

BERNSTORFF'S NOTE  
DICTATED BY BERLIN;  
U. S. TO MAKE REPLY

German Ambassador Absolved From Personal Responsibility for Criticism of American Neutrality in Sale of Arms.

WASHINGTON, April 20. The German Foreign Office, in response, it is understood, to inquiries by the State Department, through Ambassador Gerard at Berlin, has assumed full responsibility for the note presented by Ambassador von Bernstorff on April 5 last to the United States Government in which Germany virtually charged that the United States, in permitting the export of arms to the Allies, was violating its neutrality in the European war.

In assuming responsibility the German Government has taken an unequivocal position in a matter of such gravity to Bernstorff, declaring that he acted solely under specific instructions from his superiors. This explanation of the matter was given out at that time by Count Bernstorff's directions at the German Embassy here, but it is now apparent that the Administration preferred in a matter of such gravity to deal directly with the German Foreign Office.

The turn given to this controversy by the assumption by Berlin of responsibility for the criticisms of the United States set forth in Count von Bernstorff's memorandum has so impressed President Wilson with the gravity of the situation that he has taken full charge of the correspondence, and will personally supervise the answer of the American Government to the statements and instructions which are contained in the German note.

This answer, there seems to be no doubt, will be couched in language as clear, precise and unmistakable that there will be little room left for any further misconception in Germany of the American attitude toward not only the arms question, but all other matters supposed to affect this country's neutrality.

The feeling of irritation toward the German Ambassador, because of the peremptory language of the note itself, as well as because of what the State Department regarded as the somewhat irregular manner in which it was made public, seems now to have entirely given way before the feeling that the new developments have lifted the whole matter entirely beyond the field of personal controversy or irritation.

There is little doubt felt among officials here that the reply of the United States to Germany in the present instance will lay down the American position with considerably more plainness and emphasis than was done in that letter. On that occasion Secretary Bryan contended that if Germany was unable to enjoy the same privilege of purchasing munitions in America enjoyed by the Allies, that was not in any sense the fault of either the United States Government or of its individual citizens, but was due entirely to the inability of Germany to cope with the British navy.

JAPANESE IN CLASH  
WITH CHINESE FORCE

Engagement at Tsimo Reported—Force Republic's Troops to Retreat With Loss of 20.

PERKIN, April 20. Reports from sources usually reliable, but thus far officially unconfirmed, say that Japanese and Chinese troops clashed Sunday at Tsimo, the Chinese retreating after suffering a loss of 20 men killed and wounded.

The reports state that Chinese troops were pursuing rebel marauders, when they found their march opposed by Japanese troops, who had been landed on Shantung Peninsula. The Japanese commander notified the Chinese that his troops would deal with the rebels, but the Chinese refused to abandon the pursuit.

ENGLISH CONCERNED OVER  
JAPAN'S CHINA DEMANDS

U. S. Note on Treaty Rights Will Have Good Moral Effect.

LONDON, April 20. The uneasiness felt here over the negotiations between Japan and China is shown by the 18 questions asked in the House of Commons which Sir Edward Grey is expected to answer today. The questions reveal an anxiety regarding China's integrity, Great Britain's trade with China, the open door policy in China and allied matters.

EIGHT ITALIAN CORPS  
MASSED ON FRONTIER

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that the Austrian Ambassador has wired his brother to prepare his Innsbruck villa for his occupancy.

Meanwhile the Italian Government is understood to have completed an arrangement with the Allies regarding the action to be taken on the Adriatic coast and the territorial limitations that may be expected should the war eventually result in a victory for the Allies.

LONDON, April 20. Italy's entrance into the war waits only upon warmer weather, when the Tyrol passes will be free of snow. This is the universally accepted opinion here.

GERMANY'S POTATO CROP  
BADLY DAMAGED BY FROST

Further Restrictions to Be Placed on Sale of Tubers.

AMSTERDAM, April 20. Germany's potato crop, upon which the country had depended as one of its chief sources of food during the war, has suffered severe damage as the result of a severe frost.

TURK FLEET TRAPPED  
OUTSIDE BOSPHORUS

Two Ships Sunk in Mine Fields Sown by Russians—Aeroplanes Shell Allied Fleet.

