

GERMANY NEARS BREAK WITH AUSTRIA

HUN SOCIALISTS FIRMLY OPPOSE RECENT SPEECH

Declare They Did Not Enter War to Dismember Russia in Any Manner.

DO NOT DESIRE PEACE WITH ENEMY BY FORCE

Held Recent Strike Only to Demonstrate Wishes for Freedom and Bread.

Amsterdam, Feb. 27.—In the debate on Chancellor von Hertling's speech, Phillip Scheidemann, the Socialist leader, said: "We fought for the defense of the fatherland against barbarism and against the entente's plans of conquest. We did not, however, fight for the dismemberment of Russia, or the subjugation of Belgium. The government's policy toward Russia is not ours."

Want Real Peace.

"True, the Bolsheviks played into the hands of all disintegrating tendencies in Russia, but we do not desire a peace with the entente like that which is being concluded with Russia. The government must remain ready for real peace by understanding."

"The independence of Belgium must be secured and the Flemings and Walloons must settle their differences among themselves. We do not desire the humiliation of the enemy or peace by force."

Discussing the recent strikes Herr Scheidemann said that they were to be attributed to food difficulties, uneasiness over the machinations of politicians and delay in the franchise reform. There were no traitorous objects, he declared, for, at the time there was an abundance of munitions on hand, and the coal scarcity necessitated holiday shifts. The strike was a demonstration in favor of peace, freedom and bread.

JAPAN PROPOSES TO ENTER SIBERIA

Would Confiscate Supplies Now Held by Bolsheviks in That Country.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Japan has directed inquiries to the entente powers and the United States government to test their feeling towards a proposal to institute joint military operations in Siberia to save the vast quantities of war supplies stored at Vladivostok and along the Siberian railroad. Criticism at home of the failure of Japan to play a larger part in the war is said to have been influential in bringing about the negotiations.

Officials here refuse to discuss this subject for publication, but it is understood that so far as America is concerned the proposition when first broached was not wholly acceptable though the exchanges on the subject which are still in progress may result in modifying the government's attitude.

Many Supplies. Accumulated at Vladivostok are military supplies of all kinds, much of American manufacture and even greater quantities of Japanese origin, which were delivered long before the Bolsheviks took possession of the Russian government. The material suffers greatly from deterioration through exposure to the weather and from other causes, but the principal matter of concern to the allies is the danger that the stores shall fall into the hands of the Germans, who may make their delivery one of the conditions of any peace treaty which they are about to compel the Bolsheviks to sign.

TANK STEAMER SUNK.

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—The tank steamer Santa Maria has been torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast according to a cable received here today. The crew was saved. The Santa Maria was of 8,200 tons dead weight and was owned by the Sun company of Philadelphia.

TWO AMERICANS KILLED.

Colon, Feb. 27.—Two Americans whose names are not known, have been killed in the Costa Rican insurrection according to a message received here today.

Crum Certain He Can Prove True Loyalty

Miles City, Feb. 27.—At noon today Sergeant-at-Arms D. L. Goodman, served upon Judge C. L. Crum of the Fifteenth judicial district the articles of impeachment presented by the house which will be heard by the state senate sitting as a trial court on March 20. The bill of impeachment attached to the summons contains six counts.

"I was very courteously received by Judge Crum," Sergeant Goodman stated. "He accepted service and then, in explanation of his failure to make a statement relative to the case previous to this time, recited the serious illness of his son, who has been hovering between life and death for several weeks, as the result of an operation for cancer, and who required his constant attendance since his bedside." "The judge requested me," continued Mr. Goodman, "to state that he did not feel in a frame of mind to make any public statement relative to the charges which cast a reflection upon his loyalty and integrity." At this time, however, he desired to say to the public that he is an American of the old stock and that when his case comes to trial he will prove beyond doubt that the charges filed against him are untrue. Further than that he did not care to enter into details.

