bureau, is sending abroad a fantastic story to the effect that this country has laid a plot to destroy neutral shipping on the 18th in order to bring Germany into trouble with neutral powers. The circulation of such a wild invention is one more evidence of that strange mentality of Germany which is the most surprising revelation of the war. It shows that Germany, having announced a policy which is an equal menace to British and neutral shipping, is in deadly fear of the consequences of that policy. Beaten off the seas, Germany can not and will not be permitted to turn pirate and go unpunished.

"To-morrow, we may rest assured, will not find the Admiralty unprepared with the means of dealing with the new danger. We have no doubt that the enemy will be able to destroy many innocent lives, but whatever the destruction, it will recoil with disastrous consequences on Germany; it will embroil her with neutrals and will certainly be followed by stern measures from this country. The British navy has thrown the noose around the neck of Germany, and the more violently she struggles against it the more fatal will become the pressure."

WASHINGTON REGARDS SITUATION AS CRITICAL

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Feb. 16.—With Germany determined to carry out its war zone proclamation and with Great Britain equally determined to see that no ships carrying foodstuffs reach the German Empire, the State Department is awaiting with anxiety the developments that may arise after Thursday, when the German war zone proclamation goes into effect. That the situation is a delicate one so far as this country is concerned is admitted.

On the one hand, Germany, relaxing not a point of her contention that the enforcement of the war zone proclamation will be carried out to the letter, stands insistent on concessions from Great Britain. Great Britain, refusing any utterance whatsoever on the subject, gives out no direct information, but only the inference that her restraints on German commerce will not be modified. The United States, meanwhile, serving only as the vehicle for the communication of Germany's suggestions to Great Britain, is taking no steps on her own account to untangle the general muddle further than to stand stanchly by the position she has assumed toward Germany's decree in the recent note to the imperial government conveyed by Ambassador Gerard at Berlin.

The complete reply of Germany to the American note is said to be ready and is hourly expected at the State Department. It will be sent through Ambassador von Bernstorff, but its tenor is said to have been clearly forecast in the preliminary notes conveyed to the department on Saturday and again on Monday.

German Suggestion Not Considered.

The suggestion advanced by Germany that in the distribution of shipborne foodstuffs she will extend the privilege of closest inspection of the handling of the products to American consular officers has as yet received no consideration from the State Department. This point was made quite clear to-day by Counsellor Robert Lansing, who pointed out that such supervision could only be undertaken by this government by and with the consent of the belligerent powers now at war with Germany.

He explained that when the American consuls assumed the direction and supervision of the contributions of foodstuffs to the Belgians, several months ago, similar consents had first been obtained from the belligerent nations. This was not a wholly analogous case, for in the case of the Belgian distribution the food distributed was a charitable donation. There the interest of the United States was of a different character from that which would exist if, on behalf of American producers who were making a money profit out of the sale of their goods to Germany, the United States should seek to aid in obtaining consent for supervision of such an enterprise.

That the situation is regarded as exceedingly critical is clearly in evidence at the State Department. The Secretary of State to-day referred callers to the counsellor for all the details of the foodstuffs tangle, the case of the Wilhelmina, the interchange of notes with Germany and kindred subjects. He gave evidence that the international complication was getting out of his grasp, and that in the growing emergency resort had had to be made to trained and experienced international practitioners, rather than reposed in political hands.

The United States has made no representations to Great Britain in the matter of the disposition of the cargo of the Wilhelmina. This was indicated to-day by Counsellor Lansing, who, in explaining the communication forwarded to Ambassador Page for transmission to his majesty's government last night, said that the only documents transmitted were the brief furnished by the solicitors for the Wilhelmina's cargo owners and the note handed to the State Department by Ambassador von Bernstorff Saturday.

The United States passed these documents on to Great Britain for her consideration on their merits without making any effort to direct or suggest the interpretation which Great Britain might put upon them.

Brief Intended for Cargo.

The brief of the Wilhelmina's solicitors indicated what disposition was understood by the cargo owners to be intended for the cargo. The German note urged the release of the Wilhelmina as necessary before modification of the war zone decree could be considered. The State Department officials felt that the two statements taken in combination were sufficient argument for the needs of the situation.

