

# ROUMANIA ABOUT TO ENTER WAR

## EXTRA GUARDS ON DUTY AT CANADIAN BRIDGES

Discovery of New German Plots Causes Precautions to be Taken to Prevent Any Further Destruction.

## PLANS OF BUILDING IN A TRUNK

Man in Row Boat Was Fired Upon When He Was Seen Approaching the International Bridge.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 7.—Sensational reports of the discovery of new German plots were in circulation as parliament prepared to assemble this afternoon to discuss the origin of the plot that destroyed the Canadian parliament buildings.

From Bridgeburg came the report that Canadian guards had fired on a row boat which approached the international bridge early today. The guards were immediately doubled on the suspicion that an attempt was being made to dynamite the bridge spanning the Niagara between Bridgeburg and Buffalo. The row boat pulled away from the American shore.

The Ninth Overseas Battalion of 1150 men, arrived at Welland today to reinforce two other regiments guarding the Welland canal and munition plants in that vicinity. Reported plots to destroy the canal, through which passes millions of bushels of Canadian wheat, destined for the allies, led General Logie of Toronto to place a heavier guard.

Soldier guards today went on duty at munition plants at St. Catharines, Ontario. Lieutenant Colonel Bureleigh made hurried trips until today dawn, disposing of armed detachments about the factories. Previously, civilians had guarded the plants and requests for military guards had been refused. Bureleigh told newspapermen that the reason for the change may be made known in a statement given out in a day or two.

Extra sentries were placed at the public buildings at Port Colborne throughout Canada. Orders were issued that hereafter the canal and all bridges shall be guarded both day and night. President Borden will inform parliament this afternoon that authorities are conducting a rigid investigation of reports that the parliament building fire was of incendiary origin and will give assurance that every precaution is being taken to guard public buildings against teutonic plotters.

The plot rumors have gained more credence since discovery by police of plans of the parliament buildings, city of Ottawa itself and of several Canadian harbors, in the trunk of a German named Schwelber, who came here from the United States about a year ago. Schwelber wrote from San Francisco two weeks ago, asking that the trunk be forwarded to him. The police became suspicious and made an examination. Despite these rumors however, the prime minister will express his conviction that the parliament building fire was purely accidental. It is understood.

It was learned today that a French member, Boulay, from Rimouski, submitted to the government a question regarding the employment of Germans and Austrians in governmental departments during the war, only a few hours before the parliament buildings were destroyed. The question was to have appeared in the regular order of parliamentary proceedings on Thursday morning.

**A Man in a Boat.**  
BRIDGEBURG, Ont., Feb. 7.—Another development in the alleged plotting against important bridges, munition plants and public buildings in Canada was seen here today when a man in a row boat was reported to have been seen approaching one of the piers of the international bridge spanning the Niagara between Bridgeburg and Buffalo.

Residents of Bridgeburg, living near the bridge, declared they heard two rifle shots about 1:30 this morning and it was said one of the soldiers on guard had fired at the row boat. It was about 200 yards from the bridge when the guard fired.

The officer in command hurried to the pier at the first shot and ordered his men not to fire again until the boat was close to the structure. The boat pulled to the American side, however, without approaching closer to the pier.

The guard on the bridge and transmission towers of the Canadian, Niagara Power company, at Port Erie, is larger today than at any time since the beginning of the war.

## WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE OVER LUSITANIA QUESTION

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing Talk Over the Situation.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Whether this government shall compromise to meet a compromise in the Lusitania case, was to be decided today at the white house conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing.

Germany, according to intimations from her representatives here, has conceded several points. This appeared to be a big factor in today's conference.

Secretary Lansing, in response to direct questions, has declared "the American attitude regarding the Lusitania sinking remains unchanged," from that taken when the United States in a formal note called the act illegal and demanded disavowal. At the white house the same thing has been said insistently.

