

TURKS SINK OLD SHIPS

Hope to Check Hostile War Vessels.

FIRST FORTS IN RUINS

British and French Fleets Continue Operations.

London, March 1.—The Daily News says that it has been reported from Athens that the Turks concentrated a large number of old merchant ships in the Dardanelles and loaded them with stones with the intention of sinking them to prevent passage of a hostile fleet.

London, March 1.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Athens says:

"The allies have disembarked detachments of artillery near the Dardanelles forts and British and French flags now are flying over them.

"The fleet continued a bombardment of the inner forts. A powder magazine was blown up. There were numerous victims.

"The fleet has reached as far as the lighthouse near Fort Kild Bahr.

"The forts on the European side have been reduced to silence.

"There are 50,000 Turks on the European side and 15,000 on the Asiatic side."

"It is officially announced," says the Morning Post's Cairo correspondent, "that the Turks have evacuated the Sinai peninsula. This confirms the belief here that all danger of a second invasion of Egypt is now removed."

"According to diplomatic information received in Rome," says the Daily News' correspondent in the Italian capital, "the decision of the Turks to transfer their capital to Broussa, Asia Minor, was in direct opposition to Germany, which wished the transfer, if made, to be to Adriatic."

"The prophet's mantle, together with all the important relics and treasures, already have been removed to Broussa, where the sultan's harem also has been sent."

FRENCH DESTROYER IS SUNK BY MINE

Paris, Feb. 27.—The destruction of the French torpedo boat destroyer Dague in the Adriatic sea was announced by the French ministry of marine. The official announcement follows:

"The French torpedo boat destroyer Dague while escorting a convoy with provisions for Montenegro, struck an Austrian mine off the port of Antivari (Montenegro) and sank. "Thirty-eight of the crew disappeared. The accident did not hinder finishing the work of provisioning and the return of the convoy."

WHEN STEAMER CARIB SANK

Three of Crew of American Vessel Lost Their Lives.

Berlin, Feb. 27.—Three members of the crew of the American steamer Carib lost their lives when their ship was sunk in the North sea, probably by a mine.

It has been learned that the Carib went down off Borkum island at the mouth of the Ems river and not near Helgoland, as was presumed from the first announcement.

The American steamer Evelyn also was sunk off Borkum island.

FRENCH PRESS AGAINST IT

Unanimous in Declaring England Cannot Accept American Proposal.

Paris, Feb. 28.—The French press is unanimous in declaring that Great Britain cannot accept the informal proposals, said to have been made by the United States, that the embargo on foodstuffs for Germany be raised provided Germany abandons its intention of destroying merchant ships.

MAY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE

Russians, Hemmed In, Continue to Fight Desperately.

London, Feb. 28.—A dispatch to the Times from Petrograd says that information has been received in the Russian capital that several units belonging to the Twentieth corps, which was surrounded by the Germans in the retreat from Magi Prussia, still are fighting desperately and probably will be able to rejoin the Russian army.

COUNT VON BERNSTORFF.



Photo by American Press Association.

BERNSTORFF DENIES STORY

German Ambassador Says Statement Published is False.

New York, Feb. 27.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, denied a statement printed by the London Daily Telegraph in a telegram from Washington, according to which Count von Bernstorff had officially informed President Wilson and Secretary Bryan that the commanders of the German submarines had received a secret order not to fire at ships flying the American flag.

"I have not given to either President Wilson or to Secretary of State Bryan any communication except such as was published in the American press," the ambassador said.

GERMANS HURL BACK ENEMY IN FRANCE

Berlin, March 1.—The following official communication from German army headquarters was made public: "In an attack on the entrenched line of Verdun-Bremeril, east of Badonviller, the Germans pushed back the enemy over a front twenty kilometers (about thirteen miles) long for a distance of six kilometers (about four miles). The enemy's attempts to win back the conquered ground failed with heavy losses.

"The enemy's advances in the southern Vosges also were repulsed. "The German troops retreated before superior enemy forces advancing on Przasnysz from the south and east into the region north and west of this town."

