



BERLIN BOAT DECREE BLOCKS LUSITANIA CASE

German Plan to Sink Armed Ships Reopens Submarine Question.

LONG CONTROVERSY EXPECTED TO ENSUE

Lansing Refuses to Consider Teutons' Reply to Lusitania Demands.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Germany's declared intention of attacking armed merchantmen without warning after February 29 has interrupted a settlement of the Lusitania controversy.

More than that, it has reopened the whole question of submarine warfare. In effect, the German Government, if it is to give the United States the satisfaction it demands, must practically revoke its recently proclaimed decree that armed enemy merchant ships are to be regarded in the future as auxiliary ships of war.

Before accepting the satisfaction which Germany has agreed to give for a settlement of the Lusitania controversy the United States, it was authoritatively said at the State Department this afternoon, probably will insist on having a written statement from Berlin that Germany in its new submarine campaign will not attack without warning enemy merchant ships armed for defense.

Whether Germany is to accept this new dictum is a matter of doubt. In any event, the prediction was made tonight at the German Embassy quarters that prolonged correspondence between the two Governments is bound to ensue. In the meantime, however, there is a possibility that Germany may postpone the execution of her new submarine warfare. The Ambassador himself suggested a conference with Secretary Lansing this afternoon.

Settlement Was Near. But for this new development, it was stated both at the State Department and at the embassy, to-day's communication from Germany on the Lusitania case would probably have brought about an immediate settlement.

Count von Bernstorff called at the State Department at noon to-day. He had with him a memorandum from Berlin containing a new draft of the proposed Lusitania agreement. This draft, it is authoritatively stated, embodied all the changes in phraseology which Mr. Lansing had asked for.

Instead of "assuming" liability for destruction in the case of the Americans who were killed, Germany, in this new memorandum, expressed willingness to "regard" such liability. With the exception of one change which Germany herself suggested, it is declared that the new draft was entirely identical with the circular decree from Berlin, which Mr. Lansing a week ago wanted written. And this change, it is said, Mr. Lansing does not regard as of material importance.

After reading the draft in the presence of the Ambassador, however, the Secretary is said to have declared that the new German proposal was not to be considered in the light of Germany's declaration concerning her coming submarine campaign against armed enemy liners.

Might Nullify Assurances. Although not discussing the matter in detail with the Ambassador, the Secretary is said to have indicated a fear that the new German submarine campaign might nullify the assurances given at the time the American board the Lusitania. In the second place, it was stated, the United States wanted assurances from Germany that the future conduct of the submarine warfare would be in such conformity with the rules of international law that the lives of American citizens traveling on merchant ships of a belligerent Power would not again be placed in jeopardy.

Arabic Promises Enough. Until Germany proclaimed last week its intention of embarking on a new policy of submarine warfare and attacking all armed enemy ships without warning, it was explained, the assurances given at the time the Lusitania was sunk were sufficient to cover the demand of the United States concerning the future conduct of submarine warfare. Since then, however, officials say that the situation has changed.

In his memorandum to Secretary Lansing of October 5 last Count von Bernstorff intimated that his Government intended in any settlement of the Lusitania case Germany would agree not to attack "liners" without warning provided such liners did not attempt to resist capture or to escape.

Although Germany earlier in the war had taken the position that any armament on merchant ships made them auxiliary cruisers, nevertheless at the time this memorandum of October 5 was written by Count von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing, it was pointed out by the German Government, it was pointed out by Secretary Lansing, that the United States that merchant vessels could arm

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"JEAN CRONES," IN NEW YORK, WRITES HE IS THE HUNTED CHICAGO BANQUET POISONER

FACSIMILE of a part of his letter, mailed here, in which he tells of his life in America, his employment at the University Club in Chicago and his

And I started right away to work. I worked till late in the night every day and I prepared the poisons but the most that a bitter taste later I agreed for Arsenic and Barium Chloride I bought some more arsenic and son I had 60 grams Arsenous Oxide and 100 gr. Az. O. and 60 gr. Barium Chloride. Then I made 480 gr. (Mg H2N2O2) (C.P.) and very dry this I took along when I made my escape. No one in the world has known those those things before. After I had placed the poison in little quantities in different dishes which were ready for the dinner. After that I went home I took a solution of Lime of Chloride water and sulphuric acid and made my hair white as snow two times I was overhauled by the gases evolved. Then I left home with nothing but my clothes some explosives and some poison for also a knife and a Revolver. Those explosives are very danger for the smallest shock causes an explosion which will have terrible results. I deny that there were any explosives in my room after I left.