In view of this seeming deadlock, officials here today continued to hold the impression that the gravity of the situation has not loosened, despite Secretary Lansing's statement through the United Press on Saturday that there could be no deadlock as long as informal negotiations are continuing.

and not the past which he considers most important. It was confidently believed that if Germany's latest memorandum—even if it does not frankly admit the sinking of the Lusitania was illegal and agree to a disavowal—will be acceptable, if it suggests phrases for a formal note which can be used as a precedent and a basis of international law which would place without the pale a government which ordered submarine commanders to torpedo merchant ships without warning.

This, the German Arabic note does not do, in the opinion of officials, despite its seeming concession of all American demands in that case, since it admitted the submarine commander who sent the Arabic to the bottom exceeded instructions of his government. "It is this point that is the crux of the Lusitania issue, for the commander who sank that liner, with its load of human freight was ordered to do it. In other words, state department officials said today, the Arabic agreement to sink a merchant for a commander to merely makes it illegal without warning, provided he isn't so ordered by his government.

It was believed therefore that the informal suggestion that Germany would be willing to refer in the preface of her next formal Lusitania note to the Arabic concessions, would not be considered relevant by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing.

The announcement which Secretary Lansing said may be made today or tomorrow, was not expected until he sees Ambassador Bernstorff. The German representative, anticipating an invitation from the secretary late

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## BALKANS

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Feb. 7.—Bulgarian and Turkish troops moving toward the Roumanian border to meet the concentration of Roumanian troops against the Serbian frontier, according to Millar's dispatches received here today.

From a Serb source came the report that central powers have demanded partial demobilization of the Roumanian army and a pledge of benevolent neutrality toward the Austro-Germans and Bulgars. These demands, it was stated, have been ignored by the Roumanian government.

The London papers printed long dispatches today dealing with the Roumanian situation and corroborating exclusive Rome dispatches to the United Press on Saturday that Roumanian activities lead to the belief that the Roumanians may soon enter the war with the allies.

The Milan correspondent of the Chronicle reported that the central powers had protested to Roumanian against the sale of 80,000 carloads of grain to the allies.

The Roumanian government replied that it was necessary to safeguard Roumanian economic interests by all possible steps.

Austria is reported further to have protested against the nomination to the Roumanian parliament of two candidates pledged to wage a campaign for the acquisition by Roumania of the Hungarian principality of Transylvania, inhabited largely by Roumanians.

The Marmornitz correspondent of the Chronicle reported a sudden concentration of Roumanian troops along the Hungarian frontier within fifty yards of the Austro-Hungarian lines.

**DURAZZO IN DANGER.**  
ROME, Feb. 7.—Durazzo, capital of Albania, probably will be occupied by the Austrians before many hours.

Austrian cavalry has reached the Arzeno river, four miles from Durazzo, according to dispatches received here today. It is awaiting the arrival of the main body of Austrian troops which crossed the river Idrin early Sunday after defeating a Serbian detachment. The Serbs are falling back to the south to escape envelopment by Bulgarian forces at Elbasan.

**BULGARS AND ALLIES.**  
SALONIKA, Feb. 7.—The first skirmish between allied and Bulgarian troops since the allies' retirement from Serbia two months ago, French outposts were outnumbered and forced to retire yesterday morning in the region south of Lake Doiran.

Bulgarian mounted patrols fired across the Greek border. When the French answered their fire, other Bulgarians galloped to the border. Two Frenchmen were wounded.

—Read The Daily Gate City, 10c a week by carrier.

## FOUR IOWA MEN KILLED IN WRECK

Double Header Coal Train Crashed Into Caboose of Northwestern Freight.

## TWENTY CARS WRECKED

Many Cattle Also Killed and Injured When Accident Occurred, Due to Misunderstanding of Orders.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] DUNLAP, Iowa, Feb. 7.—Four stockmen were reported killed and others injured when a double header coal train crashed into the caboose of a stock train on the Chicago and Northwestern railway a mile from here this morning. Twenty cars were wrecked.

The dead stockmen are: J. H. NELSON, Stanhope, Iowa. ALEX WAITE, Serton, Iowa. GEORGE DUECHLER, Boone, Iowa. ONE UNIDENTIFIED stockman.

