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# THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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WEATHER—OVERCAST; COOL.

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ONE CENT.

## KAISER LIKELY TO ACCEDE TO U. S. DEMANDS

Reply to Wilson Note May Not Be Dispatched Until End of Week.

### DELAY HELD GOOD OMEN

Writer in Berlin Declares Impression Germany Wants Break Is Erroneous.

### PREPARING FOR A BACKDOWN

Orders Already Given Submarine Commanders to Modify Undersea Warfare to Prevent Further Friction.

(Special to The New York Sun and The Washington Herald) Berlin (via Amsterdam), April 23.—Germany's answer to President Wilson's virtual ultimatum will be dispatched to Washington at the earliest in the middle, possibly not before the last of the ensuing week.

Of all the signs and hints and omens with regard to the outcome of the crisis between the two countries, this very delay of Germany's answer is the most significant; it points clearly to a backdown on the part of the German government, a dignified and gradual, but none the less complete, accession to America's demand that the lives of American citizens must be safeguarded.

**Not Hankingering for Break.**  
If there is anyone in the United States who deludes himself with the idea that Germany wants war with America, or that she is about to defy America by saying, "We can go no further, if you want a break, you take the consequences," he is sorely unfamiliar with the alma and the ways and methods of the German government in international politics.

Were Germany courting a break with the United States; were she thoroughly convinced that there is "not one scintilla of justification for the American demands—as some individual hothoused editors have been asserting—then there would have flashed across the cable inside of twenty-four hours after the presentation to the foreign office of the American note, a brief, curt, decided reply, telling the American government in so many words that what it asks is impossible to grant, and that this is Germany's last word, and closes the incident.

**Kaiser's Absence Not Reason.**  
Even the Kaiser's absence from Berlin would not have prevented that. The last paragraph of President Wilson's note is clear enough to be put into one or two code words, and convey it through the special wire running from the foreign office to the Kaiser's desk at general headquarters.

What is really coming to pass in Germany at this moment is a feverish preparation for a submission to American demands, not, to be sure, for a complete abandonment of the submarine warfare, but of that which is asked in Mr. Wilson's closing paragraph, a declaration and a putting into effect of an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight-carrying vessels.

This is no mere guesswork, or speculation; it is a statement based upon close observation of the things that have been said and heard here in authoritative quarters; upon knowledge of the German government's true methods, the direct statements made by men close to the governmental ruler whose names, of course, are not divulged at this time.

Meanwhile, the strictest possible orders have been given to submarine commanders, orders which, it is believed and hoped, will preclude any attack or destruction that will force the United States to act on its ultimatum without awaiting Germany's answer.

It is significant that already there has been an almost complete "toll" in submarine activity as compared with the wholesale sinkings which marked the whole of March and the weeks of April prior to the new German-American crisis.

**Think He Is Perfect Man.**  
Akron, Ohio, April 23.—For the first time in the history of the system of physical examination by a rubber company here a perfect man has been discovered. He passed the factory physical examination with a 100 per cent mark. Arthur Geib, the man with the perfect proportions, is 55, 5 feet 2 in height, and weighs 235 pounds. He is employed to do all heavy lifting in the dismantling and erecting gangs.

**Shot in Temple Twenty Years.**  
Grass Valley, Cal., April 23.—After carrying a No. 5 shot in his head for twenty years, Lon Piper, a resident of this city, visited a surgeon and it was successfully removed.

**Always So.** Virginia Theater, Chapin in "The Trump" today. Home of Charlie.



A STRANGE BIRD!

## FRENCH LINES LIKE ADAMANT

Germans Fail to Penetrate Verdun Front After Desperate Attacks.

### EASTER BATTLE DECLARED PROOF OF TEUTON FAILURE

By C. F. BERTELLI.

Staff Correspondent of the International News Service.  
Paris, April 23.—Nothing in this war so far is comparable to the stupendous fury of the Mort Homme battle which has been raging fiercely for the past thirty hours. The German crown prince is piling up regiment after regiment on the slopes of that hill which is likely to prove the graveyard of the Germans.

Today a clearer account of the course of the battle during the past week reached me. At the beginning of the week the French held the crest of Deadman, but the crown prince's batteries swept it with such a hellish fire that Gen. Petain withdrew his front line to the southwest, south and southeast slopes.