PEACE CONFERENCE ASKED

Emergency Federation Calls on President Wilson.

Chicago, March 1.—Resolutions asking President Wilson to call a conference of neutral nations to attempt to end the European war were passed by the Emergency Peace federation and plans were made for the organization of a permanent body to be known as the National Peace organization.

A resolution protesting against any increase in armament in the United States also was passed. The resolution expresses the belief that the time has come for an extension of the principle of neutrality by a conference of neutral nations.

JAP WARSHIPS AWAITING GERMAN CRUISERS.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—A report of five Japanese cruisers guarding South Pacific lanes of travel and looking for the German cruisers Dresden and Prinz Eitel Friedrich has been brought here by Captain William Stevens of the British steamer Maitai, which has arrived from Sydney, Australia.

HAITIEN PRESIDENT FLEES

Davilmar Theodor Takes Refuge on Board Dutch Steamer.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Davilmar Theodor has abdicated his office of president of Haiti and taken refuge on the Dutch steamer Frederick Hendrik in the harbor at Port au Prince. After touching at one of the Southern Haitian ports the steamer will proceed to Curacao.

Local officials have taken charge of the capital, official dispatches say, and are maintaining order awaiting General Guillaume, leader of the revolutionist army.

New Trial Denied Becker.

New York, Feb. 27.—Charles Becker's application for a new trial on the indictment charging him with the murder of Herman Rosenthal was denied by the supreme court.

BLOCKADE NOT YET EFFECTIVE

Great Britain Is Expected to Close German Ports.

DIPLOMATS SHOW INTEREST

American Officials Decline to Make Any Comment Until Full Text of Note is Issued.

Washington, March 1.—Inasmuch as the United States government had not been advised either through Ambassador Page or the British embassy here of Great Britain's intention to neutralize all shipping to and from German and Austria officials would not express any opinion on this latest development.

From the telegraphic reports of Great Britain's plan it is thought in official circles that the blockade of an unprecedented character is in prospect, likely to involve many complicated questions of law.

It is pointed out that no question has been the subject of more controversy than the blockade and officials said until the text of England's declaration was received and carefully examined it would not be possible to say whether the United States would recognize it as binding with regard to American vessels.

Interest Among Neutrals.

The proposed declaration by the allies created widespread interest among diplomats. Some of the foreign envoys from neutral countries are particularly interested in the intimation that England does not intend to maintain a blockade of the German coast, but will hold herself at liberty to stop all shipping no matter where encountered on the high seas if bound to or from Germany.

There is no exact precedent for such a policy, but it is considered likely in diplomatic circles that discussion as to its validity and recognition by neutrals will be based on the theory that a "blockade" is being attempted. International law has several rules as to the maintenance of a naval and commercial blockade, many of which have been incorporated in conventions ratified by the present belligerents as well as treaties between the United States and some of the European powers.

STEAMER DACIA IS SEIZED

French Cruiser Recaptures American Cotton Vessel.

Paris, March 1.—A French cruiser has arrested the American steamer Dacia in the channel and taken her to Brest. This announcement is made officially.

The steamship Dacia left Galveston for Rotterdam on Jan. 31 with 11,000 bales of cotton, to be transhipped to Bremen. It was fully expected at that time that the ship would be seized on her way to Rotterdam, as Great Britain questioned the validity of the recent transfer of the Dacia from German to American registry.

SENATE MAY MEET ALONE

President Considering Extra Session to Act on Treaties.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Possibilities of an extra session of the senate after March 4 for consideration of treaties and nominations are being discussed among administration leaders. It is known that President Wilson is giving it consideration.

Treaties with Colombia to pay \$25,000,000 for the partition of Panama, and with Nicaragua to pay \$3,000,000 for interoceanic canal rights and naval bases, undoubtedly will fall of ratification at the present session.

PASSES POSTOFFICE BILL

Senate Allows Increased Pay for Rural Mail Carriers.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The senate passed the postoffice appropriation bill virtually as it passed the house, carrying a total of approximately \$323,000,000.