All Northwestern trains are being detoured via the Illinois Central. The heavy coal train ran into the rear of the stock train with terrific force and twenty cars were wrecked, the caboose in which the stockmen were riding being completely telescoped. The men were buried under the debris. Many cattle were killed and injured. A misunderstanding of orders is supposed to have been the cause of the wreck.

## LOCOMOTIVE FELL INTO THE RIVER

Engineer and Fireman Killed When Engine Plunged Into Ten Feet of Water.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] VINCENTNES, Ind., Feb. 7.—Two trainmen were killed when the engine and tender of a Big Four passenger train running between Vincennes and St. Francisville, Illinois, plunged into the Wabash river at 6 a. m. today.

The dead are: FRANK LANCASTER, engineer, of Vincennes.

OLLIE HAZELTON, fireman. The train, which consisted only of the engine, tender and two coaches, was slowly approaching the St. Francisville bridge over a six hundred yard fill when the fill, which had been undermined by floods, gave way. Men had been at the work several days strengthening the fill. This is the Terre Haute division of the Big Four. Many traveling men were in the coaches. The engine is in ten feet of water.

## GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] AMSTERDAM, Feb. 7.—For the first time since the Kaiser gave him the hearty slap on the back that broke off friendly relations between the two rulers for several years, Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, is to visit Berlin in the near future, the Vossische Zeitung reported today.

On Ferdinand's last visit to the German capital, the Kaiser, to emphasize a humorous remark, slapped the Bulgarian ruler vigorously between the shoulders. The blow was so unexpected, so the story goes, that Ferdinand lost his military pose and nearly fell to the floor. On his return to Sofia, he let it be known that the Kaiser's democratic back-slapping was most displeasing.

**HEAVY FIGHTING.**  
BERLIN, Feb. 7.—Heavy artillery fighting along the western front, between the LaBasse canal and Arras and also southward toward the bend of the Somme, was reported in today's official dispatches. The British are again bombarding Lens.

Repulse of a Russian attack on the Schara river was also announced.

## ENGLAND

[By Wilbur S. Forrest, United Press Staff Correspondent.] LONDON, Feb. 7.—The idea that the German fleet will come dashing out of the Kiel canal some day, equipped with seventeen inch guns that will blow England's dreadnoughts to pieces, was ridiculed by British naval experts today.

The story about the 17 inch gun was first printed in a London paper. The activity of the German navy, it was explained, was due to the fact that these new guns, capable of hurling more than a ton of metal a distance of twenty miles, were being placed aboard German warships.

Official utterances on the subject are taboo in London. Nevertheless it was learned today that British naval officers believe the fifteen inch gun which the monster Queen Elizabeth battleship is the maximum calibre for real efficiency, especially in the North sea where the British and German fleets might clash.

The angle of a shell from a seventeen inch gun must exceed fifty degrees, it was stated. The range of the weapon is twenty miles. At this distance, it was argued, it would be necessary for the Germans to assign small vessels to the business of "spotting" hits on enemy vessels. Great Britain's swift cruisers and destroyers would drive in the German "spotters," forcing the seventeen inch dreadnoughts to come within range of the

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## WESTERN STATES WARNED OF AVALANCHES AND FLOODS

Rains and Warm Weather Following the Heavy Snows, Bring Danger to Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

## ARKANSAS IS COVERED WITH WATER

Seventeen Lives Have Been Lost and a Score of Towns Have Been Drenched by the Rising River.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The weather bureau this afternoon issued a warning of probably dangerous avalanches in the mountain districts of Washington, Oregon and Idaho and for floods on the eastern slope of the Cascades in Washington as the result of rains and warmer weather, following heavy snows.

**Floods in Arkansas.**  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. Feb. 7.—With seventeen persons dead, nearly a score of towns in southeastern Arkansas covered with water, and property damage that will run well into the thousands, the Arkansas river continued its slow rise. Several hundred men continued their all night work on the levees at Arkansas City today. Breaks in other levees nearby have caused inundation of a strip forty miles long and twenty miles wide. Today the river rose 3 foot to a stage of 55.8 feet at Arkansas City.

