

About every one in Washington who reads at all reads The Star.

## GERMANY RECEIVES AMERICAN PROTEST

### Unofficial Advices Say Note Is Delivered by Ambassador Gerard in Berlin.

## TEUTON GOVERNMENT MAKES NO COMMENT

### Believed Great Britain Will Give Assurances of No Intention to Sanction Use of Neutral Flags.

Administration officials had unofficial information today of the presentation of the American note to the German government concerning the German sea zone proclamation. The communication was delivered to the German foreign secretary last night by Ambassador Gerard, in Berlin.

The unofficial advices were to the effect that officials of the German government had declined for the present to comment on the note, except to say that it was couched in friendly language. It was suggested that the German reply which would be made in due course probably would contend that its action was fully justified because of the attempt of Great Britain to starve the German nation, "women and children, as well as soldiers."

The note to Germany also stated that Great Britain pointing out the danger to neutral shipping if any unjustified general use of the American flag continued to attract attention in official and diplomatic quarters today. Many officials believed that the United States would be assured by Great Britain that it had no intention of sanctioning general use of neutral flags by British merchant ships.

### Believe Britain Will Act.

That Great Britain would give assurances of no intention to sanction the general use of neutral flags by British merchant ships was the belief of many officials. But the widest sort of speculation, based on a variety of conceptions of Germany's plans in waging a submarine war on merchant ships, has been heard as to the probable response of the Berlin foreign office.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, declined to discuss the note to Germany, as he had received no advices from Berlin concerning the note and the British embassy was also silent.

What excited most attention in Congress was the serious tone of the note, even though qualified by the polite terms of diplomatic usage.

The determination of the United States government to have the American flag used only by ships entitled to it, and the international law for protection of the threatened attacks on merchant vessels, was considered likely to have a most beneficial effect and there were suggestions that the acquisition of the American flag by the President to carry out the purposes of this act.

### Both Notes Approved.

While there were no authorized expressions, it was evident that the neutral diplomats in general gave both notes their approval, because of the identity of interest of their governments and the United States in the circumstances. The opposition of a powerful neutral to the American flag practices suggested by the Lusitania incident or the threatened attacks on merchant vessels, was considered likely to have a most beneficial effect and there were suggestions that the acquisition of the American flag by the President to carry out the purposes of this act.

Discussing comments upon differences in the two notes, high officials of the government said the cases were not parallel, as the United States had little to gain in international law by protesting against the occasional use of a neutral flag by a belligerent when engaging capture and prize proceedings against the general misuse of the neutral ensign could be raised only on general penal principles or on the ground of unneighborliness and serious inconvenience rather than on any definite rule of international law.

### Based on Precedents.

As for the communication to Germany, administration officials who helped prepare the document emphasized the point that the American government proceeded on the firm ground of international right as it has been a long-established principle, they said, based on innumerable precedents, that merchant ships were being taken means of protecting itself must be first by an enemy warship and given an opportunity to surrender or save its passengers before violence is applied.

Again it was declared that the necessity for a strong warning was most compelling, lest the sinking of an American vessel or loss of American lives create a critical situation with alarming possibilities.

Interest in the situation was heightened by reports that the German military authorities were being taken to the American Minister Henry Van Dyke between The Hague and Luxembourg.

A formal inquiry was sent to Germany concerning the incident and officials hoped it would be satisfactorily adjusted, relying on the uniform courtesy hitherto manifested by the German government in dealing with Minister Whitlock at Brussels and other American officials in the war zone.

## NEW SHIP IS DAMAGED BY MINE OR TORPEDO

SCARBOROUGH, England, February 13, via London.—The new cargo steamer Torquay of Dartmouth was towed into Scarborough harbor last night in a sinking condition, after striking a mine or having been torpedoed eight miles east of this port. The damage sustained by the steamer was said to be of a serious nature. One man was killed and two were injured.

