

## GERMANS BLAME GREAT BRITAIN

### Answer to American Note Seeks to Excuse Submarine Policy.

## ENGLAND ACCUSED OF IGNORING LAWS

### Submarine Warfare Undertaken as Reprisal Because of Blockade of Germany in Effort to Starve Civilian Population - Insists International Law Does Not Cover Submarine Question.

Washington, March 8.—The German government in a memorandum handed today by Count von Bernstorff, to Secretary Lansing, outlines in detail its position in regard to armed ships, reviews events leading to its decision to resort to submarine warfare, and states that international law does not provide for the use of submarines, and expresses a willingness to operate its submarines in accordance with international law prevailing prior to the outbreak of the war.

Washington, March 8.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, today at the instruction of his government handed to Secretary Lansing a long memorandum explaining in detail the German position in regard to armed merchant ships and the causes leading up to the decision to torpedo without warning all armed merchantmen of the enemy.

Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff decided to divulge its contents. It is understood to contain the allegation that Great Britain had taken advantage of the contention of the United States that Americans must be safe on defensively-armed merchantmen by having those ships act offensively toward enemy submarines.

The German government, it is understood, conceded that as submarines are a new engine of warfare, international law makes no provision for their use.

The German government is understood to concede its willingness to operate its submarines in accordance with international law prevailing prior to the war, provided Great Britain does not violate the same laws.

It is understood that the memorandum contains the evidence appended to the late German announcement proves that British ships armed ostensibly for defense have been instructed to act, and have acted, offensively, and that they are not peaceful traders, as the United States was assured they would be by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador.

The memorandum is also understood to reiterate the previous declarations that submarine warfare was begun by Germany in reprisal for the announced intention of Great Britain to starve the civilian population of the central empires.

The memorandum is also understood to refer to the long-standing friendship between the United States and Germany and to express the hope that the American people will be familiar with the explanation, fully appreciate the position in which Germany finds herself as a result of the blockade.

Says Reprisals Are Justified. By way of supporting the contention that Germany's reprisals are justified the memorandum is said to enumerate various actions of Great Britain which are said to have operated against neutrals and their citizens. These are cited to show that Great Britain has violated international law.

It is pointed out that Germany agreed to abide by certain terms in a declaration of London, but that inasmuch as Great Britain has not restrained her actions to conform with the terms of the declaration, Germany can not be expected to agree to operate under a code which Great Britain disregards.

PATROLS WATCH FOR VILLA. Rebel Leader Reported Thirty-five Miles South of Border.

El Paso, Tex., March 8.—United States Patrols along the New Mexico Mexican border continued a sharp watch today for Francisco Villa. The vigilance was maintained throughout the night on reports that Villa was at Palomas, thirty-five miles south of Columbus, N. M., with 400 men.

Definite information of Villa's intention was unobtainable but his presence near the border gave rise to a variety of speculative rumors. One that gained wide circulation intimated that the rebel leader was approaching the border to establish communication with the revolutionary movement of Felix Diaz.

Reports were lacking on the movement of Canadian troops which Andrew Garcia, Mexican consul, announced had been disposed to force Villa to give battle or seek refuge in the United States.

Holds Americans Prisoners. Columbus, Mo., March 8.—With three American captives held at prisoners, Francisco Villa was reported today at a point on the Boca Grande river in Chihuahua, fifteen miles west of Chihuahua, and twenty-seven miles south of the border.

## Text of German Note on U-Boat Controversy

Washington, March 8.—The text of the memorandum presented by Count von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing today follows:

"The imperial German government, on account of the friendly relations which have always existed between the two great nations, and earnestly desiring to continue them, wishes to explain the U-boat question once more to the American government.

"At the outbreak of the war, the German government immediately expressed its readiness to ratify the declaration of London. At that time a German prize code already had been issued which was entirely based upon the rules of the declaration of London.

"Germany thereby proved her willingness to recognize fully the existing rules of international law, which insure the freedom of the seas for the trade of neutral nations, not only among themselves but also with belligerent countries.

"Great Britain on the other hand declared its readiness to ratify the declaration of London and after the outbreak of the war began to restrict the legitimate trade of the neutrals in order to hit Germany. The contraband provisions were systematically extended on Aug. 5 and Oct. 29, 1914. On Nov. 11, 1914, the order of the British admiralty followed, declaring the whole North sea a war zone in which commercial shipping would be exposed to the most serious danger from mines and submarines.

"Protests from neutral powers were of no avail, and from that time on the freedom of neutral commerce with Germany was practically destroyed. Under these circumstances Germany was compelled to resort to reprisals.