A recommendation of the senate committee, that the house provision fixing the salary of rural mail carriers on standard routes at \$1,000 a year be stricken out, was overruled in the senate by a vote of 62 to 10, adding \$2,700,000 to the bill as reported from the committee.

SEVEN FREED OF MURDER

Former Striking Colorado Miners Are Acquitted by Jury.

Pueblo, Colo., March 1.—The seven former striking coal miners on trial for the murder of Luke Terry, chauffeur, near La Veta, Nov. 8, 1913, were declared not guilty in the verdict of the jury returned in the district court.

Withdrawal Order Upheld.

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Tatt's withdrawal of oil land in California and Wyoming in 1909, without empowering legislation, was upheld by the supreme court and entry claims of individuals and corporations valued at hundreds of millions of dollars annulled thereby.

STATE NEWS BITS

Various Happenings of the Week Throughout Minnesota.

The investigation at the South St. Paul Stock Yards by the Tri-State Grain and Stock Growers' association committee is quietly securing figures on every phase of the marketing of live stock. Feed bills, prices paid for hogs, cattle and sheep by local and out of town buyers, etc., are being gone into by chartered accountants. Farmers' organizations and commercial clubs throughout the Northwest have commended the course pursued by the Live Stock Exchange in inviting the investigation.

There were 457,041 pupils attending the public schools of Minnesota in 1914, an increase of 8,184 over 1913. During the year the state distributed \$5.80 state aid for each pupil. The teachers' wages aggregated \$9,795,093; \$3,421,968 was spent for new schools and \$6,179,721 for all other purposes. The total disbursements aggregated \$19,396,782. These figures do not include the amount spent for support and maintenance of state normal schools.

Eighteen nuns in charge of six schools in Stearns county must be dismissed at the close of the present school year, or the districts they serve will be denied state aid and apportionment. The districts have been so informed through the office of County Superintendent W. A. Boeger. All of the nun teachers have certificates, which are valid in all semigraded and rural schools of classes A, B and C.

Companions for fifty years, two Winona county pioneers were carried to their graves at the same hour following the double service in the church at Homer. The deaths of Samuel A. Alling, ninety years old, and J. H. Lemay, seventy years old, occurred within a few hours of each other. Alling reached Winona county in 1854 and settled on a farm at Homer. Six years later Lemay came and took up an adjoining farm.

Remarkable growth of the telephone business in Minnesota is shown by reports filed in the office of State Treasurer Walter J. Smith. Eight years ago there were 168 telephone companies in the state, reporting gross earnings on which the state collected \$85,000. In 1914 there were 1,200 companies and their gross earnings entitles the state to a tax of \$250,000.

John Peterson of St. Peter, for twelve years collector of customs for Minnesota, died of heart trouble at Bethesda hospital, St. Paul, after a long illness. Mr. Peterson was born in Sweden seventy-three years ago and came to Minnesota soon after the Civil war, locating at St. Peter, where he made his home continuously up to the time of his last illness.

Minnesota will profit by at least \$100,000 in inheritance tax from the estate of Richard Sears, who died recently in Chicago, leaving \$13,000,000, according to Attorney General Lyndon A. Smith. Between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 of the Sears estate consists of bonds of several Minnesota cities.

Engineer David Jones of Austin was crushed probably fatally and seven persons were injured when a double-header passenger train on the St. Paul road crashed into a freight train three miles west of Albert Lea during a snow storm.

Michael R. Kelly, seventy-three years old, for sixty years a resident of St. Paul and one of the men who helped to lay the first line of railroad through what is now South Minneapolis, is dead.

George W. Van Dusen, a pioneer grain dealer of the Northwest, and who originated the idea of line elevators, is dead at Minneapolis after a long illness. He was eighty-nine years old.

Rev. T. H. Haugan, one of the best known ministers of the United Norwegian Lutheran church, is dead at Northfield, aged fifty years. He had been in ill health several years.

