

ARMY AND NAVY EXPERTS EXPLAIN WEAK SPOTS ON LAND AND SEA

Admiral Winslow Declares One Enemy Ship Could Destroy Entire Pacific Fleet; Outlines Defense Plan.

CHESAPEAKE BAY IS INVITING TO INVADERS

General Staff Vital Need at Present; Secretary of Navy Without Technical Knowledge Is Practically Useless.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Washington, Feb. 24.—While the house military committee was taking steps today toward getting its bill for increasing the regular army and federalizing the national guard before the house within ten days, the naval committee was being informed by Admiral Cameron McR. Winslow that the entire Pacific fleet which he commands might be an easy victim for a single good enemy battleship.

Wholly Inadequate. Admiral Winslow made the statement smilingly. Pressed by Representative Stephens, of California, for an exact description of the condition of the ships under his command, he said the force was wholly inadequate, even with all its reserves called out, to meet any probable enemy in the Pacific. What plans the navy department had for meeting an emergency there or in the Atlantic, however, he said, were matters of strategy which he did not care to reveal except in confidential session.

Behind Closed Doors. Representative Stephens agreed that this discussion should be as proposed; but said he had many questions still to ask regarding the Pacific fleet. He will pursue the subject tomorrow.

The military committee is making rapid progress in considering the bill. Chairman Hay was authorized to frame and which now has been printed confidentially. It is expected this draft will be made public this week and that it will be favorably reported to the house some time next week. It is hoped to have its consideration by the house fixed to follow the immigration bill. The committee is sitting all day at its task and perfecting the measure and it was suggested today that night sessions might be started to hasten the work.

Better Fortifications. Further light on the war department's plan for additional coast defenses also was explained today when testimony of Brig. Gen. William Crozier, chief of army ordnance, before the fortifications committee, became available. The committee has had no open hearings. While General Crozier told the military committees of both houses the substance of his recommendations, his statements before the fortifications committee amplify his position somewhat.

The heaviest new fortifications, General Crozier said, will be placed at the mouth of Chesapeake bay, which he described as one of several places where facilities for land operations are so good that it is worth while to especially fortify them to prevent that operation, notwithstanding that they are not places where inadmissible damage can be done by the guns of a fleet." At other points, such as Rockaway Beach, N. Y., and San Francisco, he said, 16-inch guns mounted in turrets would be added to the batteries.

Chesapeake Bay Wide Open. "We have Norfolk defended at Fort Monroe, Washington very much over-defended and Baltimore defended.

The Day in Congress

SENATE.

Resumed debate on water power bill. Objection prevented Senator Gore from introducing legislation to keep Americans off armed ships of belligerents.

Hearing continued into fitness of Louis D. Brandeis for the United States supreme court.

Inquiries into alleged monopoly of steel output.

Voted 24 to 12 to confirm Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico, but final action on confirmation went over until tomorrow because those voting were less than a quorum.

Adjourned at 6:25 p. m. to noon, Friday.

HOUSE.

Consideration of the postoffice bill continued on the floor.

Hearing on Representative London's neutral peace congress resolution begun by the foreign affairs committee.

Admiral Winslow appeared before the naval affairs committee in executive session to testify on national defense.

Legislative, executive and judiciary bills, carrying \$27,601,529, favorably reported.

Representative Mondell introduced bill to prohibit Americans from traveling on armed ships.

Adjourned at 5:25 p. m. to noon, Friday.

THE WEATHER

WEATHER FORECAST.

Denver, Feb. 24.—New Mexico: Friday and Saturday partly cloudy; not much change in temperature.

LOCAL WEATHER REPORT.

For twenty-four hours, ending at 6 p. m. yesterday.

Maximum temperature, 65 degrees; minimum, 25 degrees; range, 40 degrees; temperature at 6 p. m., 49 degrees; southwest wind; clear.

CITY BANK CLEARINGS.

Yesterday \$57,474.06.

But they could come into Chesapeake bay and establish a base along that shore, then send an army in any direction. There are few such points as that.

Charleston, S. C., and New Orleans, might be damaged by long range fleet fire, he said, and twelve-inch guns with high angle fire giving them a range beyond any guns afloat or contemplated for navy ships would answer the defense purposes at such points.

