

VOLUME FORTY-TWO

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TAKE 100,000 AT ERZERUM

Capture of Turkish City Most Important of Recent War Events.

EFFECT MAY BE FAR REACHING

Allies Believe Fall of City Is Deadly Blow to Turkey—Gives Russia Key to Asia Minor, as in Two Previous Wars—Allied Lines Near Saloniki Extended and River Bridges Occupied—Austrians Repulse Italians.

Petrograd, via London, Feb. 17.—The official messenger estimates the Turkish garrison at Erzerum, capture of which was announced yesterday, as 100,000 men. It is also estimated that more than 1,000 guns were captured.

Public rejoicing over the capture of Erzerum is reflected in the newspaper comment on the fall of the fortress. The Novoe Vremya considers the capture to have enormous importance as it points out that Erzerum is a center of roads and railway routes and has immense depots for ammunition and supplies.

The Bourse Gazette believes that the capture will have an effect upon Persia and Afghanistan.

Effect Far Reaching. Paris, Feb. 17.—The capture of the great Turkish stronghold Erzerum is declared by French newspapers this morning as the greatest event of the war since the capture of Gallipoli. The military experts dwell upon the importance of the capture, declaring that it gives the Russians the key to Asia Minor and is a victory which will inevitably have far-reaching consequences.

General Bernhart in a deadly blow to Turkey but an event which can not fail to have its effect on the other theaters of the war.

President Poincare telegraphed congratulations on the capture of Erzerum today to Emperor Nicholas and Grand Duke Nicholas, and to the Russian forces on the Caucasian front.

It is said there were 467 guns in outer forts, 374 in the central forts and 200 field guns.

Great Strategic Point. The capture of Erzerum, which has been the objective of the recent campaign of the Russians in the Caucasus, represents one of the few definite accomplishments of the Caucasus campaign. Erzerum, which lies sixty miles west of the Russian border, is a city of great strategic importance, as it is the center of the Turkish empire and the center of a system of roads.

The Russians have twice decided wars against Turkey in their favor by the capture of Erzerum, and each time Erzerum has been handed back to the Turks. The capture of Erzerum in 1877 were unsuccessful, their occupation of the town during the armistice of 1878 finally brought the Turks to accept the terms of peace.

The assault and capture of the fortress by the Russians on July 29 during the campaign in Asia. The fortifications of Erzerum have been greatly strengthened since the attacks in 1877.

Turks Had Large Army. It is understood that the Turks had concentrated at Erzerum an army of considerable size, as recent press dispatches said German Field Marshal Baron von der Goltz was in command there with 80,000 men. It was said they had provisions for only a fortnight. A relief expedition sent by the Turks, but it was reported these forces had been defeated by the Russians, with heavy losses to the Ottoman army.

Last September Grand Duke Nicholas, who had been Russian commander-in-chief, was sent to the Caucasus to take charge of the campaign. He received reinforcements and several weeks ago began active operations. This campaign is designed to relieve pressure on the British in Mesopotamia, and it is assumed a junction with the British is expected.

ALLIES EXTEND LINES. Occupy All Bridges Over Vardar River in Saloniki. Paris, Feb. 17.—A Havas dispatch from Athens, dated Feb. 16, says that the French have occupied all the bridges over the Vardar river and that the Greeks have occupied the river from Toplan down to its mouth, according to a telegram received from Saloniki.

The Greek newspaper Patria has received word from Florina, according to the Greek inhabitants of Monastir and of the neighboring villages has been rendered exceedingly difficult by the operations of Macedonian Bulgarians, who are extorting money and pillaging the property of the Greeks. Many Greeks of prominent positions, the newspaper correspondent says, have been deported to Sofia. It is added that in explanation of their action in sending away the neutral consuls from Monastir, the Bulgarian authorities declare that they took this measure because they now consider that Monastir is within the zone of military operations in consequence of its bombardment by French aeroplanes.

Hospitals on the Vardar river, about fifteen miles northwest of Saloniki, is the point from which it has been announced that the line of defenses of the Saloniki camp of the allies begins to the west. From there it mounts the river to Karasuli and sweeps thence into a semi-circle to the southwest, enclosing Saloniki.

