ment to inventors we would have accelerated the development of both the aeroplane and the submarine to a higher degree than both these instruments of war are to-day.

"Take the submarine and the aeroplane. They are inventions which very few men of wealth care to risk their capital in financing. Only nations buy submarines. Very few persons buy aeroplanes and from a commercial viewpoint they are not successful. They are essentially things which the Government should take over and develop, for the Government needs them in the time of war. We have no standard type of aeroplane. The Government goes on buying a few aeroplanes here and a few there, hoping that eventually there will be perfected an aeroplane on which the experts can agree as a standard. With the submarine you have the gas engine, for here the question of motive power is most important.

"The plan for the naval board has received praise from all over the country. I am receiving hundreds of letters telling me of the things that it can accomplish. I am going over them carefully.

Tells of Lake's Case.

"One letter which is specially illustrative was sent me a few days ago by Mr. Seymour, former Commissioner of Patents. He wrote me about the manner in which Mr. Lake got his first patent for the submarine. The examiner in the Patent Office had dismissed Mr. Lake's application and finally Mr. Lake went to Mr. Seymour and argued his case so clearly and emphatically that Mr. Seymour believed he had a splendid idea. Mr. Seymour personally issued Mr. Lake a patent.

"When I came into office I found that Mr. Lake was behind in his contracts and was on the point of breaking them. I had a personal talk with him and gave him more time on his contracts. I visited Mr. Lake's bankers and got an extension of time for him and in addition gave Mr. Lake more contracts. The situation was of vital importance to the country. We had only one other firm beside Lake's manufacturing submarines and we could not afford to have Lake go under.

"That illustration only serves to show how important it is to the country to have such a board as we are now organizing. We must be in a position to take over ideas of inventors, try them out in our laboratories and protect them. The one big problem that confronts the board just as soon as it is organized will be the question of motive power for both the aeroplane and the submarine and to that we will devote our time specially.

"When we have got under way and have big ideas that we wish to develop we can go to Congress and ask for money and get it."

Mr. Daniels and his naval aid arrived from Washington in Newark at 7:45 o'clock this evening. They were met at the train by Mr. Hutchison and his father, W. P. Hutchison. The four men were driven to M. Hutchison's home in Llewellyn Park. After dinner, about 9:40 o'clock, the Secretary, Commander Wurtsbaugh and Mr. Hutchison went to Glenmont, where they were received by Mr. and Mrs. Edison. The Secretary and Mr. Edison posed for flashlight pictures and then about 10 o'clock went into conference.

Mr. Edison greeted the reporters with a hearty handshake and a smile. He declined to say a word about the plans of the new board, referring all questions to Secretary Daniels.

The Secretary and his aid left on a midnight train for Washington.

GUIDES FOR INVENTORS.

Secretary Daniels Explains More Details of His Scheme.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Before leaving Washington for Orange, N. J., where he had a conference to-night with Thomas A. Edison relative to the personnel and purposes of the proposed board of inventions, Secretary Daniels made public a statement in which he further outlined some of the details of his plan.

Mr. Daniels is of the opinion that a board composed of the men of the calibre of Mr. Edison and others who have been mentioned for membership is certain to evolve ideas that will greatly increase the efficiency of the navy and other branches of the military service.

While Mr. Daniels has not said so, it is known that he is of the belief that plans for navy upbuilding submitted to Congress with the approval of such a board are likely to receive more serious consideration than recommendations coming from other sources.

Mr. Daniels believes also, it is understood, that the creation of the board with Mr. Edison at its head will stimulate interest in the navy and the military science generally. He is enthusiastic over the proposal and evidently entertains the hope that the creation of the board, which he expects will undoubtedly be approved by Congress, will mark an important step in naval history in the United States.

"I have been asked," said Mr. Daniels to-day, "just how the creation of better facilities for the handling of inventions or suggestions received will actually increase the number of such useful ideas for the navy.

"While it is perhaps going a little ahead of the programme, I think enough of the plans which are being worked into shape may be given to answer that question. Improvements in our ships, particularly devices to increase either their offensive powers or to strengthen their defensive resources, are extremely technical and are not easily comprehended except by those who have a thorough knowledge of naval architecture.