Great Britain's position on the food supply question is known to be uncompromising. The utterance of Winston Spencer Churchill in the House of Commons last night, in which he announced that Great Britain is considering even more stringent measures than those now in force, with a view to starving Germany into subjection, has convinced many here that Great Britain is making up her mind to admit of no modification of her hostile intentions toward Germany's food supply, be the cost what it may. It is pointed out that the German submarine activity as against British commerce have a measurable limit. They may drive off neutral shipping altogether and they may succeed in destroying a considerable fraction of British cargo ships, but that they can isolate Great Britain is not expected, and niether is it felt that they can create a situation that would leave Great Britain foodless.

Hope to Hasten End of War.

On the other hand, the British feel that, cost what it may, their bottling up of Germany cannot but exceed in completness anything which the Germans by mines and subarines can accomplish, and that the greater measure of suffering must, in the end, fall upon Germany. This is the inhuman way of looking at the problem, according to British diplomats, but, at the same time, it is a logical answer to the problem, and if the war can be more quickly ended and in favor of Great Britain through the application of this method of fighting, the more important end—the consummation of a peace favorable to the Allies—will have been effected.

The Germans are still insistent that the British underestimate their power of restricting and destroying British commerce. They point out that the starvation system of fighting, although efficacious, cannot be brought about by England, even with her mastery of the seas. The war zone decree, they claim, is a retaliatory measure, and its detriment to Great Britain will be equal to the hardship worked on Germany by cutting off her food supply. These two views of the two interested parties to the conflict, both of them of acknowledged tenability, are working against a solution of the trouble in a fashion satisfactory to the United States.

One thing with regard to the specific instance of the cargo of the Wilhelmina came to light to-day as to the attitude of the United States government on the rights of the cargo owners, and that is, the brief of the solicitors showed to the satisfaction of the State Department that the cargo was not destined for the use either of the military or the naval establishment of Germany and also that it was put aboard and the vessel started for her European destination before the British government issued its official notice that food supplies for Germany would be regarded as contraband.

The British government has made its position clear on the principles under which conditional contraband will not be interefered with when destined to civilians in an enemy country, while the German government has stated that if it can get a food supply for its civilian population it will recede from its submarine campaign. These declarations contain no concurrence of views, but officials say there is always the possibility that through the good offices of an intermediary a common ground for an understanding may be reached.

In this connection the British supplementary note replying to the American note of protest about contraband and shipping generally, dated December 26, was laid before President Wilson to-day. It contains a long argument on the subject of American shipping and concludes with some observations on the subject of conditional contraband and the decree taking over the supply of wheat and flour in Germany by the government.

Madrid, (via Paris), Feb. 16.—The Spanish government has adopted an attitude of extreme reserve regarding its position on Germany's war zone policy. It is understood that the government will join the United States if the latter proposes joint measures on the part of all neutrals.

GERMAN VOTE TRUSTED TO INTIMIDATE WILSON

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Berne, Feb. 16.—President Wilson's note protesting against Germany's threat to sink neutral ships indiscriminately is treated with contempt in German official circles, the opinion being expressed that the machinations and the vote of Germans in America are sufficient to prevent President Wilson and Secretary Bryan from doing anything further.

"Le Journal de Genève," however, warns Germany against irritating America too much by sinking her ships and killing her sailors, for, "If the Washington Cabinet, freed by the action of submarines or Zeppelins from her obligations of neutrality, places her trade, navigation and finance on the side of the Triple Entente, it appears certain that the Austro-Turco-German alliance must suffer thereby."

Berlin (via London), Feb. 16.—The "Koelnische Zeitung" says that the American note to Great Britain contains a demand, the granting of which would at once remove or reduce to small proportions all danger to American shipping. If Great Britain abandoned the use of the Stars and Stripes few ships would carry this banner into the waters of the war zone. To recognize a ship as American would be equivalent to knowing her as a neutral.

The "Koelnische Volks-Zeitung" says Germany must wait patiently and show that February 18 will be a day of bitter earnest.

The commencement of operations in the waters designated by the German government as a war zone is awaited here with the greatest eagerness. The "Germania," in an article which is reprinted by the Norddeutsche Allegemeine Zeitung" considers the possibility that neutral ships will be destroyed as "fairly certain," but declares that they have had a proper warning.

The "Lokalanzeiger" to-day publishes an interview with James W. Gerard, the American Ambassador to Germany, which reads as follows:

"I regard the relations to-day between our two countries calmly and with confidence, and I believe pending questions will be solved in a manner mutually satisfactory. The men at the head of the governments in Berlin and Washington are not permitting themselves to be influenced either by the press or by public criticism. The public in the United States as well as in Germany should await developments quietly."