On Thursday, however, Gen. Petain sprung a surprise attack which gave him the German trenches, his troops holding them against several sharp attacks.

The lesson of all the fighting in the latter part of the week is that the Germans are now powerless to quell the French fire and probably it is exaggeration to say that Gen. Petain now has a decisive superiority in this vital respect.

In other words the Easter battle has shown once for all that the crown prince cannot take Verdun.

**Upper Lake Navigation Opens.**  
Port William, Ont., April 23.—Navigation was opened at daybreak today when seventeen steamers loaded with 2,500,000 bushels of grain departed for lower lake ports. Five steamers are also on their way from the " Soo," their course having been cleared yesterday by an ice-breaker. Eight steamers are due here from Buffalo for grain today or Monday.

**Forming \$50,000,000 Company.**  
Kansas City, April 23.—Final organization of a \$50,000,000 oil refining company with Harry F. Sinclair, of Tulsa, Okla., at its head, will be completed in New York City next Wednesday, according to statements today by local capitalists interested in the company.

## Troops to Stay in Mexico; U. S. Preparing for Clash

It became evident yesterday that the administration has no present intention of withdrawing the troops from Mexico, and that it is preparing for possible conflict with Carranza.

President Wilson and Secretary of War Baker discussed a lengthy report from Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, Chief of Staff, who went to San Antonio to confer with Gen. Funston.

After the conference Secretary Baker announced that it had been decided to grant Gen. Funston's request for a redistribution of the forces in Mexico.

This was interpreted to mean that the advanced troops will be withdrawn from the so-called friction zone, in order to stave off clashes with Carranza's soldiers and at the same time all American forces will be rearranged so that they will present the strongest possible front to the gathering Carranzistas.

**Carranza Insists on Answer.**  
It was learned also on good authority that Carranza is insisting that the State Department reply to his demand for a discussion of the withdrawal of the American troops before he will consider the subject of affording them protection from his own armed forces.

The following statement was issued by Secretary Baker:  
"Gen. Funston recommends a redistribution of the forces in Mexico for the purpose of recuperation and pending opportunity for further co-operation with

the force of the defacto government of Mexico. His recommendation has been approved and its execution left to his discretion."

Late last evening Secretary Baker issued a second statement, which follows:  
"The statement made indicates nothing whatever as to the time of the withdrawal of the American troops. The whole subject of their presence in Mexico is under arrangements and negotiations conducted by the State Department."

**Villa Chase Halted.**  
The Secretary indicated definitely, however, that the chase of Villa has been temporarily halted pending the redistribution of the American forces. The redistribution, the Secretary pointed out, is independent of the subject of withdrawal or the Parra! incident.

Secretary Baker said also that nothing has been decided about sending more troops to the border or more troops from the border into Mexico.  
"It was apparent last night that some uneasiness has been caused at the State Department by Carranza's latest notice that he will not discuss the status of the American troops in Mexico until Secretary Lansing has replied to his note. A State Department official said:  
"What Consul Gen. John H. Rodgers has conveyed to the State Department as to Carranza's refusal to treat further on the subject is not an ultimatum, but it is more like it than anything else."

## Thirty American Aviators Win Praise for Bravery in France

(By International News Service.)  
Paris, April 23.—The semi-official statement given out today says that at the close of the year 1915 more than thirty Americans were serving with the French aviation corps.

The first American "hunting squadron" has now been formed and has been sent to a certain part of the front where it will fight under a French commander. The statement adds:  
"They have behaved brilliantly. William Thaw has been promoted to second lieutenant and has been mentioned in army orders. Sergeants Elliott Cowdin and Norman Prince also have been officially praised for their splendid work. Cowdin recently was mentioned for the second time for shooting down another German war plane at Verdun.  
"The American corps also includes Frazer Curtis, James Buch, H. J. Guertin, Bert Hall, Didier Masson and other college boys."  
**Has Small Calf.**  
San Antonio, Tex., April 23.—A. M. Callison, of Mertzon, Irion County, is exhibiting a calf that is said to be the smallest in the world. The calf was born March 28. At birth it weighed only thirteen pounds. It is very lively, but grows very little.

## T. R. AND SONS READY TO ARM

Colonel Pledges Whole Family to Defend United States Against Germany.