Most Urgent Needs Unknown.

"In fact, some of the most crying naval needs in this country and abroad are probably absolutely unknown to all except a very few persons, who have made a specialty of studying the subject. No better proof of this is shown than by the character of the suggestions we now receive.

"A great many suggest devices to accomplish things which have been already accomplished by our naval experts in other and better ways. Another large percentage are vague and general ideas which are technically impossible, although they would seem reasonable enough to a layman, and it is only occasionally that an invention relating to a particular matter, where the need of an invention has been felt for a long time, is received.

"In other words, the inventive genius of the country, so far as the navy is concerned, has been largely misdirected through a lack of understanding of the problems, and I think it is obvious that if we could instruct the inventors among our own people as to what we really need, and thus concentrate the inventive thought on the things most useful, we would speedily get many suggestions along practical lines that would be worthy of adoption after they have been perfected."

Royal Princess to Nurse at Front.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 15.—Princess Arthur of Connaught has entered St. Mary's Hospital to become a Red Cross nurse. It is understood that she plans to go to the front as a nurse as soon as her training has been completed.

WILSON EXPECTED TO RETURN MONDAY

President Lays Groundwork of a Tentative Reply to Germany.

HE PHONES TO LANSING

WINDSOR, Vt., July 15.—Advices received to-day by President Wilson further helped the preliminaries for the drafting of this Government's next note to Germany on the submarine controversy.

The President spent several hours between his outdoor recreations, golf and motoring, in considering new communications from Secretary Lansing bearing upon the dispute with Germany. It was believed that the President has reached the stage where he will soon begin work on a draft of a tentative note.

Arrangements were completed to-day for the President's return to the capital the first of next week. There will be no deviation from this programme and the Cabinet meeting Tuesday is now a fixed event.

The President and Mr. Lansing were in communication to-day by telephone. It is thought that the President will return to Washington on Monday so as to confer with Mr. Lansing before the Cabinet meeting.

Germany's Latest Note.

Word was received from the White House regarding Germany's new note expressing regret for the mistake in torpedoing the American steamer Nebraskan. Such reply was confidently expected by the Administration and was regarded as another proof of Germany's friendly attitude.

As far as could be learned to-night the President has not yet received the formal memorandum he requested Mr. Lansing to prepare.

Those close to the President do not believe the note from Austria-Hungary suggesting that this Government stop the shipments of contraband to the Allies will complicate the German negotiations. It is understood that the President has been advised of the substance of the Austrian note.

The position of this Government in declining to place an embargo on contraband on the ground that it would be an act of unneutrality is so well established that it is believed there will be no recession from this stand. The President refused to discuss the Austrian note.

Secretary Lansing has not been instructed by the President to give any information to the German Ambassador when the latter calls at the State Department, according to information available at Harlakenden Hill.

No Conclusion Reached.

It was again reiterated to-night that the President has not reached any conclusions in the German situation and therefore could communicate nothing definite through Lansing to the German envoy.

Reports that the American Ambassador at Petrograd had offered his resignation were not confirmed at the summer capital. It was stated that if Ambassador Marye has in fact tendered his resignation the President has not yet been advised.

The President got outdoors to-day as much as he could. He played eighteen holes of golf early in the morning, then worked in his study until luncheon and again until 4 o'clock, when he enjoyed a forty-five mile automobile ride on the Vermont side of the Connecticut River after encircling the Cornish Hills. He travelled part way down the old Crown Point road and also around the base of Mount Ascutney, both favorite routes of the President.

The President began the fourth week of his vacation to-day. His longest previous stay away from the White House was at Pass Christian, Miss., in December, 1913, when he was gone nearly three weeks.

Although he has not weighed himself since he came here the President has gained in avoirdupois despite his golfing.

GERMANY REGRETS.

Offers Reparation for the Torpedoing of the Nebraskan.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Desiring that the United States should regard the torpedoing of the American steamship Nebraskan as an "unfortunate accident," the German Government has expressed its regret for the act of its submarine commander and has declared its readiness to pay for the damages suffered.