GERMANY TAKES BACK PROMISE

Assurance Regarding Warning Before Attacking Ships Withdrawn.

ONLY POINT IN DISPUTE SETTLED

Agreement in Lusitania Case Reached With Exception of Insistence of United States That Merchantmen Must Not Be Attacked Without Warning—Germany to Insist That Armed Ships Must Not Attack Subs.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Secretary Lansing today accepted the Lusitania agreement as acceptable to the United States, insofar as it relates to that case, but asked Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, assurances that Germany will not carry out its policy of sinking merchant ships without warning to liners, even if they carry defensive armament. The question of what constitutes defensive armament is to be determined later in a way not yet agreed upon. It is suggested that the United States may propose that guns mounted on the stern of ships and capable of being swung from 15 to 30 degrees in either direction might come within that class.

Secretary Lansing is understood to have told the ambassador that while Germany's position is recognized as well founded, the United States must insist that Germany conform to her practices to international law, inasmuch as the United States have decided to make any changes.

The Lusitania agreement will be kept by Mr. Lansing and later will be published with assurances the United States hopes to receive from Germany.

Meanwhile, it was said, the United States would make efforts to have the entente allies agree not to put guns of any kind on passenger carrying liners.

Ambassador von Bernstorff, when he returned to his embassy, sent a long dispatch to Berlin, setting forth fully the position of the United States, as outlined to him, and which was substantially as stated in last night's news dispatches.

Germany Changes View. It was stated that Germany, because of its unusual position, can not and will not accept the suggestion of the United States, as it now stands, that liners carrying arms shall be immune from attack under previous assurances. Germany is prepared to inform the United States that if passenger liners leaving American ports with defensive armament are to be immune from submarine attack, as Germany promised last summer in the Arabic case, the Berlin government expects some assurances that the liners will not be attacked by submarines.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, has an engagement to confer with Secretary Lansing today and he is expected to convey this view in reply to the secretary's statement yesterday that it is desirable that the German government, in making its declaration in carrying out its new campaign after Feb. 29, it intended to abide by the assurances it gave in the Arabic case that "liners would not be attacked without warning, unless they attempted to resist such assurances, as it is indicated Germany may now ask, probably would apply only to Italian ships, as British passenger-carrying liners have not been armed even with the small guns allowed for defensive purposes since the outbreak of the war.

May Restrict Radio Messages. To avoid any complications in the proposed extension of the censorship on wireless messages at Sayville, Secretary Daniels today appointed a board of naval officers, headed by Capt. W. G. Bullard, chief of the radio service, to consider whether the revision should permit the passage into the United States of radio messages referring to naval vessels of the countries at war.

Austria's Notice Received. The Austrian notice of the intention to treat armed belligerent merchantships without warning, was received today by the state department from Ambassador Penfield, in Vienna. It is dated Feb. 10, and is in line with the German declaration on the same subject already published.

COMMONS DISCUS SHIPPING. Question of Requisitioning Merchant Ships Up For Consideration. London, Feb. 17.—The question of requisitioning merchant shipping is one of the important matters which come up for consideration when debate on the address in reply to the king's speech is resumed in the house of commons today.

The amendment is presented by Basil Edward Peto, member of the Devels division of Wiltshire, who expresses regret in the amendment that the government "has not taken measures to utilize economically the available tonnage and put it under the control of a central authority which will fill power to requisition and direct the movement of all vessels during the war."

It is expected that an important reply will be elicited by this amendment from Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, in behalf of the government.

It is understood that it is the present intention of Premier Asquith to take the new vote of credit in the house of commons next Monday.

Japanese Steamer on Fire. San Francisco, Feb. 17.—The steamer Panama Maru, which arrived at Yokohama from San Francisco two days ago, experienced a fire at sea, according to a report received here today. Details were lacking.

GERMAN STEAMSHIP Magnate Warns of Trouble After War

London, Feb. 17.—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says the manager of one of the greatest German shipping companies in an interview with the Bremen Telegraph expresses a most pessimistic opinion concerning the effects of a possible breach of relations between Germany and the United States.