"The use of the submarine naturally necessitated a restriction of free movement of neutrals and constituted a danger for them which Germany intended to warn off by a special warning analogous to the warning England had given regarding the North sea.

"Germany, after neutral citizens had lost their lives against the wish and intention, nevertheless in the further course of the war, complied with the wish of the American government regarding the use of her submarines.

"Then England made it impossible for submarines to conform with the old rules of international law by arming her merchantmen and ordering the use of guns on merchant vessels for attack.

"The principle of the United States government not to keep her citizens off merchant ships has been used by Great Britain and her allies to arm merchant ships for offensive purposes. Under these circumstances merchantmen can easily destroy submarines.

"The order to use arms on merchantmen was supplemented to ram U-boats. Reports on payment of premiums to successful masters of merchantmen show the effect of these orders.

## VERDUN BATTLE NEARING CRISIS

### Next Two Days Probably Will Determine Control of Fortress.

## GERMANS MAKING ADDED PROGRESS

### Real Struggle to Emerge When German Hurl Masses of Soldiers Against Heights Acting as Barrier to Strategic Point in Latest Drive Toward Paris—France Confident Army Will Withstand Assaults.

Paris, March 8.—France awaits anxiously but confidently the issue of today's battle. The Germans thus far, at the cost of large losses, have obtained command of the approaches to the main French position beyond the west bank of the river Meuse.

The real struggle will begin when German masses hurl themselves again on the four miles of heights extending from Beaucourt to Commercy. Yesterday's attacks left the battle undecided. Corbeaux wood, in which the Germans succeeded in establishing themselves, is within a hollow between Dead Man and Goose-Hills, and as neither position is endangered, the German success is of little strategic importance.

It is known here that the Germans set aside 300,000 men to capture Verdun. Only 200,000 having been employed up to yesterday, it was a question whether the remaining 100,000 would be used to make a sudden descent on some other part of the French line in developing the offensive against the fortress. The heavy attack west of the river, however, leaves that question no longer to be settled.

France is confident. The impression of members of parliament who are kept informed of the progress of the battle is that the defense will be able to resist all onslaughts, and that Goose Hill, on the left bank, will play a role similar to Douaumont on the right. It is expected that the battle will reach its climax tomorrow or Friday. Not until then will it be possible to judge which way the battle will go.

In the Champagne the French have recaptured portions of the trenches lost on March 6, according to semi-official announcement made here today.

The situation north of Verdun is unchanged. No infantry attacks were made last night.

Germania Take Villages and Heights. Berlin, March 8.—It was announced that the villages of Forres and Reineville, the heights of Raben and the Cumeres woods were in German possession. The capture of fifty-eight officers, 3,270 men and some cannon is reported.

In the Woerze district the French were driven out of the last houses they held in the village of Fresnes. More than 700 prisoners were made.

RUSSIANS CONTINUE ADVANCE. Marching on Trebizond, Key to Final Control of Black Sea Territory.

Petrograd, via London, March 8.—The success of the Russian Black sea maneuvers, in which the Russians landed troops to the east of Trebizond, is attracting great attention.

## WILSON FREE TO PUSH POLICY

### Action of Congress Gives Him Free Hand in Dealing With Germany.

## NEXT STEP WILL BE REPLY TO GERMANY

### United States Will Ask Further Assurances Guaranteeing That Submarine Campaign Will Not Endanger Lives—Final Vote Killing McLeMORE Resolution Is 276 to 142, Making Wilson's Victory in Controversy Complete.

Washington, March 8.—With congress standing squarely behind him, President Wilson was prepared to go ahead with the submarine negotiations with the central powers. After an all-day contest the house last night answered the president's demand for an expression of sentiment on the armed ship issue.

By a vote of 276 to 142, the house tabled the McLeMORE resolution to warn Americans off armed ships. This action, together with that in the senate in killing a similar resolution, have freed the president from the bounds of embarrassment forced upon him by dissensions in congress.

The president's next step probably will be to answer Germany's last proposal to settle the Lusitania case. In this the United States will ask further assurances guaranteeing that the new submarine campaign will not endanger American lives.

## OFFER SOLUTION OF FREIGHT PROBLEM

### Carriers Propose to Increase Demurrage and Storage at Terminals and to Reduce Time Allowed For Unloading Without Extra Charge.

Washington, March 8.—The interstate commerce commission had before it for consideration today suggestions designed to solve the problems of freight congestion at the eastern terminals of trunk line railroads and of car shortages in the west.

The proposals were made during a two day conference between the commission, shippers, carriers and others.

The conference adjourned last night after a three hour discussion of the situation.

It is likely that one result of the conference will be the submission by the carriers of definite proposals to the commission for increasing the demurrage and storage at terminals and reducing the time allowed for unloading of cars without extra charge.