Atlantic City and Gloucester, Mass., similarly might be victims of fleet fire, he said, but their bombardment would not injure the nation's ability to continue the war and it is not proposed to fortify them.

"It would be deplorable and very unfortunate for the citizens," he added, "but it is impracticable to defend the whole coast against damage.

"Certain points are selected for fortification where the damage would be so important as to affect the fighting ability of the United States. They are still not protected against damage which could be done by bodies of troops landed and marched overland to one of these cities.

"The theory is that we have plenty of people and plenty of resources to take care of that condition, if we will use them. If we will not use them there is no way to take care of it."

Admiral Winslow told the naval committee that gunnery on American ships started on the down-grade soon after it had been brought to its most efficient point during President Roosevelt's incumbency.

"Just lately," he added, "the department began working out a new system of finding the faults with our gunnery. In my opinion, however, if we had had a general staff, our efficiency would never have gone down."

General Staff Needed. The admiral maintained that the original plan under which the general board was created was intended to lead to a general staff. That, he said, was the vital need of the navy; all military functions should be under direct control of professionally trained navy officers. He declared that no secretary of the navy had ever had, or possibly could have had, the knowledge necessary to make decisions under the present system. It would take fifty years, he believed, to bring the fleet to its possible standard of efficiency and in answer to a question, he said he did not believe the navy now to be even moderately efficient.

What was lacking, said the admiral, was authority vested in a board of trained naval officers to co-ordinate all the military work and keep the fleet at fighting pitch at all times. He believed no ships should be placed in reserve but that all should be kept constantly in commission and fully manned in order that sufficient men might be trained.

Staff to Have Authority. Asked what authority he would take from the secretary and lodge in a staff, he said he would have the entire military side of the service absolutely under the staff.

"If it is a question of mounting a fourteen-inch or a sixteen-inch gun," said the witness, "naval officers should decide that. They are the men who will use those guns."

The navy war college, Admiral Winslow said, was a very valuable adjunct and other nations had followed such American lead in establishing such institutions, yet it had been nearly done away with under several secretaries.

"The war college," he added, "is receiving better backing from Mr. Daniels than it has ever had."

Enactment of laws to permit promotion by selection, as recommended by the navy department, also was urged by the admiral. Such a law was virtually necessary, he said, in order to bring young, vigorous men to flag command where nerve, quick thinking and a high degree of skill were demanded to make for fleet efficiency.

GOVERNOR JARA STOPS VERA CRUZ STRIKE

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Vera Cruz, Feb. 24.—By the action of Governor Heriberto Jara in issuing a decree against strikes, the general stoppage of work by all classes of wage earners which had been set for this morning has been averted for the present.

The governor has appointed various committees to receive and investigate the demands of the workmen, the committee awards to be arbitrary and final. On the question of the currency in which wages shall be paid, Governor Jara has indicated a firm intention not to agree to demands of any workmen or occupant of a clerical position to be recompensed on a Mexican gold basis. There is evidence in the various labor circles of dissatisfaction with the governor's action, but it is believed there will be no definite refusal on their part under present conditions to take the course outlined by the military authority and present their claims for study and decision.

Sarrail Returns to Saloniki.

Athens, Greece, Feb. 23 (via Paris, Feb. 24, 2:05 p. m.)—General Sarrail, commander-in-chief of the French forces in the Balkans, returned to Saloniki from Athens today.

HYPHEN ATTACKS TRAIN LOADED WITH SUPPLIES FOR RUSSIANS

Pitched Battle Between Great Northern Crew and Six or Eight Assailants Occurs at Tacoma.

AIR HOSE BETWEEN CARS ARE SEVERED

Two Men Arrested Say They Are Austrians; Party Is Driven Off or Captured After Encounter.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 24.—Holidly attacking a Great Northern freight train, loaded with automobiles and war supplies for shipment to Russia from Seattle, in the Northern Pacific freight yards today, six or eight men cut the air hose between cars in five places and cut the train in four sections. The train crew, led by Conductor McLaughlin, fought them off in a rough and tumble battle and captured two who gave the names of Sam Rinsky and John Ross and their nationality as Austrian. They were held without communication.