This shipper who, the dispatch says, is believed to be Alfred Ballin, director general of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, is quoted as follows: "A breach of Germany's relations with America would have a most serious effect. All of America's money and munitions would be at the disposal of the entente allies. We should have to take over the feeding of the Belgians, and America's attitude probably would induce other neutrals to attack us. All our ships would finally be held in American ports. Our plight would be most difficult."

Germany will have to replenish her stocks of raw material. Do not let us entertain any illusions with regard to England. She will continue commercial warfare long after military operations are over. She will take over the world with South Africa and Australia and it will take years for our passenger service to reach a condition anything like that which existed before the war."

PLANNED TO KIDNAP BANKER'S CHILDREN. El Paso Dentist and Two Alleged Confederates Indicted, Charged With Conspiracy to Steal Boys and Hold Them For Ransom.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 17.—Two men were in jail today, and another, Dr. Henry A. Magruder, a dentist, out on bond, charged in an indictment returned by the county grand jury with having conspired to kidnap the young sons of William L. Tooley and Herman Andreas, bankers of this city. The boys were held for ransom of \$50,000. The two men in jail are Jesus Villaseor, a former officer of the Villa army, and Werner Fliche, a refugee from Mexico.

W. W. Bridges, district attorney, said today he knew of no other men involved in the alleged conspiracy, although county officials were said to be searching for two other men believed to be confederates of Magruder.

Villaseor and Fliche were arrested Feb. 8, and have been in prison since that time.

Dr. Magruder and Fliche made statements to county officials concerning details of the alleged plot, which, it is said was to have been carried out Feb. 9. One of the statements set out that a Mexican said to be now in jail at Juarez, first broached the proposition to kidnap the children of the bankers.

According to the county officials, the plan was to take the children into the mountains of New Mexico. A note then was to be sent to the bankers demanding the ransom. The ransom was to be deposited in a designated bank, and the boys were to be liberated and told to walk back home.

No date has been set for the appearance of the men in court.

Plan Expedition into Mexico. Washington, Feb. 17.—Private advices to the war department today tell of an alleged plan of Mexicans on the American side of the border, particularly in California and Texas, for an expedition to cross into northern Mexico to embarrass the Carranza government.

Major General Funston, commanding the American forces on the border, has been notified to take steps to prevent violation of American neutrality.

Villa Reported at Bustillos. El Paso, Tex., Feb. 17.—Francisco Villa was reported at Bustillos, seven to five miles west of Chihuahua City, in Gaviro, at Juarez. Official information to Gaviro also contained a report that bandits had burned a Mexican Central railroad bridge at Los Minna.

KHEDIVE IS DISSATISFIED. British Authorities Said to Have Tendered Throne to Prince Yusuff. Berlin, wireless to Sayville, Feb. 17.—Advices from Cairo, as given out today by the Overseas News Agency, state that the khedive of Egypt has become discontented and that the British have offered the throne to Prince Yusuff, who has declined. The leader of the Senussi is said to have informed the British he was powerless to suppress the rebels.

IOWA CENTENARIAN DEAD. Josephus Cooper, of Winterset, 102 Years Old, Passes Away. Winterset, Feb. 17.—Josephus Cooper, 102 years old, died here today from an illness resulting from a recent attack of grip. Mr. Cooper was a farmer.

Naval Collier Justin Sold. San Francisco, Feb. 17.—The United States naval collier Justin was reported today in advices from Washington to have been sold to N. A. Bussey, Jr., of New York on his bid of \$91,107. Navy appraisers fixed the value of the vessel some time ago at \$75,000. Previous bids were rejected on charges of irregularity.

Consider Unification of Work. New York, Feb. 17.—The executive commission of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States is meeting to consider means of unifying the missionary and benevolent work of the church and to devise methods of obtaining money for its eleven mission boards and agencies.

SAYS BRANDEIS WRECKED ROAD

Moorfield Storey Corroborates Testimony of C. W. Barron.