An official statement, reading as follows, was issued in Berlin to-day:

"Insomuch as it is to the interest of Great Britain that conflicts arise between Germany and neutral powers, it is thought in German shipping circles that British submarines, in order to bring about this end, may purposely sink one or more neutral ships. It is known also in the shipping circles that Great Britain has laid large quantities of mines against German submarines."

Rotterdam, via London, Feb. 16.—The Chamber of Commerce here has received a communication from the German consul reproducing a note from Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, in which he says:

"In most cases German submarines will be unable to distinguish between neutral and British vessels when encountered in the war zone. All merchantmen therefore run the risk of destruction. In order to avoid losses it is urgently necessary for neutral ships to keep away from the war zone. Germany can no longer regard the British merchant fleet as unarmed or entitled to warning before attack, because merchantmen are equipped with guns, and a large reward has been offered to the first merchant vessel which sinks a German submarine.

"Germany will pursue the war in the manner announced until Great Britain acknowledges the rules of naval warfare as fixed by the Paris and London declarations, or until the neutral powers force this acknowledgment from England."

FRENCH SEE BLACKMAIL IN NEW GERMAN POLICY

Paris, Feb. 16.—America's reply to Germany's blockade notification has brought forth a chorus of praise from the principal writers in the French press. Even ex-Premier Clemenceau, who hitherto has been disposed to criticise President Wilson, says the President has spoken the words the American people expected in such a way that Germany has no alternative but to back down.

Gabriel Hanotsux, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, says in "Le Figaro": "The American note to Germany is an act of high historic initiative, and the first step toward the inevitable participation of neutrals in the great events which are dividing the world. President Wilson was obliged to pass from discussion to action. What do the measures mentioned in the note mean but that American warships will fall upon German submarines attacking American ships in total disregard of America's sovereign rights? Either Germany can give in or she can disregard Washington's note and go on with her plan to force Great Britain to capitulate. Then President Wilson could not recede from his position."

The proposal made by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to the United States, that Germany would withdraw its blockade order if the import of food was permitted by England, arrived too late for comment, but the newspapers caption the announcement "Official German Blackmail."

Stockholm (via London), Feb. 16.—The governments of Sweden, Denmark and Norway, having exchanged views last week, are prepared to present to-morrow to Germany a note identical with that of the American note on the subject of neutral shipping in the war zone. This communication will claim indemnity for any damage or loss of life resulting from torpedo attacks delivered by German warships, and will be accompanied by a general declaration protesting against the blockading of British waters.

At the same time a note to Great Britain will express the disapproval of these three powers of the abuse of neutral flags.

27 LINERS FROM HERE FACE SUBMARINE PERIL

Fourteen steamships that sailed from the Port of New York will be in the German war zone about the British Isles when the Kaiser's decree becomes effective to-morrow. Three of them fly the American flag, and of the total number two are passenger carrying vessels.

The largest ship of the lot and the most valuable prize is the Adriatic, of the White Star Line, which left here on February 10, bound for Liverpool, which port she is due to reach late to-morrow afternoon or early Friday morning. The other vessel, on which there are several Americans, is the Bergensfjord, of the Norwegian America Line, which sailed for Bergen.

Besides the fourteen steamers that left here on or before February 10 and are due in the German patrolled waters to-morrow are thirteen ships that have sailed from this port and will arrive off the English coast a few days later.

The first fourteen vessels, the flag they fly and their destination are as follows:

Ss. Armenia (British), for Rotterdam	Feb. 4
Ss. Suriga (American), for Gothenburg	Feb. 4
Ss. Wieringen (Dutch), for Rotterdam	Feb. 4
Ss. Sommelsdijk (Dutch), for Rotterdam	Feb. 4
Ss. Stegelberg (Norr), for Skandiberg	Feb. 5
Ss. Chatton (British), for Cardiff	Feb. 6
Ss. Cushing (American), for Copenhagen	Feb. 6
Ss. Suram (British), for London	Feb. 6
Ss. Ghazee (British), for Hull	Feb. 7
Ss. Bergensfjord (Nor.), for Bergen	Feb. 8
Ss. Kansan (American), for London	Feb. 8
Ss. Vestris (British), for Havre	Feb. 9
Ss. Crbo (Greek), for Rotterdam	Feb. 9
Ss. Adriatic (British), for Liverpool	Feb. 10

Of the thirteen which sailed within the last week the American liner Philadelphia is the only one under the American flag. She departed last Saturday, with 250 passengers, and should arrive at Liverpool Sunday. In the list are included the Orduna, of the Cunard Line, and the Niagara, of the French Line, bound for Havre. They sailed February 13 and 14, respectively. Other steamers are English, Dutch and Swedish freighters.