## DISABLED PRISONERS WILL BE EXCHANGED

BERLIN, via London, February 13.—The first exchanges of disabled prisoners of war under the plan of Pope Benedict has been arranged through the Berlin embassy. One hundred and forty-six British prisoners unfit for further service will leave Germany February 16 and Great Britain will release 107 German prisoners. The exchanges are not on a numerical basis, but all those who are disabled will be included within the scope of the order generally.

## TO ADJUST RELATIONS OF U. S. AND DISTRICT

### Preliminary Move Is Inaugurated in Bill Introduced by Senator Hollis.

### Creates Board With Power to Investigate Conditions—Taxation and Franchise Part of Inquiry.

A bill to create a board to investigate and report on the political and fiscal relations existing between the United States of America and the District of Columbia has been introduced by Senator Hollis of New Hampshire and referred to the Senate District committee. Senator Hollis is a member of the District committee and will endeavor to get favorable action on his measure, he said today. The board created by the bill would not only look into the matter of the making of appropriations and levying taxes in the District, but also into the matter of franchise for the residents of the District.

### Provisions of the Bill.

The terms of the bill are as follows: "The President of the United States is hereby authorized and directed to create a board of three men to investigate and report to the President and the Congress of the United States concerning the political and fiscal relations existing between the United States and the municipal corporation known as the District of Columbia.

"That said board shall consist of three members to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. No member of said board shall be a member of the Congress of the United States, nor an inhabitant of said District of Columbia, nor an owner of real estate or personal property in said District, nor with business interests therein. The compensation of the members of said board shall be fixed by the President and shall not exceed the sum of \$500 monthly for each member.

### Report on Practicability.

"That said board shall report to the President and the Congress before the first Monday in December, 1916, whether it is now practicable to entrust to the people of the District of Columbia the making of their own local laws, the assessment, collection and distribution of their own local taxes, and the selection by their own local government, said board shall report what part of the local expenditures is properly made at the expense of the United States, that part at the expense of the District of Columbia, and what parts of these expenses of the District of Columbia and the United States are so mingled that they cannot be readily separated. If it shall seem to said board that changes in existing laws are necessary, they shall recommend specific changes with a view to creating a harmonious, practicable and just form of government for said District.

### Power of the Board.

"That said board shall have the power to call upon the executive department for such information as may be in their possession; to employ counsel and assistants; to call public meetings; to compel the attendance of witnesses; to administer oaths and to do such other things as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

"That the sum of \$50,000 is hereby appropriated out of any sums in the treasury of the United States to be expended under the direction of the President to carry out the purposes of this act."

## GUNARDER MAY AGAIN FLY AMERICAN FLAG

### Liner Orduña, Due to Leave New York Today for Liverpool, May Display Stars and Stripes.

NEW YORK, February 13.—The possibility of the Orduña, a Spanish liner, to leave this port today for Liverpool, might again fly the American flag, due to her last voyage westward, was discussed in maritime circles here today, but no statement was made by any of the line's officials.

"We cannot talk," said one of the officials. "We do not know what precautions, if any, will be taken by the Orduña, and if we did we could not tell."

The Orduña should reach the Irish sea, under ordinary sailing conditions, from three to five days after February 18, the time set by the German government for declaring effective the war area in British waters. Ten days are usually required for the Orduña to make the trip direct from here to Liverpool. This would place her in Liverpool Tuesday, February 23.

### Waters Swept by Destroyers.

Passengers arriving here today on the British steamship Megantic from Liverpool said that extra precautions apparently were being taken to protect shipping in and out of English ports from torpedo or submarine attack.

Charles A. Nelson of Utica, N. Y., said the Megantic, leaving Liverpool at 4 p. m. Saturday, was closely guarded by destroyers until she was well clear of the channel.

"It appeared as if we were going through a lane of war vessels," said Mr. Nelson. "The destroyers were not actually firing, but were moving back and forth at a rapid speed, sweeping over the waters of the channel."

## DAY IN CONGRESS.

Met at noon. Democrats conferred on the ship bill and closure proposals, but took no action.

