

## BERLIN, IN NOTE TO UNITED STATES, SEEKS WAY OF AVERTING OPEN WAR

### GUESTS ARE INJURED IN HOTEL FIRE

Hundreds Forced to Flee in Scanty Attire As Fire Sweeps Through Hotel Lenox in Boston—Several Hurt and Are Taken to Hospitals.

Former Governor Walsh Aids in Rescue Work—Actresses Quartered on Upper Floors Have Narrow Escapes—Loss Estimated at \$60,000.

Boston, Feb. 10.—The Hotel Lenox at Exeter and Boylston streets, in the Back Bay district, was damaged by fire early today. All of the 250 guests and the employees were able to get out, several suffered minor injuries. The elevator wells were filled with smoke soon after the guests were aroused and most of them came down the stairways of the 10 story structure. A few were taken down ladders by firemen.

The loss is estimated at \$60,000. Edwin C. Tew of New York, H. Chichester Mitchell of Seattle, and Mrs. Mitchell were taken to a hospital. Mr. Tew and Mrs. Mitchell were slightly burned about the face and hands and Mrs. Mitchell was affected by shock. Frank T. Fisk of Boston was treated by a physician for burns.

Edward M. Horton of New York, in whose room on the second floor the fire started, was severely burned trying to quench the flames before he gave the alarm. He was taken to a hospital. Horton said he had been smoking. He went to the bath room and on his return found a brisk fire in his room. After a hasty attempt to put it out he notified the telephone switchboard operator, William Conlon, of the fire and escaped. Conlon rang the hotel fire alarm and then ran from floor to floor pounding on doors to awaken guests. The flames, reaching the elevator wells, spread so rapidly from floor to floor that it was impossible for all to get to the street unassisted.

A large part of the city fire apparatus was called to the scene and the firemen had a hard fight in the cold and wind to subdue the flames. The fire was erratic in its course, burning out many rooms and leaving others untouched.

The guests were given shelter in the Boston Athletic association building nearby and in other buildings. Most of them had fled with little clothing and without trying to save their personal belongings.

Former Gov. David I. Walsh occupied a room on the second floor. He assisted in awakening other guests before he left the hotel. Joseph Graham of Holyoke jumped from a window of his room on the fifth floor to the roof of two story building at the rear of the hotel. Both his wrists were fractured, one leg was injured and he was severely bruised. He was taken to a hospital.

Former Mayor Samuel A. Green of Boston, who is 87 years old and very feeble, was rescued from his room on the seventh floor by his nurse, Miss Mabel L. Warren of Worcester, who threw a robe over him and wheeled him through the smoke filled corridor, where he was picked up by firemen and carried to the street. He obtained shelter in a building nearby.

Several actresses appearing at local theatres, including Valli Valli, Margaret Kelly, Charlotte Ives, Mabel Acker and Elizabeth Murray, escaped without injury, but lost their personal belongings. Miss Valli was on the 10th floor and reached the street in her night clothes and a heavy coat, with a pet dog in her arms.

### ILLUMINATING GAS OVERCOMES WOMAN AS SHE SLUMBERS

Nearly Score of Asphyxiations Reported in Last Three of Four Months.

Mrs. Anna Damon was found unconscious in the bed chamber of her home, 40 Pierpont street, by members of her family at 7 o'clock this morning and removed to St. Vincent's hospital almost in a dying condition, overcome by illuminating gas.

Mrs. Damon retired last night with the gas burning in her room. During the night the supply gave out and other members of the household placed a quarter in the meter early this morning. The jet in Mrs. Damon's room being open, she was overcome. Physicians at the hospital stated that her condition is grave but they have hopes of her recovery.

### SEES HOPE FOR KEEPING PEACE

Washington, Feb. 10.—Germany is understood here to have addressed to the United States a communication suggesting that the two governments discuss ways and means of preventing actual war between them.

While information regarding the channel through which the communication was addressed is lacking, it is probable that it is being forwarded by the government of Switzerland.

Germany is understood to have made it clear that although diplomatic relations have been broken she greatly desires that peace be maintained. Preliminary outlines regarding the communication do not indicate that it carries with it any suggestion that Germany may modify her submarine warfare.

However, the whole communication is said clearly to invite this government to make suggestions regarding steps it thinks might prevent war.