DEMANDS DEATH OF IMPERIALISM

Balfour Declares England Will Not Cease Until Rule Terminates.

London, Feb. 27.—Foreign Secretary Balfour, replying today to the speech of Count von Hertling, the German imperial chancellor, regarding the doctrine of the balance of power, said that until German militarism had become a thing of the past and there was in existence a hall or court armed with legislative powers making the weak as safe as the strong, it would never be possible to ignore the principles underlying the struggle for the balance of the power.

No Hope Found.

Mr. Balfour told the house of commons, which he was addressing, that he was unable to find in Von Hertling's speech any basis for fruitful conversation or hope for peace. The chancellor's attitude concerning Belgium, said Mr. Balfour, was completely unsatisfactory and his lip services to President Wilson's propositions was not exemplified in German practice. "I am convinced that I should be doing an injury to the cause of peace if I encouraged the idea that there is any use in beginning these verbal negotiations until something like a general agreement is apparent in the distance and until the statement of all the countries see their way to that broad settlement, which, it is my hope, will bring peace to this sorely troubled world."

Justifies Attitude.

Secretary Balfour justified his previous attitude on the ground that Von Hertling and Count Czernin spoke after a conference and agreement. He said that Richard Holt, radical member of parliament, whose amendment to the address to the throne expressing regret concerning the decision of the Ver-

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The Weather

EAT 'WAR BREAD' TODAY.

Every bit of wheat flour saved is a blow at the Kaiser.

'War bread' is composed of 50 per cent substitutes.

One meal each day should be meatless.

Montana and North Dakota: Fair Thursday and Friday; warmer Thursday.

LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.

Maximum 56 Minimum 16 At 6 a. m. 29 At 6 p. m. 37

Missoula received its first real touch of spring weather yesterday and there were not a few who did not complain of the first symptoms of spring fever. The weather man predicts more weather just like yesterday.

FROM OTHER POINTS.

Table with columns: City, Min., Max. Rows include Bismarck, Duluth, Huron, Moorhead, Omaha, St. Paul, Williston, Denver, Havre, Helena, Salt Lake, Portland, Spokane, Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Winnipeg, Minnipeg.

INTERCEPTED HUN LETTERS REVEAL CRAVEN INTRIGUE

German Scheme Put Band of Plotters Amidst Members of Entente.

IMPLICATE BRITISH NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

Involve Noted Oriental Statesman in Proposed Hindu Revolt.

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—The United States government made public here today intercepted German diplomatic correspondence intended to show how German machinations carried a band of Hindu plotters into the private audiences of ministers and statesmen and financed lavishly their aims toward revolution in British India.

Secret papers introduced by the government purported to show that Sir Rabindranath Tagore, British knight and winner of the Nobel prize for poetry, had enlisted in the interest of Counts Okuma and Terauchi, former premier and premier respectively of Japan, in the movement to establish an independent government in India. The intercepted correspondence, however, was indefinite as to the connections between the Japanese statesman and the alleged Hindu conspirators. The name of Wu Ting Fang, former Chinese minister to the United States, was also mentioned in the documents as one of the persons with whom Sir Rabindranath had obtained a friendly interview.

Sent From Hun Quarters.

The papers were all introduced by the government in closing its case against the 39 defendants charged with fomenting a revolution against a friendly power.

The correspondence which was sent from Washington for presentation here, was dated for the most part at Rye, N. Y., at one time the summer headquarters of the German embassy. It recounted alleged favorable interviews that Tagore had with Terauchi and Okuma, the difficulties Wu Ting Fang found in moving favorably because of the influence of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, former president of China and revealed the hitherto hidden source of Hindu funds.

Mystery in Authorship.

Most of the messages were in cryptic phrases. Mystery surrounds the identity of the authors as only one of them was signed, that one by Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, and was addressed to Alfred Zimmerman, former German foreign secretary. It is known that this message as well as others, which were alleged to have passed between Von Bernstorff and Zimmerman, went through the hands of Count von Luxburg, former German ambassador to Argentina.