Conductor McLaughlin said that while the train stood in the yard a little group of men tried to secret themselves aboard. The crew drove them away two or three times. Just as the train was to pull out the concerted attack was made.

Great Northern freight officials in Tacoma said it was known that the train carried a car or two of automobiles for shipment to Russia for war use and other export goods, probably for war use, sent from the east. The Northern Pacific train dispatcher here, said that the train had been routed around by way of Portland from Spokane, and through Vancouver, Wash., probably to avoid going over the mountains under present snow conditions.

What the object of the attack was Great Northern officials were unable tonight to explain.

The crew continued with the train to Seattle and officers here have been unable to get in touch with them to obtain definite details of the attack.

Confident of Future. "We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their premises in the past," he added, "and I for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future."

The letter was in answer to one written late this afternoon by Senator Stone outlining the situation existing at the capitol where since yesterday morning persistent demands had been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war between the United States and Germany.

The president's statement will be repeated tomorrow morning to Speaker Clark, Representative Kitchin, majority leader and Representative Flood, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee who late today asked for an engagement in order to explain the position in which the house found itself and ask the president for a statement of the administration views.

The letter follows: "February 24, 1916.—My Dear Senator: I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of today and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply.

"You are right in assuming that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uncertainty about my course in that respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been ascribed upon the surface and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed. The course which the central European powers have announced their intention of following in the future with regard to undersea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by those powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect upon it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future.

"But in any event our duty is clear. No nation or group of nations has the right while the war is in progress to alter or disregard the power all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be.

"For my own part I cannot consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. We cover peace and preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor. To forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an explicit, all but an explicit acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere and of whatever nation or allegiance. It would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen even amid the turmoil of war for the law and the right. It would make everything this government has attempted and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations meaningless and futile. "It is important to reflect that if

BETHLEHEM STEEL IS TO EXPEND HUGE SUM

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 24.—Fifteen to twenty million dollars will be expended by the Bethlehem Steel company in developing the Maryland Steel company's plant at Sparrows Point, Md., according to an announcement made today by Eugene C. Grace, president of the Bethlehem corporation, after an inspection of the Sparrows Point plant.

The Maryland Steel company is one of the concerns recently acquired by the Bethlehem Steel company. Sparrows Point, Mr. Grace said, is to be the principal unit in the shipbuilding activities of the parent company. The force of workmen is to be increased by the addition of 5,000 men.

SELF-RESPECT OF AMERICA IS INVOLVED, SAYS THE PRESIDENT

Frank, Vigorous Reply Sent by Woodrow Wilson to Chairman, Stone of Foreign Relations Committee.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR NATION TO YIELD

Compliance With Demands of Central European Powers Would Mean Surrender of Honor of Country.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Wilson, at the end of two days of agitation in congress for action warning Americans off armed merchantmen, wrote a letter tonight to Senator Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, stating that he could not consent to the abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect.

"The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved," he said. "We covet peace, and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor."

The president expressed hope that explanations of the declared intention of the central European powers to sink all armed merchant ships without warning would put a different aspect on a situation which now seemed to present insuperable obstacles.

"We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their premises in the past," he added, "and I for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future."

The letter was in answer to one written late this afternoon by Senator Stone outlining the situation existing at the capitol where since yesterday morning persistent demands had been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war between the United States and Germany.

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In this instance we allowed expediency to take the place of principle the door would inevitably be opened to still further concessions. Once accept a single abatement of right and many other humiliations would certainly follow and the whole fine fabric of international law might crumble under our hands piece by piece. What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her own independence as a nation and making virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world.

"I am speaking, my dear senator, in deep solemnity without heat, with a clear conscientiousness of the high responsibilities of my office, and as your sincere and devoted friend. If we should unhappily differ in this matter as friends; but where issues as momentous as these are involved we must, just because we are friends, speak our minds without reservation.

"Faithfully yours, "WOODROW WILSON."

