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# THE WASHINGTON HERALD

TODAY'S 7-COLUMN HERALD

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WEATHER: FAIR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY MARCH 1, 1916.

ONE CENT.

In Washington and Points Suburban Thereof, ELSEWHERE TWO CENTS.

## 930 ARE LOST ON TORPEDOED FRENCH LINER

La Provence, Recently Used as Auxiliary Cruiser, Goes Down in Mediterranean.

## 870 REPORTED SAVED

Ministry of Marine Refuses to Give Details of Disaster. Secret Three Days.

## TORPEDO BOATS SEEK VICTIMS

Big Vessel Formerly Was Known as "Queen of Seas" and Was Favorite With Americans.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. Paris, Feb. 29.—La Provence, the former trans-Atlantic liner, but recently an auxiliary French cruiser, was sunk last Saturday in the Mediterranean. The loss of life is estimated at 930, although it may reach 1,000.

With more secretiveness than usual, the ministry of marine is guarding the details of the disaster, which was announced for the first time this morning. An official statement said that at the time of the accident there were 1,800 persons aboard the cruiser.

Later another statement said that there were 870 survivors. At Malta 236 were landed, while 409 others were landed on the Greek island of Melos.

Search for Survivors. Ten torpedo boats and other craft are scouring the vicinity of the scene of the accident for others who may still be alive. It is believed they have picked up a number sufficient to account for the difference between those who have been landed and the reported survivors.

Not a word is forthcoming from the ministry of marine as to how La Provence met her fate. It is generally accepted as a fact, however, that she was sent to the bottom by a torpedo, as German and Austrian submarines have been operating recently in Mediterranean waters.

One report states that two submarines attacked the cruiser. Before she could sink, she had been torpedoed, and immediately began to sink. At the time of the attack she was in the middle of the Mediterranean, midway between Malta and Melos, which are about 600 miles apart.

Was Carrying Troops. The signals of distress sent out did not bring aid until after the former liner had sunk. From the large number of persons aboard at the time, it is evident that La Provence was carrying troops either from or to Saloniki.

The troops and members of the crew had taken to the boats and, as rapidly as they were picked up they were hurried to Melos or Malta. The first of the survivors reached Melos on Sunday morning.

Announcement of the disaster was withheld in the hope that all of those aboard would be picked up. This hope finally had to be abandoned, however, by the officials.

## Favorite of Americans.

New York, Feb. 29.—La Provence was almost as dear to the hearts of Americans as she was to Frenchmen. For a number of years she was "Queen of the Seas," the largest, finest, and fastest of the Trans-Atlantic liners. From the time she was built at St. Nazaire in 1906 until the outbreak of the war she was engaged in the New York-Havre service of the French line, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique. She was built for speed and luxury. Displacing 13,753 tons, she made twenty-five knots on her maiden trip to New York, covering the distance between Havre and Sandy Hook in 5 days, 23 hours, and 10 minutes, which was at that time and for long afterward a record.

Constant service decreased her speed until, at the outbreak of the war, she could make little better than twenty-one knots. She remained, however, the crack ship of the line until La France took her laurels from her.

## U. S. WARSHIP SCORCHED.

Nevada Threatened by Flames in Shipbuilding Yard.

Quincy, Mass., Feb. 29.—Fire which started in an outbuilding at the dock of the Fore River shipbuilding yard today caught on to an oil tank and sent the flames shooting in the direction of the battleship Nevada, anchored close by.

The crew of the Nevada manned her hose and fought the fire on all sides. The Nevada was scorched on the side and much of the paint was burned off.

## G. A. R. Commander Dies.

Norristown, Pa., Feb. 29.—William J. Wells, 74 years old, past grand commander of the Department of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, died here early today.

## Pope Saves Lives of Two.

Rome, Feb. 29.—Through the efforts of Pope Benedict XV, two prisoners of war, sentenced to death for espionage, have been saved from execution.

## WILSON CHALLENGES SOLONS TO VOTE ON SUBMARINE POLICY

Letter Urging Show-down on Opposition to Administration's Foreign Policy Falls Like a Bomb.

Declares European Capitals Take Reports of Divided Councils in Pressing International Questions as Evidence of Weakness.

President Wilson startled Congress last evening by calling for a show-down on his submarine policy.