The identity of the addresses are unknown likewise. Most of the messages were addressed to H. Eisenmuth, Copenhagen; R. Saech, Rotterdam; and E. N. G. Ollifors at Amsterdam. The names of these persons have never appeared in previous published reports of diplomatic messages.

The documents were decoded by means of a special diplomatic code prepared by the German foreign office, the key to which was given the state department by the German embassy before America's declaration of war. The defense stipulated that the translation of the documents was correct.

World Ramifications.

In addition to bringing into the conspiracy the names of the world-renowned men, the documents showed, the prosecution contended, that the conspiracy had ramified to all portions of the world, into India, Japan, China, Mexico, British Guinea, the West Indies, Africa, Sumatra, Canada, South America, Burma and other places. Among the activities which grew out of the conspiracy, as recorded in the documents, was the organization of the Pan-Asiatic league and other associations; the secret publication and distribution of thousands and thou-

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GERMAN GENERAL ISSUES ULTIMATUM TO RUSSIANS

Petrograd, Feb. 27.—General Hoffman, commander of the German army invading Russia, has replied to a communication from Ensign Krylenko, inquiring if an armistice would be declared, by saying that the Teuton advance would be continued until a treaty of peace is signed and carried out along lines laid down in the German peace terms.

WILL 1918 SEE HOSTS IN SKY?



U. S. Ready for Great Air Battles in France

Aero Club Head Prophecies Coming Year Will See Monster Fleets.

New York, Feb. 27.—Is the long predicted pitched battle between gigantic fleets of American and German fighting flyers on the other imminent?

Will we this spring see over the western front mighty charges of cavalry of the air?

Alan R. Hawley, president of the Aero club of America answers "YES" to both questions.

Win in Air.

"There are many indications that this year will see a marked increase in fighting in the air," said Hawley today. "I expect to see heavy fighting in fleets in desperate efforts of both sides to win absolute supremacy in the air. The last four years of air fighting has been but a tame preliminary to the 1918 struggle."

"We have excellent reason for believing that the Germans have all winter been preparing to send against the allies large air fleets of aviators who will fly in formation, and maneuver as a single body. It will be absolutely necessary for the allies to send forth large squadrons to meet them."

Send Many Planes.

"First deliveries of the 22,000 aeroplanes of our \$540,000,000 air program are now being made in France."

"Instead of horses the aerial combatants will ride 150-mile an hour battleplanes and slay each other with Lewis machine guns. It is interesting to note that at the end of 1917 the Germans were recruiting their air forces from the cavalry."

"Great work is ahead for our aviators."

Bolshevik and Rumanian Troops Wage Bitter Fight

Berne, Feb. 27.—Continuous fighting is taking place between the Bolshevik and Rumanian troops in Bessarabia, according to a Vienna dispatch. There has been severe fighting around Kishineff.

BLACKMAILER GUILTY.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 27.—J. W. Cook, charged with attempting to blackmail Asa G. Chandler, millionaire mayor of Atlanta, was found guilty by a jury late today. He was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$1,000, the maximum penalty for the misdemeanor.

RED CROSS SHIP SUNK BY ENEMY

166 Believed Drowned When Vessel Goes Down Near English Coast.

Swansea, Feb. 27.—The British hospital ship Glenart Castle, which went down yesterday in the Bristol channel, was torpedoed, according to survivors, 34 of whom were landed here. Nothing so far has been learned of the fate of others, including Red Cross doctors, nurses, and orderlies. There was approximately 200 persons aboard the hospital ship, 150 of whom were members of the crew.

Quartermaster Shitler, who was the last man to leave the ship, describing the disaster, said:

Low, Dim Light.

"I was on deck at the time. A few minutes before the torpedoing, the helmsman called attention to a dim light flickering on the surface of the water some distance off. It disappeared later, but the officer of the deck was instantly suspicious and ordered the course changed. He then ordered the alarm sounded for lifeboat drill as a precautionary measure.