LONDON, April 20. The Turkish fleet is marooned in the Black Sea, where its coal is rapidly becoming exhausted, according to a report reaching here today. During its recent dash into the Black Sea the Russian fleet successfully mined the entrance to the Bosphorus.

The fleet in returning sent the destroyers in front. Two of them struck mines and were sunk. The fleet was without mine sweepers and has been unable to clear away the mines, with the result that its coal supply is near exhaustion.

Further details of the loss of the British submarine E-15 at the Dardanelles on April 18 were made public by the Admiralty today. An official announcement stated that the submarine had been lost in the straits, having run aground on Kopez Point while reconnoitering the mine fields.

Today's statement says that the E-15 was torpedoed and rendered useless by the British. This was done to prevent it falling into the hands of the Turks. Turkish aeroplanes, which were shipped to Smyrna for use against the Anglo-French fleet attacking the Dardanelles forts, are already in operation. Bombs were dropped upon the ships of the allied fleet in the Gulf of Saros on Monday, but no damage was done.

The Turks continue to strengthen their works against land attacks, a large quantity of wire entanglements being erected.

Turkish military circles affect indifference toward the Russian Black Sea fleet, and consider the landing of Russian troops at the Bosphorus unlikely.

It is believed in Constantinople that the Russian troops concentrated at Odessa are destined for Bukovina.

Girl Drives Off Burglar

Driven by a thunderstorm to seek refuge in a stranger's house, Miss Sally Manners, of Park avenue, New York, was instrumental in defending Richard Savage, the owner of the house, from an attack by burglars. The astonishing feature of the case is that at the time of the attack Mr. Savage was himself engaged in breaking into his safe. Full details of this and subsequent thrilling adventures will be found in the fascinating serial, "An Outsider," by Louis Joseph Vance, which begins in the EVENING LEDGER of Saturday, April 24.

GREY BACK IN HARNESS

Story That Minister Was in Rome Declared a Myth.

LONDON, April 20. Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, is expected to make his first appearance in the House of Commons since the Easter recess today. He will answer numerous questions on foreign affairs, the majority relating to China and Japan.

Sir Edward spent his Easter holiday in the North of England and returned last week.

Stories that Sir Edward Grey was in Rome or elsewhere incoincidentally and are believed to have been inspired by German agents.

KATWYK DESTROYED  
BY TRICK OF BRITISH,  
GERMANS ALLEGE

Dutch Steamship Victim of English Submarine Masquerading as Kaiser's Craft in Order to Provoke Rupture.

BERLIN, April 20. It was officially asserted here today that the Dutch steamship Katwyk was sunk by a British submarine, masquerading as a German boat, in order to cause a rupture between Holland and Germany.

The accusation is based upon a dispatch from the Rotterdam correspondent of Deutsche Tages Zeitung, saying: "A description of the submarine boat which torpedoed the Katwyk and the behavior of its crew give reason for believing that it was of English nationality."

THE HAGUE, April 20. There is general satisfaction here in consequence of the declaration by Germany of her willingness to express regret and pay an indemnity in the event an investigation proves that the Dutch steamship Katwyk was sunk by a German submarine through a mistake. The irritation caused by the sinking of the Katwyk has almost completely subsided.

The German Government, acting on its own initiative, sent the following declaration to the Dutch Government: "Neither the German Government nor the German naval authorities, as is self-evident, had the intention of attacking a Dutch vessel. Notwithstanding this, the German Government believes it possible that, owing to an unfortunate accident, the Katwyk has been torpedoed by a German submarine."

"At once, after the event became known, the German Government ordered an inquiry and requested the Dutch Government to send to Berlin an official report on this subject which can give enlightenment. If inquiry proves that the Katwyk has been sunk by a German submarine the German Government will express, unhesitatingly, its sincere regret and offer full compensation."

According to this information the rumored Austro-German offensive in the Stry Valley, north of the bitterly contested Uzok Pass, and on the way to Lemberg, has been checked.

SPAIN SHOULD CHOOSE SIDES  
NOW, ASSERTS EX-PREMIER

Delay Would Be Fatal to Ambitions of Nation.