The President wrote to the acting chairman of the Rules Committee of the House urging an early vote on the resolutions now pending warning Americans from traveling on armed merchant vessels.

The President declares that "the report that there are divided councils in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the government is being made industrious use of abroad." He expressed the belief that it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks.

The President thus has in fact invited a frank and full exchange of views in Congress on the administration's record.

### Text of Wilson Note.

The text of the letter follows: THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington, Feb. 29, 1916.

My Dear Mr. Poy: Inasmuch as I learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of the Committee on Rules, is absent in Texas, I take the liberty of calling your attention, as ranking member of the committee, to a matter of grave concern to the country which can, I believe, be handled, under the rules of the House, only by that committee.

The report that there are divided councils in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the government is being made industrious use of in foreign capitals. I believe that report to be false, but so long as it is anywhere credited it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks. I therefore feel justified in asking that your committee will permit me to urge an early vote upon the resolutions with regard to travel on armed merchantmen which have recently been so much talked about, in order that there may be afforded an immediate opportunity for full public discussion and action upon them and that all doubts and conjectures may be swept away and our foreign relations once more cleared of damaging misunderstandings.

The matter is of so grave importance and lies so clearly within the field of executive initiative that I venture to hope that your committee will not think that I am taking unwarranted liberty in making this suggestion as to the business of the House, and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate attention.

Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON.

### Reasons for Challenge.

In throwing down the challenge to Congress President Wilson was actuated by the following considerations:

1. Believing that a test of strength on this issue was inevitable sooner or later the President selected the present as the most opportune time. He apparently felt that the administration's strength in Congress on this issue would be greater now than on the verge of a possible crisis.

2. Charged with the responsibility of the conduct of foreign affairs the President desired an immediate decision as to whether he was to be left with a free hand in this matter or whether his efforts were to be handicapped by further interference on the part of Congress.

3. The President decided that an immediate challenge was the only way to end the impression which the Berlin authorities have obtained that he lacks the support of the country in the conduct of his submarine negotiations.

To say that President Wilson's letter to Acting Chairman Poy, of the House Rules Committee, was a shock to the Congress leaders is putting it mildly.

Last night both those who are opposing and those who are supporting the administration were in consternation, and were unable to say what course would be followed.

## New U-Boat War Starts with U. S. Undecided as to Action

With the new Austro-German submarine campaign scheduled to start last night, President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing are still undecided as to the definite course which this government will adopt.

The decision awaits the arrival in Washington of the alleged secret orders of the British admiralty which Germany and Austria have cited in justification of their intention to torpedo armed enemy merchantmen without warning.

Copies of these orders were given to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin three weeks ago by the German foreign office as appendices to the German declaration advising neutral powers of the new submarine campaign. The Cabinet at its meeting yesterday, after an hour's conference between the President and Secretary Lansing, agreed that it is imperative that these appendices should be in hand at the earliest possible time.

For that reason Secretary Lansing, following the Cabinet session, cabled Ambassador Gerard asking for exact information as to when the diplomatic mail pouch containing the data left Berlin. Officials of the State Department insist, however, that they take no stock in the report that the pouch containing this matter was taken from the Dutch steamer Nieuw Amsterdam by the British censors at Falmouth.

In the meantime the American government is awaiting with anxiety for a practical demonstration of how the new submarine campaign is to be carried on in the light of the memorandum laid before Secretary Lansing on Monday by Count von Bernstorff. Officials are uncertain as to the practical meaning of the statement contained in the memorandum that enemy merchantmen will not be sunk without warning unless the presence of armament on board such vessels "is proved."

What purported to be the official text of the memorandum was published here yesterday afternoon. When it was shown to Secretary Lansing he refused to verify it. The German Embassy likewise declined to confirm or deny its authenticity. It read as follows:

"The imperial government reiterates the pledges given on September 1 and October 5, 1915, and does not consider that these assurances have been modified by subsequent events. The negotiations conducted between the American and German governments concerning the Lusitania incident never referred to armed merchantmen.

## POINT OF ORDER LIKELY TO KILL BORLAND RIDER

Charge to Be Made That Amendment Involves New Legislation on Measure.

## CONTRARY TO RULES

Decision Hinges on Whether Plan Would Reduce Forces or Salaries.