A memorandum to this effect was received at the State Department to-day from Ambassador Gerard at Berlin, to whom it was handed by the Berlin Foreign Office.

The German Government excuses the act of the submarine commander on the theory that in the absence of any markings on the Nebraskan to indicate the contrary the commander was justified by assuming that she must have been an enemy ship in attacking her.

While this theory and this assumption are considered most repugnant to the principles for which the United States is contending in the submarine issue the German offer of compensation will be accepted. It is thought probable, however, that in responding to this offer the President may take occasion to express his views on the danger of the practice of making torpedo attacks without the customary investigation by visit and search and reiterate what he said on May 15, that the theory of "mistakes" could hardly be accepted in justification or excuse for the practice of jeopardizing American life and property.

The matter will be discussed informally to-morrow by Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador. On receiving the German memorandum Mr. Lansing telephoned the Ambassador that it had come and invited him to call to-morrow. The two will discuss the general submarine issue and the note received from Germany on the subject this week, a reply to which is about to be framed.

The latest German communication removes, of course, all doubt as to the cause of the damage to the Nebraskan. Officials are wondering, however, whether or not efforts to collect the compensation promised will lead to the same entanglements as in the Frye case. In that case Germany admitted liability and promised to pay, but the two Governments are now at odds because of Germany's insistence that the case be referred to a prize court.

The owners of the Nebraskan, the American and Hawaiian Steamship Company, have not yet filed any statement of the extent of the damage inflicted on their vessel. The Nebraskan case was regarded as particularly flagrant, as the vessel was westbound in ballast and the attack took place at twilight.

It was learned to-day that the determination on a reply to the German note in regard to the submarine issue proper now awaits the return of President Wilson to Washington. The preliminaries to be gone through with at the State Department are now practically completed and there is nothing more for officials here to do until their recommendations have been presented to the President and considered by him.

SHIPPERS TO UNITE IN BRITISH PROTEST

Meat and Cotton Interests of U. S. Propose Convention to Demand Relief.

SUGGEST ARMS EMBARGO

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Following representations made at the State Department in behalf of the American packers, whose trade with some of the neutral countries of Europe has practically vanished as a result of British practices during the war, it became known to-day that a movement is on foot to assemble in a convention of protest the meat, cotton and other interests affected adversely by British policies.

The packers already have been approached by men identified with the cotton interests of the South in regard to the proposed gathering. It is understood that the meat men are agreeable to the suggestion and that livestock interests may be brought in with them.

With the approach of the new cotton crop in the Southern States it is expected here that the grievance of the cotton growers against Great Britain will be brought to the front more than ever before. Like the meat packers, they have engaged special counsel and enlisted the support of men powerful in a political way. An organized protest on the part of the American interests involved would, it is believed, be difficult for the Administration to ignore, particularly, it is pointed out, if it came on the eve of the assembling of Congress. There are already signs that the new Congress will come prepared to support all sorts of proposals to bring pressure to bear on Great Britain.

That the British are closely studying these developments is known here. The agitation of the project for an embargo on the exportation of war material as a means of bringing England to terms has caused some apprehension to the British. The British Government has no reason to expect that the Administration will, of its own volition, seek to impose such an embargo, but the fear is felt that Congress may be able to force something of the kind on the President. Men most familiar with the situation feel confident that concessions by Great Britain are likely to come as soon as authorities in London realize the extent and depth of the feeling among large groups of American interests.

It has been decided that the State Department will act on behalf of the packers and their cases. The Department has set on foot inquiries in England and neutral countries adjacent to Germany to verify reports of conditions made by the meat interests. According to these reports it is virtually impossible to do business with Scandinavian countries and Holland on account of the British policies. It is stated that Norway is confronted with a real shortage of meats as a result and has appointed a committee to deal with the situation.

One of the difficulties of the situation is that the ship companies refuse to take some of the American packers' shipments. The companies allege that the Netherlands overseas trust company and other similar organizations refuse to accept shipments which might give them a large surplus supply, as an accumulation of large supplies of foods beyond immediate needs would expose the Governments of these countries to the charge by Germany that they were not neutral in that they were maintaining embargoes while having surplus stocks within their own borders.