House. Met at 11 a. m. Debate was continued on the sundry civil appropriation bill.

Representative Stephens of California introduced a substitute ship bill, which was referred to the committee.

Leaders prepared for a caucus on the administration ship bill.

## REPUBLICANS FIGHT GORE MOTION TO TAKE SHIP BILL FROM COMMITTEE.

### Leaders of House Plan to Use Whip and Spur

### Intend to Rush Substitute Through Next Week—Senate Democrats Caucous on Closure.

While the administration democrats were reframing the ship purchase bill for a new vote on the House side the republican filibuster blossomed out anew in the Senate today, when Senator Gore tried to have the commerce committee discharged from consideration of his substitute, which is to be used as one of the bases of compromise.

Closure rule for the Senate, general and specific, occupied the attention of the democratic members of the Senate all today. The demand for closure has resulted from the inability of the majority members of the Senate to end the debate and get a vote on the administration ship purchase bill.

### Democrats Hold a Caucus.

The democratic caucus of the Senate was in session for nearly two hours before the Senate met at noon, discussing closure rules, but taking no action. A recess was taken until tonight at 6 o'clock, when the matter will be considered again.

In the meantime, the Reed resolution providing special closure rule for the ship bill and a vote on that measure February 19 was before the Senate as the unfinished business today.

### To Fight Closure Rule.

The republicans opposing the ship purchase bill will fight just as hard to prevent the adoption of a closure rule in the Senate as they have fought against the administration ship purchase bill.

Senator Simon of North Carolina, who has taken a leading part in the administration ship bill fight, as he has in the fight for the important legislation brought before the Senate during the present Congress, said, following the conference today:

"I am in favor of a closure rule, specific or general. I would vote for either or both. I think that we should have a closure rule on the ship bill, and on the ship bill, for already the debate on that measure has run for weeks.

### Not Bound by Conference.

The seven democratic senators who have opposed the ship purchase bill and who were "read out of the party" by Senator Stone and Senator James, following their vote on the ship purchase bill, are understood, for the most part, to be in favor of the administration ship purchase bill.

### Block Burton Resolution.

Before addressing the Senate Senator Burton endeavored to obtain consideration of a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to whether any negotiations had been begun by this government or any official for the purchase of ships interned here under belligerent flags; whether any negotiations have been entered into by any government official; whether any negotiations have been entered into by any government official; whether any negotiations have been entered into by any government official.

### Gore Presents Motion.

Soon after the Senate met today Senator Gore of Oklahoma called up his motion to discharge the Senate commerce committee from further consideration of the ship purchase bill introduced by himself. This bill is the administration ship purchase bill, which was introduced by Senator Burton of Ohio last week that was taken to discharge the committee from consideration of this bill, and this has been one of the methods of attack upon opponents of the bill kept in reserve by the democrats.