It was declared here last night that there would be no change in the sailing time of any vessels scheduled to leave New York to-day. They included the Megantic, of the White Star Line, to Liverpool, and the Atlantic Transport liner Minneapolis, sailing to London direct. Both vessels will leave their piers in the North River at noon.

From Boston in the last week six British steamers have sailed that will arrive in the waters to be infested by German submarines after February 18. One vessel, the Pretorian, took passengers, while the others are freight carriers, loaded mainly with foodstuffs. They are the John Bakke, to Manchester; the Devonian, to Liverpool; the Ninian, for Manchester; the Anglian, for London, and the Leo, for Glasgow.

Other American ports, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Portland, have seen steamers depart recently that will be affected by the German blockade. From the Maine city more than 1,000,000 bushels of grain have been shipped in five vessels sailing since February 6.

WILL DROP BLOCKADE IN RETURN FOR FOOD

Germany, Admiral Tells United States Attache in Berlin, Depends on Submarines to Force British to Allow Shipment of Supplies.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—Admiral Behncke, of the Marine Department, has made a statement to Lieutenant Commander Walter R. Gherardi, naval attaché of the American Embassy at Berlin, which is given out officially as the best expression of the situation with respect to Germany's declaration of the waters around the British Isles as a war zone. Admiral Behncke's statement follows:

"Up to the present time Germany in the war at sea has followed the London Declaration or the stipulations of the Paris Treaty, on which the conduct of war on the sea had been based before the London Declaration.

"In waging this commercial warfare, England had in view the subjugation of Germany by starvation. Germany had in every way sought to bring the attention of the neutral powers and all others to the necessity she was under to obtain food for her civilian population which was her right under the laws of war. No results could be obtained from her efforts.

"Since the shutting off of food supplies had now come to a point where Germany had no longer sufficient food to feed her people, it became necessary for her to bring England to terms by the exercise of force. Germany knows that with the submarine England can be placed in a position where food will be lacking. She has the submarine force with which to do it; her life as a nation and the lives of her people depend upon putting this campaign into action, and she must do so.

"The difficulties lying in the way of this campaign have been largely connected with the care which it is desired to give to neutral ships and to the lives of those on board all commercial ships, whether neutral or belonging to the enemy.

"First—In arming her merchant ships with guns for self-defence England has adopted a policy against which Germans strongly protest. The United States took the British point of view. It is not possible for submarines to approach British merchant ships and make examination without exposing themselves to gun fire or bomb attack, against which a submarine boat would be helpless.

"Second—England has advised her merchant fleet to fly neutral flags, to cover up names and change stacks, to escape the consequences of their nationality. This plan was designed to bring Germany into conflict with other nations.

"Germany does not wish in the slight degree to harm American or other neutral ships or their cargoes, unless carrying contraband of war. She is, however, in a position where her life depends upon her putting into effect the only means she has of saving herself. She must and will use this means.

"Commanding officers of submarine boats have received orders to make every effort to safeguard neutrals. In spite of the precautions which submarines could take without the danger of being destroyed themselves, the possibility was noted that neutral ships might through error or accident be destroyed. For this reason a strong warning was issued.

"In addition, the English coast has been mined by the British themselves for protective reasons, and would be mined by the Germans as an act of offensive warfare. Ships were therefore in danger from mines.

"In spite of the great effect the Admiralty staff feel the use of the submarines will have in bringing the war to a rapid close, the Admiralty do not wish to put it into effect to the detrimnet of neutral commerce and the rights of nations on the high seas. They have therefore stated that if Great Britain will abide by the Declaration of London, without modification, or by the Treaty of Paris, whereby food supplies necessary for the civil population can be freely brought into Germany, the whole matter of a submarine blockade will be dropped by Germany.

"This proposal has been transmitted through diplomatic channels. If accepted, the matter will be no longer one provocative of trouble between the United States and Germany."