LORDS UPHOLD COTTON RULING.

Unwise to Make Staple Contraband, Says Council President.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 15.—The Government's decision not to declare cotton contraband was affirmed to-day by the House of Lords. The Marquis of Crewe, President of the Council, speaking on this subject, said the strangle hold which the British navy has upon Germany's trade makes such a measure wholly unnecessary.

"There is no use in disguising the fact," he said, "that to make cotton contraband would cause no small amount of alarm and disturbance in the United States, especially in the cotton States. It would be unwise to disregard American opinion, even though we believed that Americans labored under misapprehensions."

Lord Alfred Emmott, head of the new War Trades Department, said that during May and June the amount of cotton reaching Scandinavian countries and Holland was not above the normal.

TO TRAIN BOYS FOR ARMY.

Bayonne High School Adds Manual of Arms to Curriculum.

Beginning with the fall term of the Bayonne High School the Board of Education intends to add military training and the manual of arms to the curriculum. This was agreed upon at a meeting last night, when Aaron Melniker, president of the board, offered a resolution to that effect.

According to President Melniker, the boys in the high school will be drilled and put through the manual of arms, and the boys in the higher grades will receive instructions to fit them for officers in the army.

M. SCHIFF GIVES $2,000 MORE.

Will Aid Paris Women Whose Husbands Are Fighting.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, July 15.—A gift of 10,000 francs ($2,000) from Mortimer Schiff to destitute Paris women whose husbands are at the front was acknowledged to-day by the Prefect of Police. It is Mr. Schiff's second donation to Paris women.

VIENNA PROTEST TO U. S. FALLS FLAT

Washington Officials See No Reason to Modify Attitude On Exports.

BERLIN PLANNED MOVE

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Representations by Austria-Hungary to this Government in objection to the trade in munitions of war now being carried on with the Allies will not alter the attitude of the Administration on this subject. Officials have not yet seen any reason to change their conviction that this trade is not only permissible by law, but that to inhibit it now would be to commit an unneutral act in aid of the enemies of Great Britain and allied countries.

The Austro-Hungarian note was received early in July, but was made public in Vienna yesterday for the first time. Its publication there followed an inquiry of the United States Government as to whether it had any objections to its being given out. Secretary Lansing replied that there were no objections so far as this Government was concerned.

It has not yet been determined here whether there will be a reply made to the note. Decision on this point awaits the return of President Wilson from New Hampshire.

It was the belief here when the note was received that it was the result of consultation between Berlin and Vienna. Unofficial despatches published to-day confirmed this surmise. The State Department has no confirmation of reports that Turkey is to send a similar communication, but this is thought probable. Germany is not expected to take up the subject again, as the German Ambassador made a similar protest last April.

GERMANY PLEASED.

"Koelnische Zeitung" Sees Valuable Aid in Protest.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

AMSTERDAM, July 15.—The *Koelnische Zeitung*, commenting on the Austrian note to the United States, says it is a remonstrance by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the Washington Government and as such is a fraternal act of the highest value.

"Austria-Hungary," the German paper says, "has thereby set herself side by side with Germany in the only case in which Germany has entered upon serious diplomatic negotiations with a neutral Power in regard to this world war. Austria-Hungary has taken this action just at the moment when diplomatic conversations between Germany and the United States have reached a critical point through the despatch of the second German note.

"President Wilson will know now that the Austrian and German points of view are one and the same and that Austria-Hungary is prepared without hesitation to accept all the consequences of that point of view."

CONFERENCE ON NOTE.

German Chancellor an Adviser as to Austria's Protest.

LONDON, July 15.—An Exchange Telegraph despatch from Berlin says that the Austro-Hungarian protest to America is a sequel to the recent conference at Vienna between Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor; Gottlieb von Jagow, the German Foreign Minister, and Baron Stephen Burian von Rajecz, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister.