## JUDGE CRISP WILL DECIDE

Must Be Proved That Retrenchment in Expenditures Necessarily Would Be Result.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

A careful study of House rules and precedents by expert parliamentarians yesterday narrowed considerably the chances that the Borland rider on the legislative bill, proposing a workday in excess of eight hours, will stand the test of a point of order.

In the face of the strong fire of opposition which has been turned on the proposal, it is not at all clear that its original proponents seriously would object to the chloroforming of the rider by such process. However, even in the face of an insistent demand that the rider remain in the bill, it is doubtful if the chair will overrule a point of order made against it.

The point of order will be made probably by Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, that the rider involves new legislation on an appropriation bill, contrary to the rules of the House. It will be defended on the grounds that it comes under the Holman rule which permits new legislation on an appropriation bill under certain conditions.

When the question finally boils down, it will hinge almost entirely upon the judgment of the presiding officer, Representative Crisp, of Georgia, whether the Borland rider might necessarily be expected, if enacted into law, to result in a "reduction of the number and salary of the officers of the United States."

### Only One Section Applies.

As the Appropriations Committee is not a legislative committee, and as the subject matter of the Borland rider never has been considered by a competent legislative committee, only one section of the Holman rule is applicable. It reads:

"Nor shall any provision in any such (general appropriation) bill or amendment thereto changing existing law be in order, except such as, being germane to the subject matter of the bill, shall retrench expenditures—

(a) by the reduction of the number and salary of the officers of the United States;

(b) by the reduction of the compensation of any person paid out of the Treasury of the United States; or

(c) by the reduction of the amounts of money covered by the bill.

The rider has no direct bearing upon the compensation paid any person, therefore it cannot hope to meet requirement (b).

As it was not proposed until all amounts carried in the bill had been determined upon, and approved by the full committee, it naturally cannot claim to have any effect whatsoever upon amounts carried in the bill as required by (c).

The question therefore boils down to requirement (a), and it must be determined whether the effect of the provision will be to reduce the number of officers of the United States government.

Representative Borland claims that this will be the effect.

The testimony of chief clerks of virtual-

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

## TITANIC SURVIVOR TO WED.

Miss Theodora Pope's Engagement Is Announced.

New York, Feb. 29.—The engagement of Miss Theodora Pope, daughter of the late Col. Albert A. Pope, a well-known architect, to John Wallace Riddle, former United States Ambassador to Russia, was announced today.

Miss Pope was one of the survivors of the Titanic. She has made her home in the city for a number of years.

## 1,000 More Vaccinated.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 29.—When physicians of the city health department vaccinated an additional 1,000 persons early today, the third smallpox quarantine in three days was established in the neighborhood of Seventeenth and Federal streets.

## D'Annunzio May Lose Eye.

Rome, Feb. 29.—The newspapers publish unfavorable reports concerning the health of Gabriele d'Annunzio. It is stated that he will lose his right eye as the result of the wound which he recently received while making a flight in an aeroplane.

## Street Cars and Barn Burn.

Merrimac, Mass., Feb. 29.—The car barn, eleven cars and two snowplows of the Massachusetts and Northeastern Street Railway Company were destroyed by fire here today with a loss of \$100,000.

## Declares Verdun Key To Heights of Meuse

By HENRI BERGENER.

Member of the French Senate. Special Cable to The Washington Herald. Paris, Feb. 29.—The lesson of Verdun is that we must ceaselessly watch and work, never imagining that neither side will pierce the defense lines nor that trench war is eternal.

The price the Germans are paying for the capture of Verdun is surpassed by the heroism and grandeur of France's soldiers.

But let us hear no more about Verdun being of no military importance, nor that if the Germans should succeed, the general line of our front would not be much changed. Verdun is the key to the heights of Meuse and the strategic key to our eastern movements. At no price must we lose it.

## SEES GERMAN PEACE EFFORT

Former Premier Clemenceau of France Discusses Cause for Verdun Advance.

## EXPECTS OTHER ATTACKS WILL FOLLOW ELSEWHERE

Now Undergoing Climax of Desperate Effort to Induce French to Offer Olive Branch, He Declares.

By GEORGES CLEMENCEAU.

Former Premier of France. Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Feb. 29.—The Germans, with methods very different from ours, are trying against us at Verdun the same experiment which we have made against them. Every one can see that they are proceeding more slowly than we did. All parts of their offensive are being linked up, and the ground gained is organized solidly before they go on.