Jean Crones

POISON MYSTERY SUSPECT HERE, POLICE SAY; 'CRONES' LETTER CLUE

Bears Marks of Genuineness—Worked 12 Days on Death Potions.

'PUT ARSENIC IN FOOD, NOT IN SOUP'

Jean Crones, the Chicago chef accused of putting arsenic in the soup served to 300 guests at the banquet in honor of Archbishop Mundelein, is believed by the police to be in or near New York. A thorough search was being made for him last night.

The reason for the search here is a letter signed by Crones and bearing evidence of having been written by him telling about himself and practically making a confession of his handling of poisons such as were found in the food served at the Chicago dinner. The letter, which was received by a morning newspaper, was turned over to acting Captain Tunney, who immediately presented a number of clues.

If genuine, the letter suggests that Crones, like Ignatius T. Lincoln, the restaurant chef, is a man who has a desire to see the facts presented correctly in the newspapers. The writer says he did not poison the soup, but that he placed the poison in small quantities in other dishes.

Love Science Hates Religion. Crones, if he is the writer of the epistle, says that he saw the menu for the dinner twelve days before the date set for it, and that he worked constantly with its imperfect grammar, misspellings and incomplete sentences, following:

Everything I have read in the papers regarding my case is either foolish or untrue. I declare that the story is true. In America I am since the 6th. May, 1913, and worked for three months in Castle's old French restaurant, Grand City, Staten Island, as a chef. After that I worked for a year in New York and after that in Chicago, Cleveland, in the Country Club and back to Chicago at the University Club I was chef of the old west room and did not have anything to do with the soup.

I always was in the Radical Movement as a worker and as a true comrade to my fellow workers. Meanwhile I have studied Science (Astrology and Chemistry). As I did not have enough money to go to the university, I have taken up Chemistry at the International Correspondence schools in Scranton, Pa. The letter, which was examined care-

fully by Deputy Police Commissioner Scull, Capt. Tunney and Detective George Barritt, presents at least six internal and external features that tend to prove that Crones, or a man who knows him well, was the author, they declare.

First, the writer is an intense anarchist; second, he has a smattering of chemistry; third, he is German; fourth, he is a fanatic, if not insane. Further, he follows the teachings of anarchists in announcing that he is working alone. He tells of his residence on Staten Island, a fact never before mentioned. These points were discussed by the authorities as indications of the genuineness of the letter, though of course, it is possible that the writer was another person. In any case, the police wish to question the writer and ascertain what he knows.

It was found to be true that a man named Jean Crones did work at Castle's Hotel, Grand City, Staten Island, toward Marks, the proprietor, said last evening that Crones worked as chef for him from May 2, 1913, to August 30 of the same year. In Crones' letter he had written 1912 as the date of his arrival, but afterward had stricken it out—another indication of the care with which the letter was penned.

Found Crones on Limer. Marks said that at the opening of the season he began to inquire for a chef, and a porter working for him offered to find a man. The porter, took Marks to the steamship Koonland, where he introduced him to Crones. The letter, which was employed on the vessel as chef, immediately left the ship and went to work for Marks. At the end of the season he left there and disappeared. Marks said he never saw or heard of him afterward.

The facts already published about Crones in many ways the evidence furnished by the writer about himself. That both the writer and Crones know chemistry is well established. Leo Liebermann, assistant director of the Bureau of Combustibles, and Mr. Whitaker, an amateur chemist.

Mr. Liebermann said every formula in the letter, excepting MgH2N2O2, was correct. Neither he nor Mr. Whitaker.

The letter, which bears no date, is postmarked 12 P. M., February 15, Station R, New York. Station R is in 14th Street, near Third Avenue. The letter, which was examined care-

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RUSSIANSTAKE ERZERUM; BIG ARMY IN FLIGHT

Von der Goltz's Forces, Estimated at 160,000, Escape Trap Set by Russians.

MUSCOVITES FOUGHT IN SNOW 10 FEET DEEP

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 16.—Erzerum, the great Armenian fortress where the main Turkish Caucasus army, estimated at 160,000 men, has been besieged, has fallen into the hands of the Russians. The Turkish army is fleeing westward.