The protest will be followed by a similar one from Turkey and is intended to let the United States know that any rupture of relations with Germany will mean a rupture with Germany's allies.

GERMAN SPY SHOT IN TOWER.

Robert Rosenthal Had U. S. Passport, Admittedly False.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 15.—Robert Rosenthal, self-confessed German spy, who was arrested with an American passport in his possession, was executed at the Tower of London this morning.

Rosenthal, who was posing as the agent of a gas mantle firm, was arrested when a letter from him to Capt. von Priger, head of the secret service of the German Admiralty, was intercepted by British secret service agents. At first he claimed to be an American citizen travelling for an American firm and also as agent for an American relief committee. He did not hold this pose long. At his examination in court he rose, made a military salute and confessed himself a spy.

He caused a sensation by announcing that Capt. von Priger had a complete outfit for making false American passports.

After his confession Rosenthal was speedily convicted, but his execution was postponed from June 15 in order to obtain more information from him. He tried to commit suicide in his cell. Nothing is known here of his antecedents.

BARK NORMANDY NO SHIELD.

Captain Denies Submarine So Used His Vessel.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—A despatch from Liverpool received at the State Department to-day quotes the captain of the American bark Normandy as denying that a German submarine used his vessel as a shield before it torpedoed the Russian merchantman Leo.

CAR KILLS FLORIDA JUDGE.

G. U. Holcomb Loses Life When Trolley Strikes Auto.

ROCHESTER, July 15.—Judge George U. Holcomb of Arcadia, Fla., was instantly killed here this afternoon while riding in an automobile with three other men. The machine was struck by an interurban electric car in Monroe avenue, just outside the city limits.

Judge Holcomb's head was crushed. John W. Todd, who was operating the machine, is in a serious condition. Dr. Marks received internal injuries. The other occupants were not injured.

Judge Holcomb served as Supreme Court Judge of Washington before it became a State.

$2.50 ROUND TRIP
ATLANTIC CITY
Sundays July 18, Aug. 1, 15, 29, September 12
Wednesdays July 21, Aug. 4, 18
Lv. Pennsylvania Station 7:30 A. M.
" Hudson Terminal 7:30 A. M.
Returning leave Atlantic City 7:00 P. M.
Tickets good only on Special Train in each direction
PENNSYLVANIA R. R.

Following the direction of the drive of February, the Germans have advanced south from the East Prussian frontier and recaptured Przasnysz, which they held for two days in the first drive. They are thus now in a position for an advance upon the Narew River, over which they hope to reach Warsaw or the railways which converge over the Vistula at that point.

In their first operation the Germans were checked just south of Przasnysz by the strong Russian forces which were hurried up from the river fortresses, and soon afterward abandoned the expedition.

PRZASNYSZ RETAKEN BY GERMANS; NEAR WARSAW

Kaiser's Forces Occupy the Polish City After Hard Fought Battles Which Are Not Ended—Heights of Oiszauka Stormed.

BERLIN, via London, July 15.—The official statement to-day announces the capture by German forces of Przasnysz, a town of Russian Poland, fifty miles north of Warsaw. South of Kolno German forces also have captured the village of Konsya, while the heights of Olszauka, to the northeast of Suwalki, were being stormed. An advance has been made as well south of the Niemen. The statement was as follows:

In the eastern theatre: In the course of minor fights on the Windau, below Joltany, 425 Russians were taken prisoners.

South of the Niemen River, in the neighborhood of Kalwarya, our troops captured several Russian outer positions at Franziskowa and Osowa and maintained them against fierce counter attacks.

To the northeast of Suwalki the heights of Olszauka were taken by storm.

South of Kolno we captured the village of Konsya and the enemy positions east of this village and south of the Tartak line. Two thousand four hundred prisoners and eight machine guns fell into our hands.

Battles in the neighborhood of Przasnysz are being continued. Several enemy lines were captured by our troops, and the city of Przasnysz, for which we were fighting hotly in the last days of February and which was strongly fortified by the Russians, we have occupied by our troops.

In the southeastern theatre the situation generally is the same.

WARSAW ADVANCE SEEN.