### IRISH PEOPLE STARVED INTO SUBMISSION, SAYS LOCAL MAN AFTER VISIT

Ireland is starving and needs relief far more than Belgium, according to a Bridgeport traveler returned from there. Its main population of military age has disappeared as if by magic, he says, and those who have not gone to the front are being impressed by coercive measures.

Because of famine that is said to exceed that of 147 there is not enough potatoes, grain for the cattle, or even leavings from the table to feed pigs which are drowned surreptitiously in the rivers as soon as born to avert starvation.

Even the famed roadways, the erstwhile pride of the nation, have dropped into disrepair with none to care for them. Martial law has been proclaimed not only in Dublin and other cities of Ireland to prevent uprisings, but the streets of Liverpool and other English cities are similarly patrolled, while the few who are left in Ireland, that once packed their boats are now utilized for traffic purposes only.

This is the first authentic report of conditions received in Bridgeport for many months, because none have arrived from the shore of the Emerald Isle since the means of redress is detailed by Bernard Lynch, a naturalized American carpenter, who has lived in Bridgeport nearly all his life.

At his home, 25 Orchard street, last night, Lynch recounted details of his trip to Ireland to visit his aged mother and sisters and the visit in Dublin, Liverpool and other Irish and English cities between the time he left New York on the steamer Philadelphia, Nov. 4, and returned by the same boat arriving Jan. 14, at New York city.

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### NORTH END COAL DEALER HELD FOR SUPERIOR COURT TRIAL AS RECEIVER OF THIEVES' BOOTY

Abram J. Rich, of 35 Frank street, a coal dealer with large real estate holdings in the North End, was held in bonds of \$2,000 by Judge Frederic Bartlett this morning for trial in the superior court charged with receiving and purchasing stolen property.

Several tons of copper and brass were recovered by the police from Rich's home. The metal had been stolen from freight cars lying on the sidings in Housatonic avenue. Three North End youths had stolen the metal after breaking open the car and carted it away. They told the

police Rich paid them \$60 for the first load of metal. For several weeks the police tried in vain to find who was responsible for the looting of the freight cars. Thousands of dollars of metal was being missed daily. They finally discovered one Saturday night that a team had backed up to one of the cars and left the scene with a load of copper and brass. On their return for another load, the youths were apprehended and the arrest of Rich by Detective Lieutenant John Barton followed.

### U.S. WON'T TAKE FIRST WAR STEP

Overt Act by German Naval Forces Will Be Met With President's Request For Use of Battleships to Protect Rights of United States.

Opening of Actual Hostilities Will Be Left With Germany, Plan of Administration—Brazil Refuses To Recognize U-Boat Blockade.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Late reports of ships sunk by German submarines were scanned closely today by government officials for a double reason. First, there was the ever present fear that any hour might bring a dispatch saying an American ship had been sunk without warning or American lives lost, thus driving the United States to use force to protect its rights.

Second, yesterday's reported falling off of aggregate tonnage sunk produced wonder as to whether the failure was only temporary or whether Great Britain has already done something to lessen the force of the submarine attacks.

In reference to the chances of a more pronounced break with Germany, it is disclosed that the precise course of the United States had been determined. President Wilson will not ask Congress for a declaration of war, but only for authority to take necessary measures to protect neutral rights. This would still leave the first act of open hostilities to Germany's choosing. The conveying of merchant vessels by American war craft might be ordered.

Practical interest in the progressive success of the submarine campaign was based on Lloyd's reports reaching here, indicating that not much more than 10,000 tons total shipping was sunk yesterday, although about 21,000 tons was reported sunk on Thursday and about 28,000 tons on each of the two preceding days. A daily destruction of 33,000 tons would be necessary to maintain the rate that the German admiralty believes to be sufficient to isolate Great Britain.

Reports that Great Britain is arranging to convey great fleets of shipping through the war zone gained credence here.

Rio Janeiro, Feb. 10.—Foreign Minister Lauro Muller, in replying to President Wilson, suggestion that other neutral nations take the same position as the United States in respect to the German submarine campaign will inform Washington that Brazil has declared to Germany that the German blockade is ineffective. The note will further say that Brazil leaves with Germany the responsibility for all acts from which Brazilian merchantmen may suffer in violation of international law.

(The text of Brazil's note will be found elsewhere in The Farmer today.)