MADRID, April 20. "Silence at present is a crime, for if we wait until the moment of victory to show our sympathy for the victor it is probable we shall be too late," was the assertion made by Count Alvaro de Romanones, former Premier of Spain, in speaking yesterday to a large audience at Palma, Balearic Islands.

"The present hour is so grave and important," he added, "that it is necessary for Spain to make a solemn declaration. Without violating our neutrality, we must say who among the belligerents we consider our friends."

FRENCH WOULD RESENT  
PEACE PROPOSALS NOW,  
U. S. 'OBSERVER' IS TOLD

Colonel House Informed by High Official in Paris That Allies Are Determined to Crush Prussian Militarism.

PARIS, April 20. "This is no time even to suggest peace talk. Stoppage of the war at this time would benefit only Germany. The Allies have assumed the task of crushing Prussian militarism and must refuse to be diverted from that task."

That is the word given Colonel E. M. House, personal friend and "observer" for President Wilson, who is now in this city. Because of the various stories in circulation coupling the Texas-New York financier with a real peace mission, a high official of the Government visited him today. It was desired to prevent embarrassment, and the visit was unofficial. But the position of the Allies was made very plain.

In blunt but very courteous language, Colonel House was told that if he desired to initiate a movement for peace this was not the time. Such a mission would be worse than useless. Any real or attempted movement to end the war with Germany through French territory and Belgium would give Germany too great an advantage. Colonel House was told that France could view only with disfavor the initiation of a movement for Germany's benefit.

It is understood that Colonel House will communicate the substance of the statement presented to him to President Wilson at Washington.

SPRING CAMPAIGNS  
ON IN EAST AND WEST

Continued from Page One  
and day for some time. Thousands have been exhausted by forced marches through the rugged country and despite the utmost efforts of the Russian Commissary Department it has been impossible to supply them with the necessary food at all times.

TURK OFFENSIVE CHECKED  
NORTH OF USZOK PASS

Sharp Attack on Slav Terrain in Stry Valley Repulsed.

PETROGRAD, April 20. Fresh attacks in the vicinity of Stryl have been repulsed, according to today's official report.

The Russian front in Bukowina has been reinforced by large bodies of troops brought from Lemberg, according to a dispatch from Bucharest.

The Austrians are employing peasants to dig trenches along the banks of the Peath. They are also scattering broadcast manifestoes in Russian and Polish, addressed to Russian soldiers, declaring that the allied fleet attacking the Dardanelles has been destroyed, that the Austro-German forces are victorious on all fronts, and counseling the Russians to lay down their arms.

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When the advance against Hungary is resumed, the Russian army will have with it cannon made in the United States. These guns, brought across the Pacific and through Siberia, have arrived at Lemberg and are being transported to the southwestern front from there.

As the Austrians, on their retirement from the San river, took with them or destroyed all railroad equipment except the cars left at Pzemysl, the Russians have had to replace this. Three hundred cars, just been finished and placed in operation on the Galician railways.

Recent reports from Germanic sources stated that the Kaiser had sent half-a-million men through Silesia and Western Galicia to the Carpathian front.

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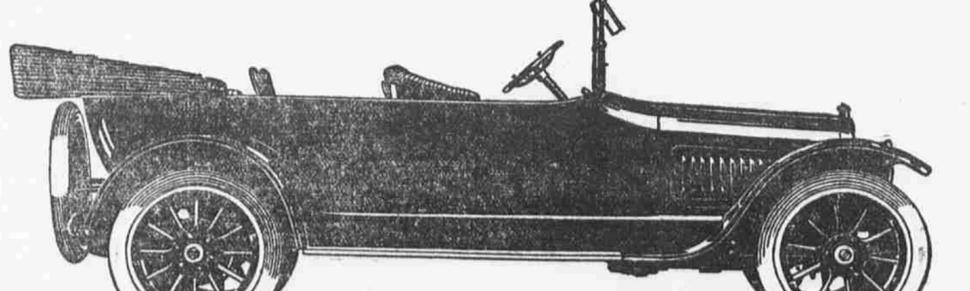
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