Germans Expect to Use Railroads of Przasnysz Valley.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 15.—Despatches from Berlin announcing the recapture of Przanysz by the Germans and a general activity in the Niemen, Narew, Bobr and Vistula front of Poland are taken by some military critics to indicate another advance upon Warsaw from the north. The advance toward Warsaw by the railroads which converge at the capital through the valley in which is Przasnysz has been highly considered at Berlin. The valley lies between the Orzec and the Lidynia rivers and has at the East Prussian frontier the Polish towns of Mlawa and Khorgele, and just back of them it has the East Prussian frontier railway, by which the troops can be readily shifted and munitions supplied in the great quantities needed.

It was down this line, striking toward the Narew River, which would open up the fortified towns around Warsaw, that the Germans struck in February. The drive through the Bzura River and the Rawka had been a disastrous failure and a straight march was out of the question. The frontier railway then shifted as many as fifteen German army corps under Von Hindenburg to the two points between Mlawa and Khorgele.

The advance began on February 22, and two days later the Germans had covered the twenty miles to Przasnysz, which they occupied. Further advance then was checked in the neighborhood of Ciechanow by strong Russian reenforcements which came up from the Narew. The extended German front, which was advancing upon the Vistula, was bent in and the operations were abandoned.

Russia is regarded as stronger today than it was in February, although her forces have gone through a hard campaign. There are no indications that the Germans have yet shifted their heavy guns from Galicia, and up to the present there is no anxiety.

Despatches indicating action along the Niemen-Vistula front give military critics a fairly good idea of the alignment of the forces in North Poland to-day. Beginning at a line west of Przasnysz, or at Zuromin, it takes in Przasnysz, Khorgele, and the south of Myszyniec. It is now south of Kolno. There it bends away from the East Prussian frontier, follows the left bank of the Bobr for a very short distance and then bends again away from the fortress of Oswiec.

A series of marshes causes the line to bend to the north here, but it takes in Augustowo, Sulwalki and reaches Mariampol, where it strikes the main railway between Petrograd and Berlin, which it cuts. Above the Niemen it turns toward the Shavli region.

There is no doubt that Germany protects her entire frontier by this line, and at the same time with the aid of its frontier railways is free to strike at any point toward Warsaw. It has been thought that there are sentimental reasons only for the capture of the capital. There is a better one than that. Three great railways converge at that point and once they are taken Russia will be powerless to shift forces from one point to another on the front, except with the greatest difficulty.

MOVE FROM PRZASNYSZ.

Russian Statement Shows Germans Are Going Southward.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PETROGRAD, July 15.—The official statement made public by the General Staff to-night reports continued activity on the north Poland front and indicates that the Germans have begun their advance south of Przasnysz. The statement follows:

The enemy assumed a fresh offensive to the north of the Nego-Shavli district, our outposts holding those of the enemy crossing the Windau and Venta rivers.

On the right bank of the Pissa River and on both banks of the Shkwa the situation is not modified. The enemy captured several trenches on Wednesday, but, owing to his heavy losses, did not repeat his attacks.

Between the Orjyts and the Wkra, on a front south of Przasnysz, several attacks of the enemy were repulsed.

There was no significant fighting on the Bug or the Ghila-Lipa.

In the Trans-Niemen region on Wednesday there was an artillery fire on a broad front, but the offensive of small infantry sections were easily repulsed. Partial attacks of the enemy in the direction of Lomza were easily repulsed.

FULL OF MUNITIONS, LINER BALTIC SAILS

The White Star liner Baltic sailed for Liverpool at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, five hours behind schedule, because of delay necessary to the shipment of the biggest cargo she has ever stowed in her cavernous holds.

Her carrying capacity is 15,000 tons and she carried every ounce of that. As heretofore, the largest part of the shipments is made up of munitions, including fifty auto trucks, many aeroplanes and hundreds of cases of cartridges.

Special watchmen and detectives looked over all passengers and friends who accompanied them to the pier. Only passengers were allowed to board the ship and the baggage of every one was examined thoroughly in the presence of the traveller.