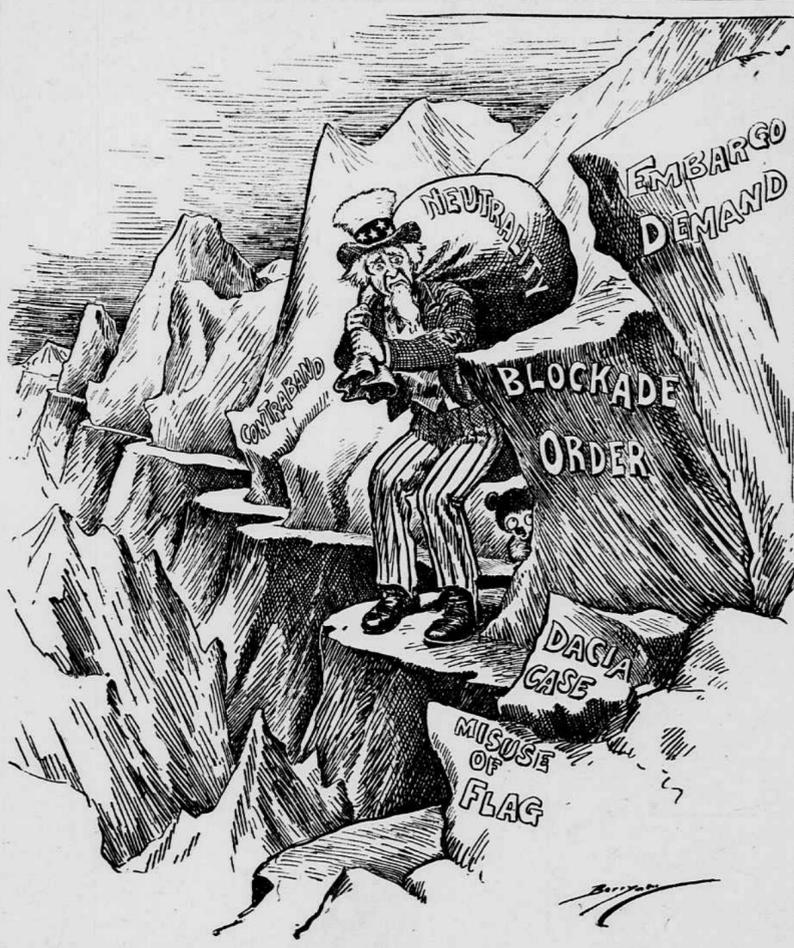
On Senator Gore's request, an eye and hand vote was ordered on his motion to discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill. Senator Burton of Ohio immediately began a long address against the ship purchase bill, expecting to continue throughout the afternoon.

### Russian Council Proposed.

PETROGRAD, via London, February 13.—The council of the empire has been prorogued by imperial ukase until November unless extraordinary events should make necessary an earlier sitting. The session of the duma already had been suspended by a similar ukase.

### Italian Buys American Blankets.

CHICAGO, February 13.—Contracts for the purchase of 600,000 pairs of American blankets for the Italian government were announced here today. Shipments will begin in ten days and will consist of 30,000 pairs weekly for ten weeks, and then 10,000 each week. The contracts total \$2,500,000.



THE WAY OF THE NEUTRAL IS HARD.

## KAISER DECIDES THAT GERMANS SHALL MAKE DASH ON WARSAW

### LONDON, February 13, 3:41 p. m.—Emperor William received Field Marshal von Hindenburg on the eastern battle front Friday, and it was decided to make a renewed dash for Warsaw next week, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

The German emperor, the message adds, is said to be anxious that the Polish capital be taken before the next meeting of the reichstag in order to induce the house to vote a new war loan without opposition.

## SAYS ALLIES' MARKETS ARE CLOSED TO GERMANY'S PRODUCTS FOREVER

PARIS, February 13.—"The meeting of the finance ministers of the triple entente was not merely to organize for the Russian minister of finance, in an interview with the Matin.

"We must not be obliged some day after the war is ended," he continued, "to pay a sort of indemnity to the Germans by leaving open to them a means of recouping and enriching themselves at our expense in our own markets."

"Germany, having demolished the factories in Belgium, Holland and northern France, perhaps thinks to force us to buy from her goods we cannot make ourselves. Let her be quite sure our markets are closed to her forever."

## DECLARE INDEPENDENCE OF POLAND; CONVENTION WILL CHOOSE KING

PETROGRAD, via London, February 13.—News has reached here from an apparently authentic source that Germany and Austria have declared the independence of Poland, to become operative February 14, when it is planned to hold a convention at Cracow, Galicia, for the purpose of choosing a king. It is stated that Archduke Karl

## FRENCH DEPUTIES APPROVE BAN UPON THE SALE OF ABSINTHE

Edouard Lachaud, a radical republican, said: "Absolute suppression is only the commencement. We will arrive at the suppression of all similar appetizers."

An amendment was offered making the prohibitive features of the bill apply also to alcohol and bitters, but it was withdrawn. A statement was made that this would be the object of a report by a special committee, and that propositions for the suppression of all alcoholic drinks were being considered.