The news of the fall of Erzerum was conveyed to the czar in a telegram from the Grand Duke Nicholas. The telegram follows: God has granted the brave troops of the army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzerum has been taken after five days of unprecedented assault. I am inexpressibly happy to announce this victory to your Imperial Majesty.

The Official Report. The latest Russian War Office statement concerning the fighting there, which does not contain the statement of the city's capture, is as follows: We captured nine forts of the Deveboyun position, covering the fortress of Erzerum. We took seventy guns, great quantities of munitions and prisoners.

The general staff regrets to be compelled to abstain from mentioning the glorious achievements which distinguished the Turks at the point of the bayonet. Our success is being developed despite the cold and local obstacles. The Turks are hurrying out of the west and south to relieve Erzerum. The southern part of Erzerum is safe.

In the Khyop region, southeast of Erzerum, our offensive continues successfully. On the Black Sea littoral we dislodged the Turks from the mountains, throwing them across the River Vitkeest.

Four Turkish army corps—the Fourth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh—under the command of Gen. Liman von Sanders, defended the fortress.

The doom of Erzerum was sealed when the Russian forces, braving the intense cold and the deep snow, took Kop Mountain by storm, inflicting a crushing defeat on the already exhausted Turkish army. Blow after blow followed, the Muscovite troops mowing down everything that tried to block their steady onrush, and soon the Grand Duke's artillery had flanked the defence positions of the defenders.

The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing to-day, says: "The Russian forces, which are now in the difficult mountain region."

The same correspondent telegraphing under yesterday's date says: "The first stage of the attack was the result of the operations last month, when the Russians drove the Turks within the ring of the fortress, then a delay was necessitated by weather conditions which can be conceived only by those who saw the Caucasus battles at the end of 1914, or the Carpathian fighting of last year."

Zero frosts and snow ten feet deep in the road are the obstacles with which the Russians have had to contend. That they overcame them is a feat which quickly speaks highly of the splendid courage and endurance of the men and of the management of the campaign by Gen. Yudenich and his staff.

The heavy guns which blew up the first fort the Russians occupied were got in position with the greatest difficulty. All transport was carried on under conditions scarcely creditable in Europe.

Erzerum, a historic Armenian stronghold, is strategically of tremendous importance. It forms the converging point of the Caucasian campaign, and the Russian frontier. It has belonged to Turkey for four centuries and has figured in many wars. In the present conflict it first began to figure on November 8, 1914, when the Russians inflicted a crushing defeat on three Turkish regiments, which fled in wild disorder in the direction of Erzerum. The Russians followed close upon their heels, but once under the protection of the fortress guns the Turks were able to recuperate and regroup. Since then the fortunes of war have alternated frequently between Russians and Ottomans.

Bombardment Begins. On the whole the Russian forces maintained the upper hand, although they were not able to begin the actual bombardment of Erzerum until late in December. At the time the change was made from the fortress guns to the heavy field artillery, the Turkish forces were being reinforced by reinforcements having been despatched to the hard pressed Turkish army, but it is not believed the German Field Marshal has succeeded in relieving Gen. von Sanders' forces to any substantial extent.

The capture of Erzerum may be described as the grand Duke Nicholas' who, relieved by his uncle, the czar, of the chief command of the armies in Russia last September, was sent to direct operations in the Caucasus. At the time the change was generally taken as a shelving of the Grand Duke. Developments since, however, have demonstrated the importance of the Caucasian campaign, especially because of its effect on Russian operations in Persia and the campaign of the British troops in Mesopotamia.

\$108,000,000 MORE FOR TURKS. New Loan by Germany to Make Total Loans \$214,000,000. AMSTERDAM, via London, Feb. 16.—According to a report received here from the Budget Committee of the Turkish Parliament the Teutonic Powers have loaned to Turkey since the beginning of the war the sum of \$21,600,000 (\$108,000,000).

Germany is soon to make a further loan of \$12,200,000 (\$108,000,000).

FLORIDA & CAROLINA BURNING. Four trains, Best equipment, Short Line, Inc. Heabard Air Line Ry. 11st W'way, 4th St.

CUBA, FLORIDA, VA. BURNING. All Steel Electric Lighted Trains Daily. Atlantic Coast Line Electric Ry. 23rd St. 4th St.

Three of Big Four Plan to Indorse Root and Ask Whitman to Join Them

Wadsworth and Brown for Disregarding Governor, but Tanner Pleads for Delay and Gets It—Secret Meeting Is Discovered and Action Postponed.