The Kingston Creamery company of Dassel scored highest among 150 buttermakers at the February contest of the dairy and food commission. Its mark was 96.

Two men were seriously and a woman slightly injured in a fire which destroyed the building occupied by the Johnson Hardware company at Hector.

P. H. Christensen, for many years one of Stillwater's best known business men, is dead at the age of fifty-three years.

Edward Clifton, eighty years old, a veteran of the Civil war, is dead at his home in Sauk Rapids.

E. V. Longcor, sixty-five years old, resident of Central Point for sixty years, is dead.

Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD

It goes without saying that poultry raising has a place in all general farming schemes. No feature is more important or profitable.

Owners of truck farms, of course, may not wish to give attention to poultry, but this is exceptional. In most cases farmers keep chickens and they wish to make this interest larger and more profitable. Owners of little farms who aim at a well balanced program can hardly afford to neglect poultry raising, for a very small space is required to conduct a chicken business that will pay in eggs and meat an average of \$100 a month, winter and summer. An acre for buildings and yard and two acres for range is all the room required for a plant carrying 500 laying hens and producing eggs and meat worth \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year. Nearly all the feed required can be grown on the little farm without crowding other interests.

To make a success with poultry, breeding stock must be selected from hardy and prolific fowls, culling out all that do not belong to good egg producing strains. It is well to aim at a larger meat production as well as more eggs. There is much room for improvement in all varieties and breeds as far as egg production is concerned, and it is time for the breeders of this country to get busy. There are wonderful possibilities along this line.



THE BEST PRODUCERS HAVE BROAD BODIES.

The best producers have broad bodies. The back is broad and the ribs are widespread, giving plenty of room for the egg organs and digestive organs. The bodies are solid. The birds are not loose jointed, but compactly built. Good layers are big eaters.

A big decrease in the egg yield in winter can be brought on more quickly by great variations in temperature, sudden changes in weather conditions, than by continued or prolonged spells of either cold or rainy weather. It will pay to keep a good hen until she is four years old, as her offspring will be superior, although she is likely to show a decline in egg production after the second year.

More depends upon the breeding of the male as to the number of eggs the offspring will produce than upon the female, yet it will pay to breed from the best layers in preference to the poorest. Breeders should select the variety which suits them best as to color, size and shape and breed up until the fowls satisfy them as to quality and productiveness. They make a mistake by jumping from one breed to another, trying to discover a better layer. It will pay the average poultryman to trap nest his flock in fall and winter and breed from the pullets which lay earliest in life and from the pullets and hens which lay in winter.

If a hen is given reasonably good shelter, feed and attention, she will net a reasonable profit if she has been properly bred. The purpose of properly feeding and housing a hen is not to feed eggs into her body, but so to feed and care for her that one may get out of her the eggs which breeding has placed there. Proper feeding, housing and care have a bearing on the number of eggs produced by a flock, but breeding is the most important factor. Hens must be fed liberally, especially in winter, if they are to yield a fair profit, but care must be taken to keep the larger breeds from becoming too fat. They must be made to exercise.

It is surprising how much grass and green stuff hens will eat if they can get it. Hens kept in confinement to do their "level best" must be supplied with raw cabbage or something green to take the place of grass and will eat greedily of boiled potatoes, boiled turnips, beets and parsnips. These vegetables are not only excellent food for them in addition to grain, but they are also among the cheapest. Hens in confinement must be provided in part with a flesh diet like meat scraps and the refuse of butcher shops. Like human beings they are fond of a change and appreciate a diversified menu.

All authorities are agreed that wheat and wheat screenings, supplemented with corn and buckwheat, are the best grains for egg production.

Grind the corn mostly, moisten the meal and feed it to the whole flock, as well as to the chicks. It saves a great deal of labor for their gizzards. Corn is objected to by some on the ground that it is too heating and fattening. Hens are fond of milk, and it is a valuable food for egg production, but to prevent waste it should be mixed with wheat bran, wheat middlings or cornmeal.