We are not sure that the Verdun attack will not be complicated by another elsewhere. The dash and endurance of our wonderful soldiers have not weakened. If we succeed in checking the Verdun offensive the issue of the war, even from the German viewpoint, will be prejudged, for it is probable that we are today undergoing the climax of desperate effort, the possible object of which is to induce us to discuss peace.

### Takes Optimistic View.

Once the advance is held up it will only remain for us to cease making the mistake of dispersing our forces, and to reply to our general offensive. If we are driven back to Verdun, I can honestly state my belief that neither our defense nor the eventual launching of our general offensive will be seriously compromised so long as we see to it that our chiefs don't fail to profit by the lesson.

As to the ridiculous idea of forcing us to accept a German peace, the simple-minded Teutons must accept the fact once for all that we are not ready for national abdication, and if they really want peace they must prepare themselves very soon for the allies' terms.

## "BOOFUL BABY" CASE UP.

\$50,000 Involved in Suit For Heart Balm.

New York, Feb. 29.—The third trial of the "booful baby" breach of promise action was begun today in the Supreme Court before Supreme Court Justice Philbin and a jury.

Mrs. Cora Maude Clarke is suing John Leon Martin, broker, for \$50,000 damages. She alleges he promised to make her his wife and then jilted her for the woman who is now his wife. Martin admits he proposed marriage, but he says she afterward released him from his promise. At the first trial Mrs. Clarke was awarded a verdict, which was set aside. At the second trial the jury disagreed.

## BATTLE HIGH IN AIR

British Airman Brings Down German Aeroplane.

London, Feb. 29.—The admiralty announces that Flight Sub-Lieut. Simmons attacked and brought down a hostile aeroplane which fell in flames a short distance in front of the Belgian lines.

The combat and its result were in full view of the Belgian trenches.

## British Casualties Given.

London, Feb. 29.—British military casualties in the Saloniki zone (Greece), up to February 20, were 27 officers and 1,429 men. It was announced in commons today by Undersecretary H. J. Tennant.

## Becomes Insane in Station.

New York, Feb. 29.—Samuel Simpson, 21, a clerk of Philadelphia, suddenly became insane in the Pennsylvania Railroad station today and was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

## Coast Guards Save Passengers.

Marshfield, Ore., Feb. 29.—The steamer Fifield, bound from San Francisco to Bandon, went ashore on Bandon Bar. The position of the Fifield was so dangerous that coast guards immediately began taking off the passengers.

## U. S. Feelings Don't Count.

London, Feb. 29.—The British government is not taking any unusual measures to prevent the publication of cartoons which might give offense to Americans.

## FIVE TOWNS TAKEN BY GERMAN FORCES ATTACKING VERDUN

Semicircle of Steel About Great French Fortress Almost Completed by Kaiser's Enveloping Movement Over Big Front.

## BRANDENBURGERS ARE TRAPPED

Flower of Teuton Troops Reported to Be Surrounded By Enemy Infantry in Crumbling Ruins of Fortress Douaumont.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 29.—The Germans today reported the capture of five towns southeast of Verdun. They are Dieple, Aboucourt, Blanzee, Manhuelles and Champlen.

The advance was over a front twelve miles long and represents a gain of from one to four miles in three days.

It brings the German line on the southeast, at the nearest point, within five miles of Verdun itself, straightening the German line and bringing it, on eight miles of this front, within two miles of the outer defenses of the city.

## SEMI-CIRCLE ALMOST COMPLETED.

The movement marks the greatest stride yet recorded in the encircling movement of the crown prince's army.

It completes about the beleaguered city an almost perfect semi-circle starting at Champneuville, on the northwest, swinging past Fort Douaumont on the northeast and extending to Champlon on the south-east.

At no point is this arc of bristling steel more distant than five and one-half miles from the heart of Verdun.

Holding their gains in the slopes of Pepper Hill in the face of a galling fire from the French batteries, and repelling ever-recurring French counter attacks at Fort Douaumont the attacking Teutons today clamped the jaws of the huge vise by clearing the wooded heights to the east of the Ornes-Haudmont Military highway. The five outer forts which protect Verdun on the east are now within easy range of the German big guns.