### DECLARES HE STANDS IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT

Special to the New York Sun and The Washington Herald.

Oyster Bay, April 23.—If the United States goes to war with Germany, the Roosevelts will go—all of them. The Colonel said so today in a statement called forth by the recent utterances: "Stand by the President," but he spoke for the men who would have to do the fighting and who would die in thousands because of the country's unpreparedness. Col. Roosevelt said:  
"Men are saying that they stand behind the President, or by the President. I wish to speak for the men who, in the event of war, will stand in front of the President and between him and the foreign enemy; and who, therefore, will stand between danger and the men who are behind or beside the President.  
"These are the men who will go to the war at once, if there is war with Germany, or with any other great power, and who feel as I do, that we would far rather go to war unprepared than see our women and children murdered with impunity, and the honor of the flag stained.  
"But it is a wicked thing that the folly of our rulers in obeying the behests of the peace-at-any-price people and of the apostles of anti-preparedness should make the sacrifice either useless, or else needlessly and appallingly wasteful.  
"In the event of such a war my four sons will go, and one and perhaps both of my sons-in-law; I will go myself; the young kinsfolk and friends of my sons will go; so my words are spoken with my eyes open."

**Made Saws from Sole Springs.**  
Columbus, Kan., April 23.—Prisoners in the Cherokee County jail are wearing shoes with rubber soles. The board of county commissioners made the order following the discovery that prisoners had taken steel springs from their shoe soles and used them as saws in two attempts to saw the bars in the windows and escape. Sheriff Ralph E. Martin believes the rubber soles may prevent a jail delivery.

## THOUSANDS SEE FIRE BURN BUILDING OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Loss Is \$100,000 When Flames Gut Top Floors of Big Structure at Pennsylvania Avenue and Thirteenth Street.

### ORIGIN OF BLAZE A MYSTERY

One Fireman Hurt by Falling Slate—Officials Say Damage Is Covered by Insurance—Fire Overcome After Hard Fight.

Fire starting shortly before 11 o'clock last night on the fourth floor of the Southern Railway Building, Thirteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, gutted the fourth, fifth, and sixth floors of the building, causing a loss estimated, unofficially, at between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Railway, fire and police officials were unable to give any cause for the blaze.

One fireman was slightly injured and several others had narrow escapes, when pieces of stone cornice on the sixth floor and slate from the cupola on the Pennsylvania avenue side crashed to the pavement.

Four alarms were turned in, bringing out twenty pieces of apparatus and the water tower. The police reserves from every precinct in the city were called out to keep back the crowds.

## MARBURG, JR., IS WOUNDED

Aviation Lieutenant Returns Minus Leg, but with Bride.

### WILL RETURN TO FRONT WITH ARTIFICIAL LIMB

(By New York Sun Service.)

New York, April 23.—The mere loss of his left leg does not dampen the military enthusiasm of Lieut. Theodore Marburg, Jr., son of Theodore Marburg, of Baltimore, who was formerly Minister to Belgium, and who accompanied the young lieutenant and Mrs. Marburg, Jr., formerly the Baroness Gessells de Vario, on their wedding trip here aboard the American liner St. Louis, in today from Liverpool.

Lieut. Marburg belongs to the Royal British Flying Corps, which does not depend on legwork for its results. He decided after recovering from the amputation that he would go back to the front and see what he could do to help vanquish the enemies of his titled wife.

Lieut. Marburg found it impossible to get an artificial leg in Europe, most of the factories making them having been utilized for turning out munitions.

**Left Oxford to Join Airmen.**

The lieutenant was a student at Oxford when the war came, and only twenty-one. He joined the flying corps. While on his way to the German lines his aeroplane broke and fell, wounding him so badly that amputation of his leg was necessary. He married the baroness, who was a refugee from her native land, in England on April 19.

Lieut. Marburg said he had seen King Albert and the Queen of Belgium about two months ago, and that the King said he was confident that his country would regain its independence. The Queen said she was much relieved at having no more court duties. While they were talking an equestrian came in and said that a German aeroplane was approaching. The King buckled on his sword and hurried out.

### CZAR REPORTED WOUNDED.

Berlin Hears He Was Struck by Fragment of Bomb.