The White Star Line announced yesterday that it would exclude the friends of passengers from departing ships hereafter until further notice. The French and other lines have been enforcing this rule for several weeks.

The Baltic carries 344 passengers 24 in the first cabin, 138 in the second and 182 in the steerage. There are four American citizens in the first cabin, seven in the second cabin and two in the steerage.

MYSTERIOUS 'PEARCE' PENS A NEW THREAT

NEW ORLEANS, July 15.—"No more letters will be written until Capt. Taylor's vessel and the Howth Head go down," says "Pearce," the self-styled German bomb and dynamite expert, in his latest letter to the *Times Picayune*. The letter was received by mail this afternoon and evidently is from the same person who wrote the Sunday night missive. The most startling statement to-day, however, is that "the steamer Rochambeau, from New York also will be destroyed if our plans carry."

Following receipt of the letter secret service operatives and the police were informed at once and the news was comunicated to Washington. The fact that the ships "Pearce" mentioned in his first letter are still safe seems not to have daunted the writer in the least. The general tenor of his latest effusion is to urge no further publication about himself for the present. Coupled with this plea are thanks for the warning given, "Pearce" saying his principal object in writing was to prevent American muleteers from going blindly to their destruction.

GERMANS FAIL TO REGAIN TRENCHES

Heavy Attacks on French Lines Near Argonne Forest Are Repulsed.

BIG GUN DUELS GENERAL

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, July 15.—During a relatively calm twenty-four hours on the French front the most serious fighting was west of the Argonne forest, where the Germans endeavored to regain some of the ground lost to the French yesterday. North of the Servon road the Germans succeeded in regaining a foothold in the Beaurain wood, but at no other point were their attempts of any avail.

French forces south of the Chateau de Carleul siezed a line of German trenches, and around Neuville and the Labyrinth there was fighting with hand grenades which did not net either side anything. The night communiqué was as follows:

The day was relatively calm.

In the Argonne there was an engagement in which bombs and hand grenades were employed in the region of Marie Therese. Two German attacks against La Haute Chavauchee and Boureuille were repulsed.

There is nothing to report on the rest of the front except artillery duels, especially in the region north of Arras, in the Quennevieres sector; on the right bank of the Aisne, near Tryon; on the heights of the Meuse, around the Calonne trench, and in the Vosges, near Weisembach.

The afternoon communiqué was as follows:

Activity during the night in the region to the north of Arras was quite diversified. To the south of the Chateau de Carleul we seized a line of German trenches. Around Neuville Saint-Vaast and the 'Labyrinth' there was hand grenade fighting.

In the Argonne the fighting was circumscribed within the region situated to the west of the forest where we had progressed yesterday. To the north of the Servon road, after a series of counter attacks, the Germans succeeded in regaining a foothold in the Beaurain woods. In the rest of this sector there was no change in the situation.

Between Fey-en-Haye and the forest of Le Pretre an attempt of the enemy to sally from his trenches was immediately halted by a curtain of artillery fire and the fire of our infantry.

GERMANS HOLD FAST.

Argonne Forest Positions Maintained, Says Berlin Despatch.

BERLIN, via London, July 15.—A determined effort by the French to retake the positions won from them by the Germans in the Argonne forest has failed, according to an official statement from the Great Headquarters. The total number of prisoners made by the Germans in this vicinity has been increased to 68 officers and 3,688 men.

Elsewhere in Belgium and France the Allies made several attempts to dislodge the German forces from their positions, but in each instance failed. The statement follows:

In the western theatre: In southern Flanders not far from Wyschaete we blew up a number of mines yesterday with good results.

In the neighborhood of Souchez the French attacked in several places, in some cases with strong forces. They were everywhere repulsed.

Northeast of Beausejour, in the Champagne district, an enemy hand grenade attack could not be carried through on account of our mining operations.

The French made repeated attempts yesterday, which lasted into the night, to recapture the positions we took from them in the forest of Argonne. Nothwithstanding the employment of large quantities of ammunition and of strong forces recently brought up, all their attacks broke down. In many places there was bitter fighting with hand grenades and encounters at close quarters. The enemy paid for his unsuccessful efforts with extraordinarily heavy losses. The number of French prisoners has been increased to 68 officers and 3,688 men.