HIRED TO DESTROY NEW ENGLAND LINE

Nominee For Supreme Bench Pictured as Capable and Energetic Man But When Necessary to Advance His Own Objects, Not Scrupulous, Nor to Be Trusted—Aided New Haven to Acquire Competing Railroad.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Moorfield Storey, of Boston, an attorney, charged before the judicial sub-committee of the senate today that Louis D. Brandeis helped to wreck the New York & New England railroad in 1892 and 1893, with the result that it was absorbed by the New Haven railroad.

Asked as to Mr. Brandeis' reputation as a lawyer, Mr. Storey testified: "I think his reputation as a lawyer is that he is a very capable, very energetic man, and if necessary to advance his objects, he is not scrupulous as to his methods, nor is he to be trusted."

Corroborates Barron's Testimony. Storey had been summoned by the committee. Senator Walsh told the witness that C. W. Barron, of Boston, had said Brandeis was once employed to wreck the New England railroad.

"I think that is true," said Mr. Storey. He proceeded to describe the New England as a competitor of the New Haven between Boston and New York.

"Shortly before the spring of 1892," he said, "the New Haven began to harass the New England, which ran part way to New York over the New Haven tracks. The New Haven first refused to advance freight for the New England, and it seriously interfered with its trains and there were indications that it was the purpose of the New Haven to destroy the New England."

LORIMER PLACED ON TRIAL. Motion of Defense to Consolidate Charges Is Granted. Chicago, Feb. 17.—William Lorimer, former United States senator, attended today the opening session of his trial on charges of wrecking the LaSalle Street Trust and Savings Bank, of which he was president.

Judge Dever, of the criminal court, presiding, granted preliminary motions of the defense, that the major charge of conspiracy to defraud be consolidated with the minor charges of wrecking the bank and the charges of insolvency and of confidence games resulting from misrepresentation of the bank's assets.

The court granted motions of the prosecution for a separate trial for John C. Seagraves, director of the bank, and the dismissal of indictments against Charles G. Fox, cashier of the institution, and John B. DeVoney, president of the International Trust and Savings Bank, a subsidiary.

ADVOCATES CHURCH UNITY. Union in Work of Methodist Episcopal Churches Is Urged. Chicago, Feb. 17.—Unification of churches would double their strength and in no way interfere with their work, asserted Rev. Thomas Nicholson, of New York, secretary of the board of education of the Methodist Episcopal church, at the Methodist conference on church unity. He strongly urged the Methodist Episcopal church and the Methodist Episcopal church South to unify their work.

Henry Snyder, president of Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C., outlined the connection of negroes with the Methodist church.

ARMY PLANS TAKE SHAPE. House and Senate Committees Working on Bills. Plans for increasing the federal army and for federalization of the national guards began to take shape today. The house committee began the task of framing a federalization bill, while the senate committee resumed work on a bill to increase the regular army to between 100,000 and 120,000 men.

It is expected the bills will be laid before the house and senate within three weeks, although the naval building plan will not be completed for some weeks.

VICTIM OF BUZZ SAW. Melvin Cope, of Little Sioux, Killed, and Body Fearfully Mutilated. Special to Times-Republican. Little Sioux Falls, Feb. 17.—Melvin Cope, aged 46, while operating a buzz saw, was killed and his body fearfully mutilated. The saw was thrown from its setting and striking Cope on the shoulder nearly cut his body in two. Some years ago his wife shot herself. Five small children are left.

TRUCK DROPS FROM BRIDGE. Three Ton Automobile Struck by Street Car Plunged Into River. Omaha, Feb. 17.—A loaded three-ton automobile truck today was knocked from a Missouri river bridge by an Omaha and Council Bluffs street car, falling sixty feet to the Iowa side of the river. James Murray, the truck driver, was instantly killed.

The street car, which was filled with passengers, was badly wrecked. Recommend License For Engineers. Des Moines, Feb. 17.—A law requiring a state license for engineers was recommended in resolutions adopted today by the Iowa Engineering Society.

T-R BULLETIN. NEWS OF THE DAY

The Weather. Sun rises Feb. 18 at 6:49, sets at 6:59. Iowa—Fair tonight and Friday; somewhat cooler in west portion tonight and in east portion Friday.