Berlin (wireless via Sayville), April 23.—Czar Nicholas was injured by a bomb dropped by an aviator during his recent visit to the southwest front, according to Stockholm reports, says the Tarnocan News Bureau. The bureau's statement follows:  
"Stockholm reports say that during the last visit of the Czar to the southwest front an Austro-Hungarian airman caused a serious alarm. The Czar was reviewing recruits in company with Gen. Brusiloff when suddenly an Austro-Hungarian flyer appeared and dropped numerous bombs which hit part of the troops. The Czar was hurt and had a narrow escape from death."

### FLOODS HINDER BRITISH.

Mesopotamia Relief Column Unable to Make Progress.

London, April 23.—Floods, which have transformed the terrain along the Tigris into treacherous bogs, are hindering the advance of the British relief column in Mesopotamia.

Gen. Sir Percy Lake, in a dispatch to the war office today, admits the repulse of a British brigade on the left bank of the river, owing to difficulties encountered in advancing over the swampy ground. The column is endeavoring to reach Kut-el-Amara, where the army under Gen. Townshend is locked up by the Turks.

### Scholars in Rat Hunts.

Pandora, Ohio, April 23.—The rat and sparrow contest which has been on in Riley Township has closed. The grade and high school boys had 233 points against 3,965 for the township. Of the total count 1,215 were rats.

### Thousands See Flames.

Police estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 persons watched the progress of the blaze, Pennsylvania avenue, Thirteenth street and E street were blocked by the crowds for several blocks. All street car traffic on Pennsylvania avenue was halted until the fire was under control.

When discovered, the fire was bursting from the fourth floor windows of the building on the Pennsylvania avenue side. By the time the first fire apparatus arrived, within three or four minutes, the flames had swept up the stairways and elevator shaft and were roaring through the upper floors.

The fire licked through the upper windows and caught the roof within fifteen minutes after its discovery, and a few minutes later the roof and whole upper part of the building were ablaze.

The flames shot high in the air, and could be seen from all sections of the city, bringing to the scene thousands of persons in street cars, automobiles, carriages and stent.

Eight persons, it is stated, were in the building when the fire was discovered. Two were clerks, two were watchmen, three were telegraphers and the other was a negro fireman. One watchman discovered the blaze within a few minutes after having inspected the office of Vice President J. M. Culp, on the fourth floor. He ran to the third floor, and raising a window shouted "Fire." A passer-by notified Patrolman E. Downs, of the First precinct, who turned in the first alarm.

Fifteen streams of water were played on the burning structure, five from the roofs of houses in the rear, three from the new building of the railway company on the west, three from the Thirteenth street side, and three from the front, exclusive of the water tower with three lines of hose playing through the one nozzle.

At 11:45 o'clock the first firemen were able to enter the building and shortly after 12 o'clock Chief Wagner announced the blaze was under control. Water was played on the smoking structure all night, however, to prevent an outbreak of fire from the smoking embers in the upper floors.

Before the firemen could be sent into the building, the front of the building and the Thirteenth street side were attacked with lines of hose directed by men on scaling ladders.

### Helmet Saves Fireman.

Pipeman J. C. Snyder, of No. 6 engine company was on one of the ladders in front of the building when a piece of the cornice fell, striking him on the head and throwing him part way down the ladder. He was taken to the Emergency Hospital, where he was treated by Dr. J. H. McDonald. He suffered lacerations on the back of his head and was weak from shock. Later he returned to the fire but was sent to his home. Only the heavy fire helmet he wore at the time prevented his being instantly killed.

Another accident was narrowly averted shortly after midnight when the 72-foot water tower crashed to the ground. A warning cry sent the crowd scattering in all directions, and the 1,200-pound mass of steel struck the pavement, missing a dozen or more persons by a few feet. The nozzle twisted loose and for several minutes poured a stream across the avenue, drenching firemen, police, and spectators.

### First Seen at 10:48.

The fire first was seen as the hands on the big clock in the tower of the building pointed to 10:48.

W. J. Maddigan, of the Washington Gas Light Company, reached the scene when the fire was showing through only one window. He ran into the building and down to the basement, where he found the gas connection and shut off the flow to prevent an explosion.

Two clerks at work on the fourth floor smelled smoke and ran into a corridor. They saw the flames and fearing to risk a trip down the stairway climbed out of a window and descended a fire escape on the Thirteenth street side.