SUDAN GRASS.

Sudan grass promises to be one of the greatest blessings to the United States which the agricultural explorer ever brought to any country.

It is a drought resister and has made a ton of hay to the acre in very dry region without irrigation, and it is a better hay crop than millet for the wetter climates, making from one to three cuttings a season and yielding better in wet than in dry years.

There is a great danger, however, lurking in Sudan grass wherever Johnson grass will live over winter. Some men say that they can tell Sudan grass seed from that of Johnson grass, but Cottrell states that not even an expert can do so. Johnson grass may grow up in the field and infest the seed without the knowledge of the grower if there is any Johnson grass in the country.—Farm and Fireside.

PIT SILOS IN THE WEST.

They Are Particularly Profitable in Drier Farming Districts.

Scattered over the drier farming districts in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico there are something more than 2,000 big holes in the ground, dug for the specific purpose of fighting the effects of drought along lines that have already been proved successful, writes Robert H. Moulton. These holes vary from ten to twenty feet in diameter and from twenty to fifty feet in depth. They are lined with concrete. Some of them have concrete extensions above the surface of the ground.

They look exactly like what they are—holes in the ground. They suggest great cisterns, but their distance from any roof shed which might catch sufficient water to fill them even if the rains were heavy enough proves they are not cisterns.

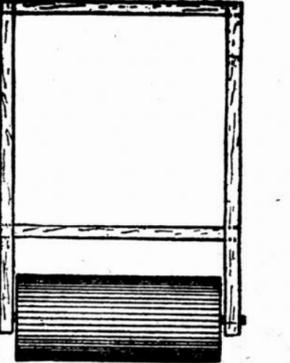
They are pit silos, and into them is packed the silage made from corn, Kaffir, milo and sorghum, which in the fall and through the winter not only keeps live stock alive, but fattens beef steers and causes milk cows to give large quantities of rich milk. And their number is increasing rapidly. It is only natural that a farmer without one of these holes in the ground, seeing with his own eyes that his neighbor has turned practically worthless corn fodder and Kaffir and sorghum stalks into feed worth from \$11 to \$20 per ton by packing it in the pit silo, should decide to build one for himself, especially since the cost is so small, say about \$25 to \$50. One man built his for \$4.45.

A small pit silo can be built for a cash expenditure of \$5 and a large one for \$15 to \$25. The pit silo has made sure and regular profits from small farms in the dry land districts of the southwest. Any farmer, no matter how poor, can have one. Forage crops never fail in any year. They can be preserved any length of time in the silo in a palatable form and with little loss. Silage fed to dairy cows with other dry land feeds insures a steady cash income every week in the year from cream, and the skim milk fed with dry land grains to pigs and hens assures additional cash.

The pit silo is no new thing. It has been in use, in isolated cases, for years, in widely separated states. A community in Iowa, a farmer in central Illinois, another in Mississippi, and others, have used pit silos for some time and found them satisfactory. But it is a new comer in the semiarid agricultural regions of the southwest, and its appreciable influence upon farming there dates back no further than two years. Last year, when the long drought came and burned up millions of acres of crops and \$100,000,000, there were enough pit silos in existence to prove to everyone that they are a necessary part of a successful farmer's equipment.

Garden Roller For Hand Use.

A roller should be used freely in the garden when the ground is dry, but not when wet, as it tends to pack the earth and retard the growing of the plants. The surface should always be made fine after rolling. A good roller for hand use is not expensive. The side pieces of the frame here illus-



trated are 1 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches, tapered from crossbars so as to be 1/2 by 2 inches at the handle, which is 2 by 2, and rounded. The crossbar close to the roller is five inches wide and has two tenons, 1/2 by 1 1/2 inches at each end. These are securely drawn into the side pieces to brace the frame. Gudgeons of three-quarter inch iron and of a good length are used in connection with the roller proper, which is made of a log eighteen inches in diameter and a trifle less than two feet long.—Orange Judd Farmer.