Fair weather has continued in all parts of the United States except on the extreme North Pacific coast and on the Atlantic coast from New Jersey northward. The temperature has remained moderate except over the southeastern coast, where it is below the normal, and light frost occurred at Tampa, Fla. Fair weather will continue in this vicinity tonight and Friday, but it will be somewhat cooler tonight. The lowest temperature tonight will be about 26 degrees.

PAGE ONE. Telegraphic News: Brandeis Accused of Wrecking Railroad. Russians Capture 100,000 Men at Erzerum. Snow Blow to Turkey. Germany Changes Front on Sea Controversy. Withdraws Promise to Warn Merchantmen. Nine Dead in Texas Opera House Fire.

PAGES TWO, THREE AND FOUR. Iowa News: Farmers Meeting Best Ever. Egan Disbarred. One Pig Is Doomed. Novel School Idea. Ames Couple Married Seventy Years. Mother Kills Self and Baby. PAGE FIVE. General News: Kahn Urges Basic Army Legislation. Miscellaneous Matters. PAGE SIX. Women Voters in Illinois. Education of His Meetings. Wanted—A Secretary of State. Topics and Iowa Opinion. PAGES SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN.

City News: Young Laurel Man Attempts Suicide. Lloyd Paul Shoots Himself; Will Live. Gordon Meetings Brought to Close. No Inquest in Louks Case. Clyde Whitney Dead. General and Brief City News. PAGE TWELVE. Markets and General: Hessian Fly Scare Makes Wheat Firm. Advance Brings Out Much Corn. Cattle Prices Steady. Hogs Score Advance. Roosevelt Seeks Second Choice Delegates.

recommended in resolutions adopted today by the Iowa Engineering Society. M. N. Hall, of Centerville, was elected president to succeed W. H. Kinnball, C. H. Young, of Muscatine, was elected vice president.

A. O. U. W. VOTE RATE RAISE. Change Will Mean Increased Revenue From \$150,000. Des Moines, Feb. 17.—By a vote of 366 to 39 the grand lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in session at the chamber of commerce, voted to increase the rates on all outstanding insurance now under the former rate. The change will mean an increase of from 20 to 50 per cent in the cost of approximately \$15,000,000 worth of insurance held by several thousand policy holders in Iowa, Indiana and Kentucky. The necessity of a change in the rate was the primary reason for the meeting, and the officials felt highly elated over the outcome.

Four years ago it was decided that all new business should be written under the new rate based on scientific lines. About half of the insurance is already on that basis.

The action of the grand lodge puts every cent of insurance held in the A. O. U. W. on a sound basis, the officers say, and secures every policy by an adequate reserve.

Action will be taken upon the report of the committee appointed to investigate the advisability of erecting a structure in this city to house the grand lodge.

INVESTIGATION IS FAVORED. Grain Dealers' Association to Ascertain Membership of Farmers in Exchange. Des Moines, Feb. 17.—A thorough investigation of the terminal grain market situation, to ascertain the membership of farmers in grain exchanges, is to be made by the Iowa Grain Dealers' Association, according to an announcement today.

The association voted \$300 to carry out the investigation.

MEREDITH FOR CABINET JOB. Iowa Democrats Want Wilson to Make Publisher Agricultural Secretary. Special to Times-Republican. Washington, Feb. 17.—National Committee member Wilbur Marsh and Representative Tom Steele called at the White House today to urge the president to appoint E. T. Meredith, of Des Moines, secretary of agriculture if Secretary Houston is made secretary of war.

Iowa Supreme Court. Special to Times-Republican. Des Moines, Feb. 17.—The supreme court today handed down the following opinions: Edmunds, appellant, vs. Griffin, sheriff; Polk county. Affirmed. Opinion by Deemer. Mitchell vs. Beck, appellant; Lee county. Affirmed. Opinion by Sallinger. In re estate of Workman, deceased; Green county. Reversed. Opinion by Gaynor. Egerly vs. City of Ottumwa; Wapello county. Affirmed. Opinion by Ladd. The Mertens Construction Company vs. Brown, appellant; Woodbury county. Affirmed. Opinion by Evans, chief justice. Gibson et al. vs. City of Des Moines, appellant; Polk county. Affirmed.

