March 12.—An English landing party, composed of from 1,000 to 2,000 men, was repulsed at the Dardanelles and forced to retire to the warships, according to dispatches received here today. A number of British soldiers were killed. The war office announced today that bombardment of the Turkish forts continues without effect. Storms and foggy weather are hindering the operations of the Anglo-French fleet.

### GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, March 12. (Via wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—Capture of 7,500 Russians in two battles around Augustov and Przasnysz, was announced today, the official war office statement today. Among the prisoners are two regiment commanders. The war office further announced the repulse of the British who attempted to advance from Neuve Chapelle, near LaBassee. The official statement ridiculed Russian claims of victories around Przasnysz and asserted since the Germans retired from Przasnysz, they have taken 11,460 prisoners in the fighting in that region. The most decisive victory over the Russians was scored in the woods northeast of Augustow. Here a Russian force lost 4,000 in prisoners, three cannon and ten machine guns. From the entire district around Augustow, where the Russians were attempting an offensive, they are now retreating. Northwest of the fortress of Ostrolenka, the Germans delivered a series of successful attacks. Fighting still continues around La Bassee.

### RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PETROGRAD, March 12.—The greatest battle since the Mazurian lakes fighting is now developing around Przasnysz, the war office admitted today. The Germans, pressing in upon the fortified town from the north and the west, already are in contact with the Russian columns that pursued the enemy out of Przasnysz eight days ago. The main objective of the new German offensive is the fortress of Pultusk. Pultusk lies thirty miles north of Warsaw, commanding the road to the Polish capital leading southward along the Narow. To reach it, the Kaiser's forces must recapture Przasnysz and sweep the grand duke's armies southward for a distance of twenty-five miles. New guns have been mounted at Przasnysz since the Russians captured the town. These command the three road approaches from Corlez, Miava and the Orzec river. The most furious fighting in the next few days is expected in the region between Miava and the Orzec. The Germans have renewed the offensive against Lomza and Ostrolenka, guarding Warsaw from the northeast and the Warsaw-Petrograd railway, while the bombardment of Osozwost continues. East of Suwalki in north Poland the Germans are on the defensive. The Carpathian fighting has developed nothing important in the last twenty-four hours.

### FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, March 12.—A lull in the fighting in the Champagne region at almost every other point in the battle line, was reported in official dispatches to the war office this afternoon. Two divisions of Belgians gained from 400 to 500 yards at different points near the sea coast, notably in the direction of Schorbacke, south of Nieuport. Satisfactory Operation. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, March 12.—Doctors Cary G. Grayson, A. N. Fauntleroy and E. H. H. Old, who had just operated on Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo for appendicitis at the Providence hospital, issued the following: "The operation was entirely satisfactory. A normal condition obtains.

### ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] REDDING, Calif., March 12.—Mrs. C. O. McKnight, living near Bella Vista, is the mother of four babies, all born between 9:15 and 11:15 Wednesday night. All are normal. The heaviest, and the first born, weighs 2 1/2 pounds. The last to be born weighs only one and three-quarters pounds. Mrs. McKnight is forty years old and weighs only 105 pounds. She is the mother of nine other children, all living, but all born singly. The father is forty-five years old. The family is in humble circumstances, living on a rented farm near Bella Vista. Dr. W. P. Parrish, of Millville, attended Mrs. McKnight, and today declared she was doing well.

### The War in Mexico

Latest Developments Among Our Revolutionary Neighbors of the South.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] DENVER, Colo., March 12.—Black smallpox has broken out in Tampico and Vera Cruz and thousands of persons throughout Mexico are threatened with starvation, according to Rev. Bishop Francis J. McConnell here today. The bishop has just returned from Mexico where he attended a conference of Methodist ministers in the republic at Orizaba, ninety miles from Vera Cruz. "It is impossible to conceive of the horrors existing in Mexico," said Bishop McConnell. Disease threatens to kill thousands who have survived the long period of fighting. Business is suspended, railways are out of commission and the entire country is penniless. Paper script has taken the place of real money and food supplies are extremely scarce. Outrages are being committed against Americans and other foreigners daily. Bishop McConnell declared he believed it was the duty of this country to insist that the outrages cease, resorting to armed intervention if all other means fail. Official Report. WASHINGTON, March 12.—The state department has finally been definitely notified of the evacuation of Mexico City by General Obregon's Carranzista troops. It was announced at 12:30 p. m., today. The message was from the Brazilian minister there. It is said the Carranzistas withdrew the night of March 10 (Wednesday) and was the first explicit news of the evacuation the department has received. McManus is Slain. WASHINGTON, March 12.—The state department announced today the receipt from the Brazilian minister in Mexico City Thursday of a dispatch telling of the killing that day of John B. McManus in the Mexican capital. It was stated that McManus was the victim of Zapatistas, who were occupying the city at the time of the tragedy. The message indicated that he was killed while defending his house from attack by the Zapatistas, who accused him of slaying several of their number at the time they evacuated the capital, following their previous occupation of it. The state department immediately asked the Brazilian diplomat to demand from Zapata, satisfaction for the incident and the punishment of whoever was responsible for the killing. The department stated that it had received a message today from General Zapata himself, dated Mexico City, expressing regret for the affair and stating that the culprit was to be punished this forenoon. Though details were lacking, the dispatches made it evident that the Zapatistas were again in occupation of Mexico City and that General Obregon was out of it. McManus was said to be from Chicago. Zapata in Control. WASHINGTON, March 12.—General Obregon is out of Mexico City. General Zapata has occupied it. An American and several Spaniards were killed while the transfer was being affected. The American was John B. McManus of Chicago. The Zapatistas attacked his house as they were occupying the city, at 9:30 Thursday morning. McManus resisted. Some accounts said that he and some that the Zapatistas fired first. At any rate

### What the War Moves Mean

By J. W. T. Mason, Former European Manager of the United Press.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, March 12.—(11 a. m.)—The British success near La Bassee—the capture of Neuve Chapelle—is the largest gain made by a single effort in northern France during the winter. Yet the almost hopeless task of driving an enemy out of modern trenches is emphasized by the very narrow limits of the British victory. One hundred thousand troops are said to have participated in the effort to force back the Germans, while only 1,300 yards were gained along a front of 4,000 yards. This too, is the best the allies have been able to do in northern France since the Germans began fighting on the defensive. The success has not been followed up, and if the usual precedent is followed, the Germans will effect a counter-concentration and secure compensation elsewhere. More and more the major lesson of the war is revealing itself as the enormous advantage of the defensive principles over offensive under modern conditions. Even the Russians, with inferior equipment and poor leadership, are able to hold defensive positions with much success against attacks planned by the only military genius the war has produced. There will be satisfaction in England over the capture of Neuve Chapelle, however, not only because positive gains of any kind are so rare for all belligerents in the west, but also because of the fact that the Indian troops have been specially mentioned as participating in the attack. Since the first appearance of the Indians on the European firing line, tales have been circulating in England concerning their inability to face artillery fire. These stories have never been published, but have been passed along by word of mouth. The punitive expeditions at home and the South African war gave the Indians no intimation of the terrors of artillery fire. They discovered it for the first time when facing the Germans. The reports in England declare the Indians were horrified not only by the destructiveness of artillery fire, but also by the huge holes torn in the ground and by the terrific booming of the larger sized shells. In consequence of their overwrought feelings, which, in fact, was due simply to a lack of normal stamina of the Caucasians, the Indians were reported to have been removed from the first line trenches. Now, however, it is evident that custom has restored to the Indians their lost confidence. That they can be used for the dangerous work of participating in an offensive against German cannon will be a matter for much satisfaction among the English.