### C. OF C. VOTING 2 TO 1 IN FAVOR OF REFERENDUMS

Eighty Replies Favoring Consulting People to 35 Against Received.

The postal card referendum, addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to its members, is meeting with a liberal response, although the bulk of replies is not expected before Monday.

The vote will not be announced until the full count is ready, but it was said today, that the balloting thus far is overwhelmingly in favor of putting the bonds to a referendum.

In fact it was unofficially said that there are 80 votes in favor of a referendum, and only 35 against it. There is said to be a large feeling among the members that bonding in Bridgeport is getting to threatening dimensions. The referendum is felt to be the surest and fairest way of keeping the debt within limits.

### BERNSTORFF AND HIS AIDES WILL SAIL NEXT WEDNESDAY; GERARD STARTS HOME TODAY

### FLYING AMERICAN FLAG, UNARMED LINERS READY TO BRAVE U-BOAT PERIL

New York, Feb. 10.—American shipping circles were stirred today by the announcement that two freighters of the Stars and Stripes would sail immediately for the war zone. They will be the first American vessels to start from New York for the prescribed area since the beginning of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare.

These ships are the Orleans, owned by the Orient Navigation Co., and the Rochester, of the Kerr Steamship Co. Both are bound for Bordeaux, France. The two ships have received their clearance papers and loaded all their cargoes, awaiting final word from their owners.

The Orleans has an American captain, Allan Tucker, and a crew of 35, of whom 32 are citizens of the United States. The Rochester has 33 officers and men, of whom two-thirds are Americans. Both vessels have their names and "U. S. A." in large letters on their black sides, but are not conspicuously marked in the manner prescribed for American vessels by the German blockade regulations. Neither is armed.

"After taking the matter up at Washington we have decided to allow the steamer to proceed without mounting guns of any kind," said an officer of the Kerr line. "Any ship flying the American flag as the Rochester does, has the right to trade with a foreign country and we do not anticipate that the steamer will be interdicted."

H. S. Quirk, general freight agent of the Kerr line, announced that the sailings of the line will continue until forcibly stopped.

The arrival of the Baltic of the White Star line in Liverpool, removed from the danger zone and other British vessel carrying American citizens.

The post office authorities are considering the advisability of transferring 5,000 sacks of mail from the American liner St. Louis, which has been held up here all week by the blockade, to the British steamer Cedric, which sails tomorrow for Liverpool without passengers.

Bankers and manufacturers and railroad men said today that the reduced number of sailings from American ports will be a serious congestion of cargoes at the railroad terminals. It was said that many shippers were withholding their goods from the railroads at the point of production because they could not obtain the necessary ocean tonnage.

The situation is a source of annoyance to banks doing business in foreign exchange and negotiated against exports and imports. To guard against loss of interest arising from any prolonged delay some of the largest banks here have sent out letters calling attention to the fact that owing to the delay of mails an adjustment of interest must be made on all items negotiated prior to the date of the steamer sailing.

Safe arrival in Genoa last Thursday of the Italian steamer Dante Alighieri, which left this port Jan. 24, was announced here today in a cablegram received by the ship's agents. She carried between 400 and 500 passengers.

Former German Ambassador and Suite Will Leave Washington on Tuesday Night and Sail the Next Day Aboard Scandinavian Steamer.

American Envoy With Large Party of Assistants and Fellow-Countrymen Go To Switzerland Tonight and May Sail From Barcelona.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Arrangements were completed today for the departure on Wednesday of Count Von Bernstorff and his staff aboard the steamship Frederick VIII for Christiania, Norway. The former ambassador and the personnel of the embassy will leave Washington Tuesday night.

### COURT RELEASES GUARD ARRESTED AS FOREIGN SPY

No Evidence Against Henry Wentland, Alias Castro, and He Departs.

Henry Wentland, alias Castro, who was arrested a week ago, the police suspecting that he was a spy, was released from custody by Judge Frederic Bartlett this morning, in the city court. When told of the technical charge of breach of the peace against him he had been nerved and that he was at liberty, Wentland with the gallantry and grace of a courtier bowed very low, swept out in his arm and fervently exclaimed, "Your Honor, I thank you."

Wentland had been employed as watchman about the Bridgeport Gas Co. tanks in the West End and his manner of asking questions about the public waterworks, the Remington Arms Co., and other factories aroused the suspicion of his fellow workers with the result that he was discharged.