**On the Mississippi.**  
ARKANSAS CITY, Ark. Feb. 7.—Six hundred men worked today to reinforce the main levee protecting this city from destruction by the Mississippi river. Every person unable to help went away. The river is sixteen feet higher than the level of the city and the levees are sloughing. Water is twenty feet high in the streets as a result of former Arkansas river breaks.

The bodies of two drowned men were found in the back waters today. One death was reported from Augusta and two from Clarendon, bringing the total flood deaths to twenty-three. A thousand persons are crying for bread at Clarendon, a majority having been without food since Saturday, when the levee broke and flooded the city for the first time in twenty-six years. The victims were too poor to get away and held to their belongings until their homes were under water and railway traffic out off.

## BOMBS PLANTED FOR ITALIAN CONSUL

One Was Attached to Door and Exploded When He Opened it to go Outside.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 7.—Police early today had made little progress in their efforts to trace the person who placed two bombs near the apartment of Italian Consul Arminio C. Conte—one on the fire escape and the other just outside the door.

The infernal machine outside the door exploded and burned Conte's hands considerably. Late last night the bomb was so arranged that when the door opened, it completed an electric circuit which was fastened to the battery and to the door.

When other residents of the apartment heard the explosion, they started to summon the police. Conte tried to stop them from calling the authorities, but detectives were called despite his protests.

Conte declares that he received no threatening letters nor would he be advanced any other theory for the attempt to take his life. He was recently interested in settling a strike of some laborers on the Northwestern road and the police believe some of

these may have been dissatisfied. It is believed that the bombs were placed late Saturday afternoon. The elevator man in the apartment said that he remembered an Italian coming into the building on Saturday.

**Charged With Murder.**  
BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 7.—John Edward Tepler, young business man of Orchard Park, was charged with murder in the first degree before Justice Marcus in supreme court today. Tepler's mother and brother were killed while sitting in a stranded automobile a week ago.

The court room was crowded when Tepler walked to the bar. District Attorney Dudley charged Tepler with killing his mother, Mrs. Agnes M. Tepler, widow of a wealthy steel manufacturer.

No reference was made of the killing of Tepler's brother, Fred or probable fatal injury of his sister, Grace, on the Orchard Park highway last Sunday night.

The county prospector asked for the postponement of preliminary examination until Wednesday and this was granted by the court despite the emphatic protest of E. R. O'Malley, counsel for Tepler, who was remanded to jail without bail.

—Read The Daily Gate City.

## OPPONENTS OF PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM MAKE SHOWING

First Test of Strength Comes Over Bill to Increase the Number of Middies.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The first open battle between advocates and opponents of preparedness, was staged in the house today. It promised the first test of strength of democratic insurgency which may give some indication of the fate of the whole administration program.

An emergency bill to increase the number of Annapolis naval academy middies was the measure provoking the preliminary skirmish. Its passage under "suspension of the rules" was the program. It is an administration measure in charge of Chairman Padgett of the house naval committee with a two thirds vote of the house necessary for passage. The naval committee recently reported it favorably, with four "little navy" democrats voting against bringing it from the committee.

Representatives Hensley, Tribble, Callaway, Buchanan, Bailey, Sherwood and many other prominent democrats were today on the job ready to oppose by speech and vote the

passage of the bill. The republicans were expected to give it their support.

Chairman Padgett confidently predicted that with republican votes, two thirds of the house would be finally enrolled in its favor. Under the bill, each senator and congressman would appoint three instead of two cadets to Annapolis annually, increasing the middies' roster from about 900 to 1,200.

**Flery Debate.**  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Flery debate today marked the first open skirmish on preparedness in the house. Floods gates of oratory, pro and anti, on the whole national defense program was opened. Veterans and "rookies" of the house joined in the wordy war.