Admiral Behncke called Commander Gherardi's attention to the fact that Great Britain, when by her proclamation she closed the North Sea, did not give free passage to American ships bound for the neutral country of Holland, but compelled the ships to pass through certain channels, take an English pilot aboard, and undergo a search for contraband of war at the hands of officers of British warships.

Admiral Behnecke then said that Germany was prepared to suggest to the United States an even freer and safer method of passage for American ships bound either through the Channel or to English ports—namely, that several American warships should wait in some port on the southwest coast of Ireland, and when communicated with by wireless by an American merchantman one of them should proceed to the place indicated and convoy the merchantman through that portion of the sea which Germany, following the example of Great Britain, has declared to be dangerous.

"Of course," said the admiral, "ships under convoy by the rules of international law are not subject to search, but the country to which they belong is upon its honor, as it were, to see that they do not carry contraband of war.

"American warships have distinctive masts and are well known to the officers of the German navy, and either by night or day they and the vessels under their convoy would be respected by German submarines.

"This is a safe method to follow for American ships which desire to enter those portions of the seas proclaimed dangerous by Germany, and differs only from the rule adopted by Great Britain with reference to American ships passing through the Channel, in that American ships, instead of being compelled to enter a British port, take a British pilot and be searched by officers of a British warship, would be permitted to pass unmolested, to their destination without being subjected to search, the imperial German government being willing, of course, to accept the implied word of honor of the United States that the ships carry no contraband of war."

6,200 BRITISH SAILORS KILLED IN SIX MONTHS

London, Feb. 16.—The total British naval casualties since the outbreak of the war are as follows:

Killed, 348 officers and 5,812 men.
Wounded, 45 officers and 352 men.
Missing, 8 officers and 5 men.

To this list are to be added the casualties of the First Royal Naval Division, which participated in the defence of Antwerp, which were:

Killed, 5 officers and 36 men.
Wounded, 4 officers and 184 men.
Missing, 7 officers and 868 men.
Interned, 39 officers and 1,524 men.

These figures were given in the House of Commons to-day by Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty.

FRENCH CAPTURE GERMAN TRENCH

Carry Positions North of Perthes, Scene of Violent Engagements.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Feb. 16.—The French in a general assault have captured a line of German trenches in the Champagne district nearly two miles long, extending from a point northwest of Perthes to one directly north of Beauséjour farm. This front has been the scene of violent fighting for weeks, although no success of the magnitude of the one announced in to-night's War Office bulletin has previously been reported.

The Perthes region is midway between Rheims and Verdun, and the French have been endeavoring at this point to push the Germans back far enough to secure a railway a few miles to the north which has constituted a valuable line of communication for the invaders on this section of the front.

French Advance Near Metz.

The official report, the tone of which is particularly enthusiastic, states that the French have seized several German blockhouses in the Forest of Le Prêtre. The columns operating in this district have been a menace to the German fortress of Metz for two months, and only recently the Germans are reported to have strengthened their positions with reinforcements of considerable size.

The British, who were so hard pressed in the neighborhood of Ypres two days ago, now hold the trenches on that front. On Sunday the Germans, in a heavy wedge, careless of the fearful sacrifice of life the action necessitated, penetrated the British line. They fought savagely, hand-to-hand, but the British finally rallied. There were heavy losses on both sides. The Germans absolutely flung themselves away. Though some prisoners were taken, the action was so hot that very little quarter was given or taken.

Germans Ready for Dash.

German prisoners declare this is only the beginning of a long prepared forward movement, and insist that by the end of the week the road to Calais will be open to them in spite of the new British forces.

French aviators have made several attacks on the Alsatian town of Eichwald, across the Rhine from Neuenburg. Daily forays into Alsace and Baden have been made for some time, but particular efforts are being directed against Eichwald on account of the location there of German fortifications of greater importance.

GERMANS PUSH RUSSIANS BACK ABOVE VISTULA

Capture Bielsk and Plock, 20 Miles Below Mouth of Bzura River.

OPPOSING FORCE 1,000,000 STRONG

Grand Duke's Forces Successful in Carpathians—East Prussia Almost Evacuated.

London, Feb. 16.—While the Russians have been completing their evacuation of East Prussia, except for a small area around Lyck, near the border, the Germans apparently have been pushing forward their lines in Russian Poland north of the Vistula, where, Berlin to-day announces, they have captured the towns of Plock and Bielsk, which they evacuated only a short time ago.