## P. E. CHURCH PENSIONS.

Board Provides for Its Home and Foreign Missionaries.

NEW YORK, February 13.—Pensions for its home and foreign missionaries have been arranged for by the board of missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which has just voted to declare that the church should make necessary an earlier sitting. The session of the duma already had been suspended by a similar ukase.

## Jason Sails for San Francisco.

MARSEILLE, via Paris, February 13, 2 a. m.—The United States collier Jason, which brought to Europe a cargo of toys as Christmas gifts for war orphans, sailed today for San Francisco with the French exhibit for the Panama-Pacific exposition.

## Daughters of Elliott M. Best Labeled After 35 Years.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., February 13.—The will of Elliott M. Best, who died near here recently, said he had daughter the country lately for his two daughters, Ethel and Alice, who were taken from his home thirty-five years ago by their mother. He left half of his estate of \$17,451 to them, but stipulated if they were not found the entire property was to go to his housekeeper.

## CARRANZA STIRS SPANISH.

### Expulsion of Minister Caro Causes Madrid Cabinet to Meet.

MADRID, via Paris, February 13.—The expulsion from Mexico by Gen. Carranza of Jose Caro, the Spanish minister, has created a profound impression upon public opinion here. All the newspapers discuss the incident at length, and comment forcibly on Carranza's action.

## Mr. Fitzgerald Replies.

Representative Fitzgerald, in charge of the bill, called attention to the fact that for thirty years Congress has been contributing to the support of Howard University, and that without government aid the institution cannot continue. He was unable to cite any specific act authorizing these appropriations, and Chairman Crisp, citing rulings of the House, declared he would have to sustain Representative Sisson's point.

## Tomorrow in The Sunday Star

"THE TRIPLE ENTENTE" is a remarkable article revealing a hidden drama in New York social life.

"FILLING ENGLAND'S BREAD BASKET IN WAR TIMES" by CHARLES M. PEPPER, shows how the United Kingdom draws on all the world for wheat to feed her people and how the war has affected this system.

"INSTINCT OF THE RACE" by JOHN S. LOPEZ, is a story of rare interest depicting faithfulness to family life as exemplified in the Jewish race.

"FRANK G. CARPENTER writes of wonderful facts in Argentina and their amazing success at cattle raising.

"BAYARD DUCKS HIS PAST" by SEWELL FORD, presents the puzzling problem of bringing Mrs. Hollister of Virginia under the terms of Pyramid Gordon's will.

STERLING HELLING writes that all Europe is consulting coffee grounds in order to foretell the future of the war and of loved ones at the front.

"THE PRISONERS FOR VIRGINIA" by H. B. MARRIOTT WATSON, tells of Gallipoli Dick's exciting experience with victims of Judge Jeffreys.

MRS. WILLIAM C. GORGAS, wife of the surgeon general of the army, describes life in Panama during the work on the canal.

"POOR SMITH" by DWIGHT S. WISEMAN, shows how an ardent churchman was proved to be a heathen.

ASHMUN BROWN writes of what the government, the National Rifle Association and individuals are doing to create the "citizenship trained and accustomed to arms" which President Wilson says is the nation's dependence.

A special correspondent in London interviews men high in the affairs of England and points out the probable course of the war, and the outcome of the war.

Disappearance of the great American home is the real cause of the divorce evil, according to the Bureau of Education. Preventive measures are suggested.

An article about valentines of by-gone days, a poem entitled "SAINT VALENTINE" and something about St. Valentine's day and its pagan origin.

## Belgians Arrested After Obeying Order

AMSTERDAM, via London, February 13.—The Telegraf says it learns that 200 young Belgians who obeyed a request of the Germans and reported themselves as being arrested and sent to Germany. Only those who are Belgians whose parents were able to give security for them were permitted to stay at home.