Before Fort Douaumont, according to the French night communique, the violence of the German onslaught has been broken. Reports of the fighting during last night brought the last news of infantry encounters. Hand to hand fighting in German lines has been reported. Unofficial reports from the front at Verdun state that the big siege howitzers against the snow-clothed field the only the dark, with the flashes of powder efforts to break the French ring about the crumbled fort. Within the shattered works the Germans still hold their own, but the French assert that they have the conquering Brandenburgers trapped.

## SAYS U. S. IS MINUS SHELLS

Could Fire Each Gun Only Three Times a Week, Declares Tilson.

## WOULD TAKE FIVE YEARS TO EQUIP ARMY OF MILLION MEN

Minority Member of House Military Committee Urges Manufacture of More Munitions.

The entire capacity of the government for the manufacture of field artillery ammunition makes it possible to fire each gun only once every other day, or on an average of three times a week, the House was informed yesterday by Representative John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut, a minority member of the Committee on Military Affairs.

In comparison with this prospective showing, Mr. Tilson said that in the European war one gun has been fired as many as 1,000 times in a day.

The situation of the United States army regarding the supply of rifles was likewise described in startling terms by the Connecticut member. At the present rate of output, he estimated, the army of 1,000,000 men which William J. Bryan once suggested could be raised between sunrise and sunset could be equipped with rifles in about five years.

Mr. Tilson delivered a preparedness speech urging his bill providing that the government shall manufacture in large quantities the jigs, gauges and appliances used in making rifles, field pieces and projectiles. He recommended the storing of such machinery for use in wartime, arguing that it would be immediately turned over to private factories which would be equipped forthwith to turn out standard government rifles and ammunition.

The gunmaking machinery and parts, he said, ought to be kept under lock and key and replaced as improvements are made in the manufacture of arms.

"What is our present situation in regard to rifles?" asked Representative Tilson. "We have about 200,000 of the new Springfield model and a little more than 200,000 of the old Krag. At our government arsenals we can manufacture something like 200,000 a year, running eight hours a day. At that rate we could supply an army of 1,000,000 men with rifles in five years; if we did not have to make good the wastage—and that amounts to about 10 per cent a year."

French estimates of the losses suffered by the 500,000 Germans thus far hurled at Verdun are placed at about 150,000. The German reports of the French casualties give them as enormous.

An Amsterdam report states that the of the German batteries have literally shattered the city of Verdun itself. The historic twelfth century cathedral of Notre Dame and other famous structures have been crumbling in ruins.

A small army of civilians within the city have been killed. The surviving civilians have been ordered to the rear by the French commander. The aged, the women and the children have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the military for their departure, but a greater part of the men have elected to remain and aid the soldiers in the defense of the city.

The exodus of the refugees was described as a pitiable spectacle. A majority were forced to leave at their household goods behind. The icy wind and snow added to the suffering imposed upon the women and little ones, who were heaped in freight cars, some of which carried to the rear the dead of the battlefields.

## Carranza Wants Bank Seals.

Mexico City (via Galveston), Feb. 29.—Gen. Carranza today ordered that seals of the private safes in the London and Mexican National Bank and the Mortgage Bank be brought to him. He plans to investigate their contents.

## Quake Breaks Glassware.

Quebec, Feb. 29.—Three earthquake shocks were felt in this vicinity this morning in the vicinity of St. Sauveur glassware was broken and chimneys cracked.

## Italians Seize 34 Ships.

London, Feb. 29.—The Italian government has requisitioned thirty-four of the thirty-seven German steamers interned in Italian ports. This announcement was made in the house of commons today.

## Swedish Steamer Mined.

Göteborg, Feb. 29.—The Swedish steamer Knippla, 60 tons, has been sunk by a mine. The crew of fifteen and two women passengers were saved.

## Bulgaria Gets Back Up.

London, Feb. 29.—A dispatch from Rome issued by the wireless press states that Bulgaria has notified Austria that the restoration of Prince William of Wied to the Albanian throne will be considered an act of hostility.

## Fordites Seek Peace Parley.

Copenhagen, Feb. 29.—The Ford peace conference has decided to request neutral governments to issue invitations to a neutral conference and also to ask belligerent governments to permit such gentlemen to join as the conference may invite.

## Status of Volunteers.

London, Feb. 29.—Minister of Munitions David Lloyd-George announced in commons today that volunteers will be recognized as a military force for home defense only, but will have the military rank and status of the old volunteers.