Ends All Speculation. The president wrote his letter during the afternoon, shutting himself up in his study while congressional leaders vainly attempted to get him on the telephone to tell him of developments at the capitol, and to arrange for the call of the house leaders. He began to write after telephone conferences with cabinet members and other close advisers. His decision was to end all speculation over what the position of the government was and to let congress and the country know what the administration believed the United States could do nothing but stand behind the rights of its citizens to the freedom of the seas.

Situation Unchanged. At the state department today it was stated that in its international aspects the situation had not changed in the slightest degree for three or four days. Officials said nothing had been heard from Germany in response to the request of the United States for assurances that previous pledges given in the Lusitania and Arabic negotiations would not be nullified by the new campaign against armed ships. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, through whom the request was made, also was said to be without information as to when a response would be forthcoming.

Confidential advisers from Berlin have indicated that Germany would reply that all assurances previously given would be observed, but that they applied only to unarmed vessels and would propose discussion of what defensive armament properly may be. How far such a proposal would go toward altering the situation is said to depend largely upon additional information as to how armed British merchantmen are said to have warned on German submarines which is now on the way to Washington by mail.

United States Stands Pat. Administration officials reiterated today the declaration that the United States never had departed since the beginning of the submarine controversy from its stand for the observance of international law. And they pointed out that throughout history the right of a merchantman to carry limited armament solely for defensive purposes never had been questioned.

Today's developments in congress showed the administration leaders holding their lines against any such action as the president opposed. A canvass of the senate disclosed sentiment in favor of President Wilson's position dominating. In the house the administration position was less certain, but the leaders were confident that a vote would show an overwhelming majority for upholding the president.

Stone's Letter. Senator Stone's letter to the president followed: "Dear Mr. President: Since Senator Kern, Mr. Flood and I talked with you on Monday evening, I am more troubled than I have been for many a day. I have not felt authorized to repeat our conversation but I have attempted, in response to numerous inquiries from my colleagues, to state to them within the confidence that they should observe, my general understanding of your attitude. I have stated my understanding of your attitude to be substantially as follows:

"That while you would deeply regret the rejection by Great Britain of Mr. Lansing's proposal for the disarmament of merchant vessels of the allies with the understanding that Germany and her allies would not fire upon a merchant ship if she halted to when summoned, not attempting to escape and that the German warships would only exercise the admitted right of visitation and capture and would not destroy the captured ship except when reasonably assured of the safety of passengers and crew, you were of the opinion that if Great Britain and her allies rejected the proposal and insisted upon arming her merchantships she would be within her rights under international law. Also that you would feel disposed to allow armed vessels to be cleared from our ports; also that you are not favorably disposed to the idea of this government taking any definite steps toward preventing American citizens from embarking upon armed merchant vessels.

"Furthermore, that you would consider it your duty if a German warship should fire upon an armed merchant vessel of the enemy upon which American citizens were passengers to hold Germany to strict account.

Congressmen Disturbed. "Numerous members of the senate and house have called to discuss this subject with me. I have felt that the members of the two houses who are to deal with this grave question were

CROWN PRINCE CONTINUES TERRIFIC DRIVE AGAINST FRENCH AT VERDUN; GERMAN DEAD ARE PILED ON FIELD KAISER WITNESSES STRUGGLE WHICH IS DEVELOPING INTO ONE OF WAR'S GREAT BATTLES

Joffre's Guns Are Pouring Hail of Death Into Teuton Lines, but Paris Admits Wings Are Withdrawn; Furious Artillery Fire Is Continuous, and British End of Line Is Also Engaged With Enemy in Flanders; Activities on Russian Front Are Comparatively Unimportant; Petrograd Reports Pursuit of Turks in Caucasus Region; Duel Between Austrians and Italians Without Intermission; Air Squadron Drops Bombs on Metz; Japan Not to Send Army to Assist Slavs.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Inspired by the presence of their emperor and led by Crown Prince Frederick William, the German troops are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the war on the western front, centering around the fortress of Verdun. Attack has followed attack against the French line after bombardments, incessant and terrific, continuing for several days.

Force Wings Backward. While the Germans have not been able, despite the rain of shells and furious onslaughts by the infantry, to break the French line, nevertheless the French on their right and left wings have been compelled to withdraw their lines, respectively to the south of Ornes and behind the town of Samogneux, six miles north of the fortress.