An investigation showed that he was living at the Arcade hotel, although he earned only \$2 a day as watchman. He was arrested as he stepped from the office of the Hydraulic Co., where he was inquiring about the city's water system.

### AIRSHIP FLEET MAKES RAID ON BELGIAN COAST

Amsterdam, Feb. 10.—The Telegraaf says that a fleet of airships at dusk yesterday attacked the Belgian coast town of Zeebrugge. The Germans fired 200 shells from anti-aircraft guns in an attempt to drive off the attackers.

By wireless.

Berlin, Feb. 10.—By wireless from Sayville.—The German artillery on the Verdun front broke up in its ineptness an attempted attack by the French on hill 304 yesterday, army headquarters announced today. A minor attack by the French on Peper ridge, north of Verdun, was repulsed.

### MAYOR TO TAKE CENSUS OF MEN OF FIGHTING AGE

Work Probably Will Begin in Factories of Bridgeport Monday.

Mayor Wilson today began to make plans to take the military census of Bridgeport, as ordered by Gov. Hollcom. He has not picked his corps of volunteer workers, but expects to later. Lists of every male resident of Bridgeport between 16 and 60 years, whether citizens of the United States or not, will be made. The purpose is to show the name, address, age, condition, occupation, etc., of each individual between those ages. What each citizen is particularly fitted to do and whether or not he has ever had any military service, will be made part of the census.

The mayor said he hoped to start the work by Monday. Each factory here will be asked to take the census of its factory and lists of employees will also be obtained from the heads of department stores and business enterprises of all kinds. The city directory, voting lists and personal tax lists will be consulted and volunteer workers, by personal calls, will get statistics which cannot be obtained in any other way.

### LEYLAND LINER RUNS BLOCKADE OF SUBMARINES

Boston, Feb. 10.—The arrival in Liverpool of the Leyland liner Devonian, for whose safety some fear had been expressed in local shipping circles, was announced in a cablegram received by agents here today. The Devonian sailed from this port Jan. 29 with munitions and 1,000 horses. Eighty tenders, most of them Americans, were aboard.

The steamer Canadian, of the Leyland line, which was ready to sail last night for Liverpool, was at her dock today and no information was available regarding the expected time of her departure.

The British steamer Bay Cross, 22 days out from Havre, arrived at quarantine early today.

### FORMER GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND SUITE WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY NIGHT AND SAIL THE NEXT DAY ABOARD SCANDINAVIAN STEAMER.

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Washington, Feb. 10.—The steamship Frederick VIII of the Scandinavian-American line, was given permission by its owners in Copenhagen today to convey Ambassador Von Bernstorff and his suite to a Scandinavian port, a cablegram to the line's offices here said.

In addition to the ambassador's suite, provision has been made for carrying about 200 German consuls. It was announced that the Frederick VIII will sail on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

### GERARD'S PARTY LEAVES BERLIN TONIGHT

Washington, Feb. 10.—American Ambassador Gerard will leave Berlin this evening for Zurich, Switzerland, with his entire staff and 50 American citizens, according to a dispatch received today at the Swiss legation here from Bern.

The message said: "The American ambassador, Mr. Gerard, with all his personnel and 50 American citizens, will leave Berlin Feb. 10 in the evening, by special train for Zurich. The ambassador will be received at the Swiss frontier with all consideration due him."

AMERICANS ARE DELAYED.

Berlin, Feb. 10.—Although Ambassador Gerard, his suite and a fairly large number of Americans with more or less official standing, have received assurances that they may leave Berlin on Saturday night, the bulk of Americans in Berlin are still somewhat in the dark as to when they will be able to get away. Most of those who want to leave have already applied to the police for formal permission, but few, if any, have yet received it.

The rule generally enforced, but sometimes relaxed, that at least a fortnight must elapse between the date of application and the granting of permission to leave is apparently rigidly adhered to. The authorities presumably intend to thoroughly investigate every case so as to establish that no cause exists why the applicant should not depart from Germany.

### CHANCELLOR SAYS FAREWELL

London, Feb. 10.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from the Hague says it is reported there from Berlin that Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg sent his adjutant to Ambassador Gerard on Friday to bid him farewell.

The British steamer Mantola has been sunk, Lloyds announced today. The Norwegian vessel Solbakken is believed to have been sunk, the agency says. Two of her crew were