The newspaper declares that over 95 per cent of the Belgians liable for military duty did not obey the German order, and that the Germans now are inflicting heavy fines on the community in which they reside and on their parents for alleged disrespect to the order. The Telegraf adds that over 1,300 Belgians who attempted to cross the Dutch frontier have been arrested, and that twenty-seven have been shot during the last two months while endeavoring to make their escape. Twenty-five smugglers also have been shot.

## ITALIANS EXCITED OVER AUSTRIA'S REPORTED ACT

ANCONA, Italy, via Rome, February 13.—Considerable excitement has been caused here by the report that Austria has confiscated two steamers loaded with wheat for Ancona, and taking them to Trieste, Austria.

## SEEKS TO RESTORE CASH TO UNIVERSITY

### Representative Parker Believes There Is Authority for U. S. Aid for Howard.

### ITEMS IN SUNDRY CIVIL BILL KILLED BY SISSON

### Mississippi Contends Appropriations for Institution, Totalling \$101,000, Would Be Unlawful.

Although all government support for Howard University has been stricken from the sundry civil bill by points of order made last yesterday by Representative Sisson of Mississippi, Representative Parker of New Jersey today announced to the House that he believed he had found authority in the statutes for federal contributions to the institution. Representative Parker's announcement may lead the House to place the items totaling \$101,000 back in the bill before it goes to the Senate.

Representative Sisson has declared, however, that he is aware of every paragraph in every act relating to Howard University, and that there is no statute authorizing any federal appropriations to that institution. Representative Parker intends to ask unanimous consent to return the Howard University items to the bill, but if Representative Sisson is on the floor this consent probably will not be granted.

### Items Stricken Out Yesterday.

The items of government support for Howard University were knocked out of the bill late yesterday afternoon by points of order raised by Representative Sisson of Mississippi and sustained by the chairman of the committee of the whole, Representative Crisp of Georgia, on the ground that none of the appropriations is authorized by law. The items are \$65,000 for maintenance, \$12,000 for the department of manual arts, \$1,500 for fixtures, \$10,000 for repairs, etc., \$7,000 for the medical department; \$2,000 for the laboratory of the new science hall, \$3,500 for fuel and light—in all, \$101,000.

Representative Sisson, in defending his point of order said he did not believe the appropriation ought to be made "even if the money were taken from the pockets of the people of the North and South." "I think the government should not appropriate any money to private or sectarian institutions. Another reason why this appropriation is wrong is that it is a violation of the constitution. The state should spend one single penny in support of any school of theology of any kind or character."

Mr. Fitzgerald Replies.

Representative Fitzgerald, in charge of the bill, called attention to the fact that for thirty years Congress has been contributing to the support of Howard University, and that without government aid the institution cannot continue. He was unable to cite any specific act authorizing these appropriations, and Chairman Crisp, citing rulings of the House, declared he would have to sustain Representative Sisson's point.

Other members of the House, however, endeavored to persuade the Mississippiian to withdraw his point of order. One of these was Representative Herlihy of Kentucky. He called attention to the fact that Howard University is the only institution of its kind in the country that is not supported by federal aid.

"I do not believe," he said, "that it would reflect in any sense the judgment of the white people of the south." Representative Herlihy of Kentucky reminded Representative Sisson that there was a democratic Congress, thirty-five years ago, that supported Howard University.

"The institution is doing a splendid work," he said, "and I do not think from Mississippi wants to put himself in the position of declining the support of the nation. I cannot believe he wants to desert the good work of helping the colored people of this country to a higher and broader education."

### Protest by Mr. Gillett.

Representative Gillett of Massachusetts also protested against the exercise of the point of order against the appropriations for Howard University and pointed out that there are other instances in the sundry civil bill of appropriations without specific authority by previous law.

"To pick out this one line of appropriation," he said, "and make a point of order against it, it seems to me, to be taken as indicating a disposition and a temper toward the negro race of which there have been manifestations already in the country, which have excited much adverse comment in the country, which have not only demeaned the honor of the government, and which, it seems to me, the gentleman would not wish to increase."