Speaker Clark left his chair to mix in and former Speaker Cannon took part. Clark criticized the "slow poke" delay in building battleships. Uncle Joe took a fling at President Wilson and said if the president's declarations that an emergency exists are true, no expense should be spared to rush war preparations.

A bill appropriating \$5,000,000 to increase the battleship building capacity of Mare Island and New York navy yards and one increasing the number of cadets at Annapolis caused the first eruption.

## Two Big Steel Plants Combine But Other Merger is Called Off

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 7.—Official announcement was made this afternoon that the Midvale Steel and Ordnance company has bought control of the Cambria Steel Co. The price was \$31 a share in cash. The number of shares involved in the sale was not given out.

A statement was issued by William H. Donner, president of the Cambria Steel Co., following publication of the announcement that the deal whereby the Cambria Steel company was to be merged with the Lackawanna Steel company and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., has been abandoned.

The statement, signed by Donner, Edward T. Stotesbury and J. Leonard Replogle, was as follows: "While it is true as reported that negotiations for the combination of Cambria Steel with other steel companies has been abandoned, it is desirable that the stockholders should be advised immediately that other negotiations looking to sale of stock have been virtually consummated at \$31 per share in cash."

**Other Merger is Off.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—The big merger of the Lackawanna and Cambria Steel companies and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company is off. This was the announcement today of Moses Taylor, president of the Lackawanna Steel company, following negotiations lasting several months.

Taylor's statement contained an emphatic denial of reports from other sources that the deal might be revived, stating that the merger is definitely abandoned. The Lackawanna shareholders, he said, never considered a lower price than \$30 a share for their stock.

The president said the Lackawanna's January earnings were the largest in the company's history, averaging more than 20 percent on the corporation's stock.

"The Lackawanna is booked up to full capacity for the balance of this year," he said, "at much higher prices than obtained in January."

**A Change in Plans.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—Wall street received the news of the purchase of the Cambria Steel company by the Midvale Steel and Ordnance company with the greatest interest today, as it is regarded as changing for the time being at least, the entire aspect of plans for a big steel merger, along the line of the United States Steel corporation which Standard Oil interests have been perfecting.

Financial experts have seen indications for several months of the Standard Oil group planning a merger of independent steel plants throughout the country on a scale that would rival United States Steel. The general plan, it was understood, was the merging into one group of two or three companies and formation of similar small groups into a unit, and eventually bringing the various groups together.

The first big step in this plan was the formation of the Midvale Steel and Ordnance company. The second was the opening of negotiations to merge Lackawanna Steel, Cambria and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company.

A stumbling block in this latter merger was encountered according to reports today, in the Speyer banking interests who are largely interested in Lackawanna Steel and Youngstown Sheet and Tube and a group of middle western bankers, also interested in these companies. The middle western houses are said to be interested

in Picklands, Mather and Company, which owns vast ore deposits in the Lake Superior ore region and are also identified with the Interlake Steamship company.

These interests, Wall street understood, were certain of being able to sell their Lackawanna and Youngstown stock at higher prices than those endeavoring to put through the merger had named as being willing to pay. They negotiated for the Interlake company the purchase of the entire fleet of the Cleveland Steamship Co., consisting of thirteen lake vessels, which were to have been used to transport ore from the Superior fields. The Standard Oil group refused to come up to the price asked for a story in financial circles and the merger as originally planned fell through.

It is now said that the Midvale Co. has purchased the Buena Vista ore deposits in Cuba.

**Big Oil Combine.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—A thirty million dollar petroleum combine today is being prepared by the Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Co., according to an announcement of B. L. Doherty, president of the Mexican Petroleum company, one of the largest of the firms to be absorbed.

The companies to be absorbed, in part, and the stock to be tendered to the Pan-American company are as follows: Mexican Petroleum company, \$26,535,000 common; Petroleum Transport company, \$2,900,000; the Galore company, \$767,300; Bueneve Petroleum company, \$10,000.

Plans for capitalizing the new concern and placing the stock on the market are practically completed, it was said.