Jumped Into Sea.

"The order was scarcely given when came the muffled sound of an exploding torpedo far below the water line, followed by a shock, which told us that the torpedo had hit its mark."

GERMANS AGAIN SHELL TRENCHES OF SAMMEES

With the American Army in France, Feb. 27.—The enemy today heavily shelled the American battery positions with gas and high explosive shells, while the American artillery secured a direct hit on a large enemy dugout, where many Germans probably were sheltered. The American shells also reached numerous working parties.

In one two-hour period last evening 27 enemy airplanes crossed the American lines. One of a group of seven was shot down by anti-aircraft guns.

STRAIN BETWEEN POWERS NOW AT CRITICAL STATE

Caused by Refusal of Dual Monarchy to Take Part in Drive on Russ.

COOLNESS SHOWN BY EMPERORS RECENTLY

Kaiser to Force Ally Into Co-operation If Other Means Fail.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Further evidence of the growing strain in relations between Germany and Austria by the refusal of the latter to participate in the renewed attack on Russia is given in an official dispatch received here today from France. It quotes the Austrian premier as formally reiterating on February 22 that Austria-Hungary will take no part in military action against Russia or Rumania, and will not send her troops into Ukraine.

The dispatch refers to the meeting between Emperors Charles and William, February 22, and says there seems little doubt that a serious conflict has arisen between the two nations, which Germany is determined to settle by violent measures if necessary.

Coolness Evident.

The dispatch follows: "Charles I, paid a visit to William II, the 22nd of February. Ludendorff was present at the interview. If we are to judge from the tone of the interview it must have been lacking in cordiality. There seems to be little doubt but what a serious conflict has broken out during the week between the courts of Vienna and Berlin, and which Germany is determined to settle, if need be, by violent measures."

"The international situation of the dual monarchy is such that the Vienna government, in order to avoid catastrophe, has been obliged to distinguish by means of public declarations, its own policy from that of Germany. The report that at the conferences of February 14 Hertling and Ludendorff had decided to pay no attention to the Russian demobilization and to prepare to begin again the conflict on the east front, caused a great stir throughout Austria. It was not simply the opposition of nationalities, the Czechs, the Slovaks, or the Poles, who do not desire to fight any more, but it is the mass of the population of German origin who refuse to sacrifice themselves any longer to assure the triumph of Prussian imperialism."

Austria Determined.

"An official note of the 16th, had announced that Austria, for her part, would continue to consider the war as terminated with the interview. If we are to judge from the tone of the interview it must have been lacking in cordiality. I repeat, therefore, that Austria-Hungary will participate in no way in the military action which is now being carried on by Germany against Russia. I repeat that there is no question of having our troops penetrate into Ukraine, with whom we are at peace. I repeat that the armistice exists between Austria-Hungary and Rumania and that we are only considering entering as nearly as possible into peace conversations with this country. These declarations are serious. Without a doubt in his speech on the 19th of February, Seydler pleaded his fidelity to the alliance. But more and more Germany runs the risk of seeing Austria, and after her, Bulgaria and Turkey, take a positive attitude, and, practically withdraw from the struggle, and witness as spectators, the continuation of hostilities."

Revolutionary Forces Capture Cossack City

Petrograd, Feb. 27.—British Admiralty per Wireless—Novo Tcherkask, capital of the territory of the Don Cossacks, has been captured by the revolutionary troops. This announcement was made officially today.

AVIATOR KILLED.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 27.—Second Lieutenant Hammit K. Elliott, 19 years old was killed and Cadet J. H. Gelsow was slightly injured today at Ellington field, when the airplane fell 350 feet to the ground. Lieutenant Elliott, who enlisted at Haddon Heights, N. J., October 5, 1917, was commissioned yesterday. Cadet Gelsow's home was not announced.