## Hopes for Further Good News.

The Lokal Anzeiger's military contributor says, in commenting on the results in East Prussia: "We believe that the Russian general staff is preparing a strong offensive which the Russians are believed to have been preparing in the region."

## Fighting in Western Arena.

Fighting in the western arena of war, although marked by spasmodic infantry engagements, consists chiefly of artillery duels. Both Berlin and Paris claim some gains, but these are not of decisive character. In fact, they amount to nothing but sorties insofar as their effect on the campaign as a whole is concerned. Germans claim to have captured many yards of trenches at one point and several hundred prisoners.

## 25,000 RUSSIANS MADE PRISONERS, IS GERMAN CLAIM

### Teuton Advance in East Prussia Viewed Differently by Rival Nations.

### CZAR'S FORCES RESUME DUKLA PASS BATTLE

### Austrians Reported to Have Lost 8,300 Men—Thousand Taken Captive.

### HUGE CASUALTIES IN FIGHTING

### Victory for Either Side in Carpathian Campaign of Prime Importance—Kaiser Still at Front.

LONDON, February 13.—The retirement of the Russian forces in East Prussia continues to occupy the center of interest so far as military operations in the various zones of war are concerned. Berlin claims that 25,000 Russian prisoners have been taken.

As in other important encounters in the eastern arena of the war, the claims of the opponents disagree as to the strategic importance of the German advance into East Prussia. The Germans are hailing it as a great victory, while Petrograd declares that the Russians are deliberately re-aligning their forces on their own territory supported by their own forts, and that the decisive conflict is yet to come.

## Fighting in Carpathians.

The battling in the Carpathians is going on in the snow. The Russians have resumed the battle at Dukla Pass, fighting mostly with the bayonet, according to the latest advices received here.

During the struggle the Austrians are reported to have lost 8,300 men killed and wounded and 1,000 prisoners. They have been driven back as far as Zborov, where the conflict continued, the snow having stopped the Russian advance. The Austrians have advanced as far as Krosno.

The indications received in London are that both sides have sustained enormous losses in the Carpathians.

## Austrians Claim Advance.

The Austrians still contend that they are continuing their advance into Bukovina. Military experts in London are of the opinion that the Carpathian front still has not reached a strategically important position. The east, where a decisive victory by either side would force the abandonment by the other of territory in East Prussia or Poland.

Emperor William is still on the East Prussian front, according to the latest advices received here. Emperor Nicholas has just made a visit to Sebastopol, where he inspected the Russian warships in port and made an address to the assembled sailors.

## Berlin Hails Victory.

BERLIN, via London, February 13.—The morning papers hail the victory in East Prussia particularly as removing further danger of an invasion of that province. They point to the Russian report of the loss of 25,000 prisoners as the completeness of the defeat as it admits that the Russians are falling back to the protection of their chain of fortresses.

The victory is especially prized because of the strategic importance of the strong offensive which the Russians are believed to have been preparing in the region.

The capture of 25,000 prisoners, reported in the German official communications, means that the Russian army corps has been put out of the fighting. The fact that the number of German prisoners is comparatively small is commented upon in some quarters as indicating that the Russians, who are said already to have lost an entire division of their artillery through capture, are now insufficiently equipped in this arm of the service.

## Hopes for Further Good News.

The Lokal Anzeiger's military contributor says, in commenting on the results in East Prussia: "We believe that the Russian general staff is preparing a strong offensive which the Russians are believed to have been preparing in the region."

The children in the schools were given a holiday today and flags are flying all over the city in honor of the victory. Flags are being displayed in the streets and in the celebration of the report of Field Marshal von Hindenburg's new victory in East Prussia.

The news that the Russians were being driven from the Mazurian lakes district came as a big surprise to the people of Berlin, but it has been reported that the Germans are concentrating on the Warsaw front. Persons in the confidence of high military officers knew, however, that von Hindenburg had quietly gathered his troops and was preparing a movement in East Prussia. In unofficial quarters it has been said that eight German corps were gathered for this purpose.