EFFORT TO JAM THROUGH DECLARATION FAILS

The politicians who controlled the Republican State convention—William Barnes, Senator Wadsworth, State Chairman Tanner, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, Henry L. Stimson—revealed suddenly, and dramatically yesterday the real reason why they had a convention assembled so early in the year and the real significance of the prominence given to Elihu Root in that convention.

Without warning to the unsuspecting Whitmanites, the supporters of Justice Hughes and the secret friends of Roosevelt attempted to force through the committee on resolutions an outright declaration that Senator Root was the choice of the Republican party of this State for the Presidential nomination at Chicago next June. They were beaten because the Whitman forces in the committee, encouraged by other elements in opposition to Mr. Root, declared they would fight such an indorsement to the last ditch, and when Mr. Root learned of the tense situation existing in the committee room he took a hand and requested that the proposal be dropped.

That did not end the project—has not squelched it yet. The doors of Carnegie Hall were no more than shut upon the outgoing delegates than three of the newly elected delegates at large, Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., State Chairman Frederic C. Tanner and State Senator Eliot R. Brown, were meeting with hopes for secrecy at the Republican Club, discussing the phrasal of a statement which would bind them, as three-fourths of the Big Four, to an indorsement of Mr. Root. They were all ready to commit themselves and give out a statement when the fact of their meeting was discovered and they suddenly decided to postpone the coup d'etat.

Resolution Starts Storm. There was on Tuesday night a bare hint, disclosed in THE SUN yesterday morning, that the influential factors in the convention were concerned with a far more important project than the indorsement of Mr. Root. It was to be a declaration for Mr. Root so unqualifiedly that neither Hughes nor Whitman nor Roosevelt nor any other possible candidate could possibly be in the running thereafter so far as this country is large.

Stimson Aroused. The tone of his speech rather than its verbal content, the ex-Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, one of the most loyal of the Root men, he having been a protégé politically of Mr. Root's as well as a law firm associate. He wanted to know what Speaker Sweet meant by adopting such a tone, and he entered into rather a long eulogy of Mr. Root, saying that Mr. Root would be an ideal candidate and that it was the duty of the party to recognize such superb leadership as Mr. Root's. He spoke of the speech Mr. Root made on Tuesday night and predicted the favorable effect it would have in the country at large.

But the opposition would not be downed. Sweet was not to be soothed. The Whitman and Hughes men were counting noses for battle and threatening to fight the Root fight in the convention. Mr. Stimson and one or two others thought it best to get Mr. Root's views, and very quickly reported that the ex-Senator preferred to have the Slicer motion withdrawn. It was done and the record of the discussion was expunged from the records of the meeting.

The outcome was a sore disappointment. Continued on Second Page.

PINNED HOUR BETWEEN TWO BROADWAY CARS

Harry Hauer Near Death From Shock—Traffic Tied Up at Madison Square.

A crowd of thousands gathered and traffic was tied up an hour at the home-going hour last night while police and firemen struggled to extricate Harry Hauer, 20, from between two cars pinned together in the narrow space in which he was wedged between two of the new "hobble skid" Broadway surface cars. He is in a serious condition from shock at New York Hospital.

Hauer was crossing Broadway between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets and stepped to the space between the north and south bound tracks, thinking that cars he saw coming from both directions would pass safely on either side of him. He forgot the width of the new cars and was caught and crushed between them.

Passengers in both cars were panicked and their cries and the smashing of windows as they tried to get out drew a big crowd to Madison Square. Deputy Fire Chief Martin arrived with Truck 24 at about the time reserves from two stations started to press back the crowd. The firemen tried to jack up the northbound car and get Harry Hauer out. Dr. Adair of New York Hospital crawling down to him meantime and giving him strychnine injections to keep him alive. It was only to pin Hauer down more tightly and add to his pain.

The firemen then tried to saw through the iron bars of the car windows and the rescue operation was a very painful one. Hauer was summoned, but Dr. Adair shouted up that unless Hauer were extricated soon he would die. It was then decided to pull him out and a heavy crane was used to lift the car. Six strong firemen took their places on the car roofs and at a signal hauled Hauer up.

At the hospital it was found his only physical injuries were a skull bone broken twice and cuts and bruises, but it was feared the shock might cause his death.