The success of our troops was all the more remarkable as, according to corresponding statements made by prisoners, the French had prepared for a great attack against our positions on the Argonne on July 14, their national festival day.

To the east of the Argonne fighting activity was more lively yesterday. In the forest of Malincourt attempts of the enemy to make an attack were frustrated by our fire. In the forest of Le Pretre a French advance broke down in front of our positions with heavy losses.

A French aeroplane near Souchez was hit and descended behind the enemy lines in a burning condition. A second aeroplane was shot down at Henin-Lietard.

ITALY TAKES PEAK 8,355 FEET HIGH

Falzarego Falls in Surprise Attack, Infantry Scaling the Mountain.

AIM TO CUT TRENT ROAD

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, July 15.—An infantry contingent of the forces advancing westward from Cortina toward Bozen, where their object is to cut the railway serving Trent, has taken the Falzarego peak, 8,355 feet high, by a surprise attack. The forces which made the attack scaled the mountain by a route considered impassable. The Austrians attempted to retake the position but were repulsed.

The official War Office statement issued to-night is as follows:

In Cadore, where our offensive is developing methodically, we have continued the bombardment, with good results as to the Platzweise and Landro fortifications. A battery placed on Routkopf successfully engaged the enemy at Seekopf and at Birkbstall, in the Sexten Valley.

In the Falzarego sector an infantry contingent surprised and occupied Falzarego peak, proceeding by a route considered inpassable. Austrian counter attacks during the night of July 14 were repulsed.

The situation is unchanged on the rest of the front.

ITALIAN FIRE HEAVY.

Austrians Tell of Vigorous Artillery Actions on Isonzo.

VIENNA, via Amsterdam, July 15.—The following statement regarding the operations on the Italian front was issued here to-day:

Against some points on the plateau of Doberdo the Italians again are developing a vigorous artillery fire. They also have attempted several infantry attacks between Polazzo and Aiolissina, but these were repulsed with heavy losses.

In the Carinthian and Tyrolese frontier districts nothing of importance has occurred.

Regarding the operations on the other fronts the statement says:

In the Russian war theatre the situation is unchanged.

On the Dniester below Nizniow (south of Mariampol, in Galicia) there has been fighting in which our troops were successful. On the north bank of the river we captured eleven officers and fifty-five men.

PRINCE AIDS WOUNDED.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, July 15.—The boyish Crown Prince of Italy motored to the railway station to-day to meet an incoming train of wounded soldiers from the front. He personally directed that a number of the men be placed in his car, while he himself kept a seat and chatted with the men as they drove to a hospital.

An enthusiastic crowd cheered the young Prince at the station as he walked among the wounded, shaking hands.

The *Giornale d'Italia*, commenting this evening on the fact that the situation on the front remains unchanged, points out that the lull is due to delay caused while heavy Italian artillery is being mounted on important and dominating positions beyond the Isonzo. As soon as this work is completed, the newspaper says, the Italian advance will be rapid.

Meanwhile the Balkan situation is hourly growing more unfavorable for Germany and Austria. When Italy's intervention comes, the newspaper says, the Germanic allies will be compelled to sue for peace.

NOT "IMPREGNABLE."

PARIS, July 15.—An official eyewitness who was present at the capture of Metzeral and Sondernach, in Alsace last month sends an account of the operations. Metzeral, he says, is situated in the Valley of the Frecht and is practically surrounded by high and precipitous hills. On these the Germans placed their batteries, and as there was clear for uninterrupted communication at their base, the Germans believed, prisoners said afterward, the positions were impregnable.

The preparations for the attack were made with the greatest care and minute detail. Narrow roads through the mountains had to be built a distance of twenty miles. Over these the French brought up their guns.

Austria Issues Red Book.

BERLIN, via London, July 15.—The Overseas News Agency says today the Austrian Government has issued a Red Book containing documents to prove that the alleged violation of the Triple Alliance was approved by Italy. The Book deals with the years 1909 to 1911.

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