Loss of Life Heavy. Only between Malmequin and the left bank of the Meuse has there been any diminution in intensity of the artillery fire. With Brabant, Hammet and Samogneux, and the wooded sections north and northeast of Benmont in their possession, the Germans from the Meuse eastward to Fromezey, forcing the fighting, seemingly regardless of the cost of life.

Piled With German Dead. The French guns have answered the Germans shell for shell and the casualties on both sides are heavy. The French official report describes the battlefield between the Meuse and Ornes as piled with German dead.

In Champagne at several points and in the Ardennes forest, German works have been pounded by the concentrated fire of the French guns, while in Lorraine the French repulsed a German reconnoitering party that attempted to capture a French post north of St. Martins.

British Are Active. On their end of the line, near Hulloch, the British exploded a mine and occupied the crater, and also bombarded German trenches near Freilinghein and Boesinghe.

On the Russian front from the Rima region to East Galicia, there have been engagements at various points, but no great results have been attained by either side. In the Caucasus, Petrograd reports that the Russians continued successfully to press back the Turks. The usual activities by the Austrians and Italians on the Austro-Italian front continue.

A French air squadron has dropped a large number of bombs on the outskirts of Metz, a big fire being observed after the attack.

Official announcement has been made in the Japanese diet by the minister of foreign affairs that Japan does not intend to send troops to aid the Russians.

The Earl of Derby has accepted the chairmanship of the Joint Army and Navy board which will control the British air service.

LITTLE FIGHTING OF CONSEQUENCE IN RUSSIA

Petrograd, Feb. 24 (via London, 10:20 p. m.)—The following official communication was issued today:

"In the region of Ruka and the Dvina, on the Ozer sector, German aeroplanes dropped bombs. In the region of Ozer the enemy developed violent night firing, which was followed by a movement toward our trenches of scouts who were clad in white raiment, and who were spectacular.

"On the Dvina sector, near the Poneviesch railway, and north of Charofsky our detachments made some progress.

"In the region of Polish, southwest of Olyka, the enemy sent women, probably Russians, to work in the positions most exposed to our fire.

"In the Galicia, northwest of Tarnopol and near the villages of Gladki and Vorogievsk, we exploded a small mine and captured the crater. The enemy vainly bombarded the scene of the explosion with mines and trench mortars, throwing grenades which made in their flight a noise like that of a revolving sprayer. Near Mikhailche the enemy threw into a crater we were occupying

MAN WHO MAY BE GRANT LYMAN IS ARRESTED

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Tampa, Fla., Feb. 24.—A man answering the description of J. Grant Lyman wanted in New York for alleged defalcations of more than \$300,000 was arrested late today on a yacht at St. Petersburg, Fla. He declined to answer questions as to his identity.

The man was said to have with him on the yacht several trunks and suitcases containing an elaborate wardrobe, \$14,905 in cash, and a certified check for \$5,594, payable to the bearer and drawn on the Manhattan company of New York. There were several endorsements to the check, police said, the last one being the signature of John H. Putnam and company. This was the name of an alleged fraudulent concern organized by Lyman in New York.

The yacht is said to have been purchased in Tampa last Saturday by two men whose names were given as "Smith" and "Olsen" and who police say, recently brought the vessel from Chicago.

The man arrested is clean shaven but the police claim that he was seen recently in Tampa wearing a small beard like that worn by Lyman. The authorities also say that a man answering Lyman's description and believed to be the one under arrest, recently expressed a trunk from Tampa to Jacksonville. The trunk still is unclaimed at Jacksonville, where it was sent addressed to "A. Chase."

The man whose name was given as "Olsen" was on the yacht when the arrest was made today. He told the police he had no idea where the vessel's new owner intended to take her. It was said preparation was being made to load a large amount of provisions.

Barrett Out for Vice President. Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 24.—The name of Ethier J. Barrett of Lincoln, former United States senator from Nebraska, was today formally filed to be placed on the preliminary ballot as candidate for the republican nomination of vice president.

Suspect Believed to Be Noted Embezzler Taken Into Custody in Florida; Had Purchased Yacht.

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