Plock is only a little more than twenty miles down the river from the mouth of the Bzura, where about two weeks ago Russian columns fought their way across to the west bank of the tributary and threatened the rear of Field Marshal von Hinderburg's troops, which were trying to cut a path through to Warsaw.

The army of Grand Duke Nicholas north of the Vistula, which began its westward march toward Mlawa and Thorn more than a month ago, was said in Petrograd dispatches to be composed of a million troops. It is evident, if this estimate was accurate, that the Germans have thrown many of their reinforcements to strengthen their columns south of the Mazurian lakes.

While the Germans claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the retiring Russian armies, military men here and the newspaper correspondents in Petrograd continue to refer to the Muscovite movement as a strategical retirement to the fortified line which lies along the Niemen River, through Kovno and Lumza, and thence southwest to the fortress of Novo Georgiewsk.

Heavy fighting also continues in the Carpathians and Bukowina. In Bukowina the Russians also are falling back, but they continue to hold the Carpathian passes further west, and are putting up a stubborn resistance to the Austro-German offensive in that region. Here the fighting is taking place in deep snow, and both sides are suffering severely.

Reports from the Carpathian Mountains to the "Pester Lloyd," of Budapest, Hungary, say that the Austro-Hungarian armies were everywhere successful in their offensive movement in Dukla Pass. The total losses of the Russians in the Dukla Pass battles in the last few days, these reports say, were at least 50,000 men killed or injured. In a single attack the retreating Russians left 1,200 dead on the field.

The completion of several lines of railroad radiating from Warsaw to points on the Austrian frontier of Eastern and Western Galicia, expected within a few weeks, is designed to give the Russian forces that mobility which apparently is necessary to cope with the kaleidoscopic changes that the German and the Austrian armies make so successfully.

Berlin, Feb. 16 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—A special dispatch to the "Lokalanzeiger," referring to the offensive movement of the Germans which began February 7 in Prussia and along the frontier, describes the manner in which the Germans surprised the Russians. For the purpose of an outflanking operation, the German infantry made forced marches through snow knee deep. Later a thaw set in and they were compelled to make their way through slush. But, owing to the immense energy of the infantry and the successful blowing up of railway bridges, the enveloping movement succeeded. Several Russian divisions were virtually annihilated, those who were not killed being taken prisoners. A sortie by the garrison of the Russian fortress at Kovno was repulsed.

LORD BRYCE HOPES FOR END OF WARS

London, Feb. 17.—Presiding at a scientific lecture in London last night, Viscount Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States, said that if there was a chance of ridding the world of the worst evil of the human race, war, that chance ought to come now.

"If this does not cure us," said Viscount Bryce, "nothing will."

The speaker ventured the hope that there would be a stronger feeling for peace after this war than ever before, and a stronger sense of the detestable consequences to which the worship of war may bring a great people. If so, he added, the sacrifices would not be made in vain.

KING ALBERT RIDES AERO UNDER FIRE

Amsterdam, Feb. 16 (via London).—King Albert made an aerial reconnoissance of the German lines last Saturday, according to a report reaching here from the Belgian front.

The King occupied the observer's seat in a Belgian military biplane, and spent about one hour in the air. Several times he was under German fire, but he returned in safety to headquarters.

ALBANIANS DRIVEN OUT BY SERVIANS

Paris, Feb. 16.—The Albanian raiders have been routed and driven back across the Servian frontier, according to a dispatch from Nish. More complete information, it says, shows that the Albanians were led into making the raid by Austrian priests and Mahometan adversaries of Essad Pacha, the provisional president, by preaching a holy war. The movement is being directed by Turkish and German agents.

VATICAN DENIES BELGIAN TROUBLE

Rome, Feb. 15.—It is explained semi-officially in Vatican circles to-day that the resignation of Baron d'Erp, the Belgian Minister accredited to the Holy See, should not be interpreted as evidence of a lack of cordiality between the Church and the Belgian government. Monsignor Tacci, the Papal Nuncio to Belgium, is remaining at his post, while Belgium is sending to Rome, to take the place of Baron d'Erp, M. Vandeheuvel, a well known statesman, who is persona grata to the Papacy.

Baron d'Erp is advanced in years, and it is felt that more could be ac- statesman.