SENATOR ALLEN RESIGNS. Leaves Upper House to Become Candidate For Governor. Des Moines, Feb. 17.—Joseph H. Allen, of Pocahontas, today resigned as state senator in order that he may be a candidate for the republican nomination for governor. The resignation was handed to Governor Clarke.

Senator Cunningham, of Buena Vista county, speaker of the lower house in the Thirty-Fifth general assembly, announced today that he will be a candidate for state senator from his district.

Senate Receives Mexican Data. Washington, Feb. 17.—All the state department data on the Mexican situation, called for by Senator Fall's resolution, was sent to the senate late today by President Wilson. Much of it the senate will be asked to keep in confidence because of its relation to the international affairs of the United States.

NINE DEAD IN TEXAS FIRE

Opera House and Other Buildings Collapse During Entertainment.

EXPLOSION FOLLOWS BLAZE

Six Men Killed in Adjoining Cafe—School Superintendent and Teacher Among Victims—Police Officials Believe Explosion Caused Disaster and Investigation is Under Way—Several Buildings Burned in Fire.

Mexia, Tex., Feb. 17.—The number of persons killed as the result of the collapse of the opera house here last night, and the resulting fire, remained at nine this morning. A. B. Wiesner, superintendent of the city school, Mrs. Wiesner and Prof. A. C. Bruton were killed when the building collapsed. A number of others in the building at the time received injuries.

Two doors from the opera house six men were killed in a cafe when the hall collapsed and a gas explosion, followed by fire, occurred.

A number of buildings were destroyed by fire with a loss estimated at \$75,000.

Plans were made today for an official investigation. Patrick Rocher, chief of police, said he believed the collapse of the house was due to an explosion.

All persons who had been in the opera house have been accounted for.

TRACING POISON "CHEF." Chicago Police Believe Crones to Hiding in New York or Boston. Chicago, Feb. 17.—Captain Nicholas Hunt announced today his conclusion that Jean Crones, the assistant chef, wanted for putting poison in soup served at the banquet to Archbishop Mundelein last Thursday here, is hiding in New York or Boston.

According to Captain Hunt there is a large colony of anarchists in Boston.

Presence of a second poison mentioned in the Crones letter as having been put in the soup served at the banquet, was discovered today in fact by the city chemist. The poison was of a metallic nature, which would tend to counteract the effect of another poison mingled with it, chemists said.

BATTLING AGAINST FLOODS. Boats Scarce and Rescuers Are Kept Busy on Lower Mississippi. New Orleans, La., Feb. 17.—Flood waters from the crevasse in the Mississippi river at Buckridge today after filling Lake Bruin, seven miles below Newellton, approached the town of St. Joseph.

Hundreds of recruits have joined the parties rescuing marooned persons. Boats are scarce.

Early morning reports showed that the 500 workers at New Roads were holding their own against the river's attack on the levee there.

So far three unidentified negroes are the only victims of the high water.

MANY INJURED IN WRECK. Fourteen Seriously Hurt When Four Coaches Leave Track. Richmond, Va., Feb. 17.—The Seaboard Air Line's Florida Limited, No. 10, northbound, was wrecked today at Kingsland bridge, ten miles south of here, while running at high speed. No one was killed. Fourteen persons were badly injured, and others less seriously hurt.

The engine tender jumped the track, ripping up the rails and ties and four coaches went down a steep embankment. The injured were brought to Richmond hospitals.

MUST PROVIDE ARMORY. Suitable Quarters Must Be Procured or Muscatine Will Lose Battery. Des Moines, Feb. 17.—Adj. Gen. Guy E. Logan announced today that business men of Muscatine may erect a new armory to house Battery C, Iowa National Guard, in order to save that organization from being mustered out.

There is no room in the new \$50,000 armory at Muscatine to care for the battery, the second field battery to be formed in the state. The lower floor is leased to an automobile company which refuses to leave.