NEW AUTO PLATES DEFECTIVE. Contracting Company Offers to Replace Those With Flaws. The automobile bureau of the Secretary of State at Broadway and Seventy-fourth street has been stormed with complaints that the enamel on the new license plates has been chipping off. The State Manhattan Supply Company, which had the contract to supply 200,000 license plates, has agreed to replace all defective ones. Experts for the company have been unable to learn what has caused the paint to chip.

NINE DIE IN THEATRE FIRE. Twenty Others, Mostly Children, Are Injured. MEXIA, Tex., Feb. 16.—Nine persons were burned to death and twenty injured when a fire here to-night destroyed the Opera House, where a public school art exhibit was being held.

Several stores and residences were destroyed by the flames, which originated in a grocery store. Most of those burned to death were children caught in the panic.

GREAT BEAR SPRING WATER. The case of six glass stoppered bottles.

WHITMAN AND BARNES FIGHT ENDS IN DRAW

Governor Gets Place Among Big Four and O. K. for Administration.

FAILS IN CONTEST TO PICK ALL DELEGATES

Wadsworth, Tanner and Eliot R. Brown Others Chosen.

DECISION REACHED ON SEVENTH BALLOT

Republican Platform Declares for 'Complete' Preparation for Defence.

The Republican State convention at Carnegie Hall ended yesterday afternoon without public exhibition of the bitterness and hatreds that marked William Barnes' effort to make Gov. Whitman ridiculous and Gov. Whitman's effort to finish the work that Col. Roosevelt began in Syracuse, the destruction of Barnes' leadership.

The peace-makers of the organization, who were red eyed and weary after their all night labors to convince the platform makers and delegate nominators that the organization ought not to be converted at the very outset of a great campaign into a mere vehicle for Whitman intrigues or Barnes vengeance, were able to block a scandalous fight on the floor of the convention, but they were not able to prevent the rancors of the Barnes-Whitman feud from flaring up furiously in committee meetings.

The result of it all was that a sort of compromise was reached, a sort of surface amiability. The Governor obtained certain concessions that he had demanded and he lost others. Mr. Barnes won some advantages and lost others. Each was saying last night with every appearance of genuine sincerity that the results were satisfactory. As a matter of fact, neither was satisfied and each is merely poised for another struggle.

Results of the Struggle. From the Whitman standpoint the pleasing results of a lively two days convention struggle were those:

The Governor defeated a carefully planned scheme to convert the State convention to an indorsement of Elihu Root for President.

He forced commendation of his administration and thereby put the organization in a position to fight for him.

He obtained a place among the Big Four, the delegates at large to the national convention, despite Barnes' threat to present a motion that the appearance of general agreement that the results were satisfactory. As a matter of fact, neither was satisfied and each is merely poised for another struggle.

Delegates Selected. The most interesting clash of the day if there is to be any more to come, is the election of delegates at large to the convention. The Governor obtained a place among the Big Four, the delegates at large to the national convention, despite Barnes' threat to present a motion that the appearance of general agreement that the results were satisfactory. As a matter of fact, neither was satisfied and each is merely poised for another struggle.

Delegates at Large. Called States Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., Gov. Charles S. Whitman, State Chairman Frederic C. Tanner, State Senator Eliot R. Brown.

ALTERNATES. Edward H. Butler of Buffalo, Jesse S. Phillips of Steuben, Cornelius S. Bliss of New York, Charles W. Anderson of New York.

The political complexion of the Big Four is entirely friendly to Barnes. Eliot R. Brown, Senate leader, is distinctly a Barnes man. State Chairman Tanner, while playing a game game of strategy, is ready to go over to Mr. Root for President, and so dead against the Governor's ambition.

It required seven ballots to pick the Big Four. These seven ballots were cast during the evening and the morning were merely the climax of practically an all night turmoil of intrigue and attempts to trade and bargain, at Barnes' instance, and every sort of political maneuver which could be brought to bear. When the convention adjourned on Tuesday night the Whitman leaders were obtaining twenty-six members of the committee and Barnes was obtaining twenty-eight. Neither had figured accurately, although Barnes was a little closer to the truth than his opponent. Ready to stand by the Whitman side, which was made up of the Governor, Senator Wadsworth, State Chairman Tanner and Dr. David Jayne Hill were the four most active members of the committee and every sort of political maneuver which could be brought to bear. When the convention adjourned on Tuesday night the Whitman leaders were obtaining twenty-six members of the committee and Barnes was obtaining twenty-eight. 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