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In the Suit Modes that Paris is Sending for Spring—

the *Jackets* are *short*—and *Skirts* are *wide*—WORTH sponsors the *normal waistline* with *high collars* and *long sleeves*, while DRECOLL is showing *jacket* and *bolero* effects—and LANVIN features suits of *two-tone materials* and *bell-shaped skirts*, some measuring *ten inches from the ground.*

In addition to this a number of the prominent couturiers are introducing Costumes Tailleur in various *belted* effects and jackets *godeted* from the waistlines; some introducing sleeves in the *shorter lengths.*

Already assembled here are Tailleurs of many types, including original and reproduced designs in the new weaves of *cloth* or *silk*—or in charming combinations of *cloth-with-silk.*

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Our Import Department is now prepared to reproduce models to special order—or to furnish *original designs*, upon request.

Official War Bulletins

WESTERN FRONT.

PARIS (issued at 10:40 p. m.).—Along the whole front the day of February 16 has been favorable for us. In Belgium there has been an artillery engagement.

A small French squadron has bombarded a German aviation park at Ghistelles. A small British squadron has bombarded Ostend.

To the south of Ypres the British army are masters of a number of trenches where for two days a rather spirited combat has developed.

Between the Oise and the Aisne, near Bailly, a very efficient shelling has been carried out by our artillery against gatherings of troops, automobile convoys and bomb throwers.

In the neighborhood of Rheims we have made progress near Loivre.

In Champagne, on the front which stretches from the northwest of Perthes to the north of Beauséjour, we have captured about three kilometres of German trenches and have taken several hundred prisoners, among these five officers.

In the Argonne infantry actions have occurred from Le Four de Paris to the west of Boureuilles. The fighting continues under favorable conditions.

To the northwest of Pant-à-Mousson we have occupied several of the enemy's blockhouses in the forest of La Prêtre.

(Issued at 2:50 P. M.).—The British troops recaptured yesterday the two parts of the trench which they had lost the night before between St. Eloy and the Ypres Canal.

On the front of the French armies the day of February 15 was on the whole calm. No infantry actions have been reported, and particularly important successes of our artillery are confirmed.

LONDON.—Since our successes near La Bassée at the beginning of last week there has been less activity in that area. We nevertheless made further progress in this quarter, and on the 13th a valuable point was secured with loss. We have consolidated our hold on the ground gained, and conclusive evidence has been obtained that the enemy's losses in the recent fighting thereabouts have been severe.

In the Ypres district the enemy attacked our line of the 14th and succeeded at first in gaining possession of a few trenches. Counter attacks were made by us, and the ground lost was recovered, some prisoners being captured.

On the remainder of the front there has been some increase in intensity in the artillery duel, in which we have shown a marked superiority. Direct hits have in several instances been secured on the enemy's guns, and much damage has been done to his defences.

In spite of the bad weather our air craft carried out their accustomed tasks with conspicuous success. An aviator discovered a hostile ammunition column near La Bassée and dropped a bomb on it, blowing up an ammunition wagon.

BERLIN.—The attacks of the enemy upon the trenches taken by German troops from the English near St. Eloy were yesterday repulsed; otherwise there have been no important developments in the west.

EASTERN FRONT.

PETROGRAD.—In the region of Augustowo (Northern Poland) our troops on February 15 stubbornly fought numerically superior German forces who were attempting to envelop both our wings.

A German column is advancing from Grajewo (across the East Prussian border in Poland from Lyck) to Ossowetz.

Between the Vistula and the Wkra River the enemy has reached the front of Plock-Racionz.

On the Bzura we have repulsed attacks of little spirit by the Germans near the Zylin farm. On the other positions on the left bank of the Vistula there has been only cannonading.

In the Carpathians the situation is virtually unchanged. Our troops have made progress on the left bank of the upper San. We captured several officers and six hundred soldiers. We also repulsed successfully stubborn German attacks near Kosiuwka and Wyszkow.

In Bukowina the enemy has captured Nadworna, across the Sereth River.

BERLIN.—The fighting and the pursuits on and beyond the East Prussian frontier are proceeding very favorably. In Poland, north of the Vistula, German troops have occupied Bielsk and Plock after a short engagement. About 1,000 prisoners were taken. South of the Vistula there have been no important developments.

Foreign newspapers are publishing the most absurd rumors concerning immense German losses in the fighting to the east of Bolimow, Russian Poland, which "began in February." It can be said that the German losses in these attacks were small in proportion to the successes attained.

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