RESULTS COME IN SLOWLY. Indiana's First Preferential Primary in Doubt.

Indianapolis, March 8.—Results of Indiana's first preferential presidential primary were much in doubt today. Returns on the principal contests, which were waged for the republican nomination for United States senator and governor, had been received from only about one-sixth of the precincts.

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## STEEL COMPANIES UNDER INDICTMENT

### True Bills Returned Against United States Steel Company, Five Other Corporations and Judge Gary, in Ohio District Court.

Youngstown, O., March 8.—Indictments were returned today by the Mahoning county grand jury against the United States Steel Company, five other steel companies, and Judge G. H. Gary, executive chairman of the United States Steel Company. The defendants are charged with having conspired to form a trust to fix wages in violation of the laws of Ohio.

The indictments followed an investigation of the East Youngstown riots and labor troubles in January.

Tin Soldiers Unknown to Baker in Cleveland, O., March 8.—His nomination already confirmed by the senate, Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, left today for Washington, where he will take the oath of office and enter upon his duties as secretary of war.

Baker's Nomination Confirmed. Washington, March 8.—Taking the oath of office was all that was necessary today to make Newton D. Baker secretary of war. His nomination was confirmed by the senate late yesterday. Mr. Baker is expected here today.

BRANDEIS HEARINGS CLOSE. Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee Completes Taking of Evidence.

Washington, March 8.—Public hearings on the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, to be associate justice of the supreme court, was terminated today by the judiciary sub-committee of the senate. The inquiry has been in progress for a month. No indication was given as to when a report would be made to the judiciary committee.

## T-R BULLETIN. NEWS OF THE DAY

### The Weather. Sun rises March 9 at 6:02, sets at 6:01. Iowa—Partly cloudy and warmer tonight; Thursday unsettled; warmer in east and south portions.

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## INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION.

### Wheat Affected by Government Report. Corn Market Easier. Flour Again Advance Sharply. Strength in Cattle Market. Government Crop Report.

Washington, March 8.—Members of the navy advisory board gathered here to attend a conference with the representatives of engineering societies and the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World to consider plans to mobilize the industries, including railroads and other resources of the country.

The purpose of the conference is to ascertain how much assistance might be given by large business concerns. This work will be classified after which certain work will be assigned to railroads and business firms.

House Leaves Washington. Washington, March 8.—Col. E. M. House, who has been here two days, returning to Europe, returned early today to New York. The president will continue corresponding with him regarding questions pending, and may go to New York soon to pay him a visit.

## MOVES TO QUASH INDICTMENT.

### Orpet's Attorney Not Prepared For Early Trial of Case. Waukegan, Ill., March 8.—Will H. Orpet, indicted for the murder of the chief of police, which stated that whose body was found in a wood near her home at Lake Forest after she had died of poisoning, was arraigned in circuit court today.

His attorney entered a motion that the indictment be quashed, and Judge Edwards granted the motion for the motion for next Monday morning. The attorney said he was not prepared for an early trial, and that after the preliminary motion was disposed of he would ask to have the case go over to the October term of court.

## BELIEVES BOMB WRECKED PLANT

### Head of Chemical Company Claims Explosion Was Caused by Enemies.

## ONE KILLED; ONE INJURED BY EXPLOSION

### Fire Today Threatens to Complete Destruction Begun Last Night When Blast and Resultant Blaze Caused Damage Estimated at \$150,000 to Factory at Niagara Electro-Chemical Company.

Niagara Falls, March 8.—Fire following an explosion in the chlorate department of the Niagara Electro-Chemical Company here today threatened to complete the destruction of the plant, begun last night when several explosions and the resultant fire inflicted damage estimated at \$150,000.

The explosion was heard for several miles around and across the Niagara cataract in Canada, where it caused a hasty mobilization of the militia guarding the frontier.

Dr. Hector Carvath, manager of the company, issued a formal statement today saying the plant had been "bombed."

The firemen had difficulty because the water mixing with chemicals added fuel to the flames. No one was injured by today's explosion. One man was killed and another injured in the explosion last night. Dr. Carvath said he has ascertained the explosion was caused by a bomb set off in the peroxidal department.

Explosion Caused by Dynamite. The first explosion was of great force, windows in nearly all buildings within the radius of a block being shattered. The subsequent explosions occurred after the firemen had turned water into the burning building, and are believed to have been caused by chemical action. The police believe the first explosion was caused by dynamite.

Three weeks ago one of the walls of Castner Alkali Company's plant was wrecked by an explosion. At that time it was said that the electro-chemical compounds were making a high explosive which was being sold in Europe, but this was subsequently denied by officials of the Castner company.

## INVESTIGATE JAIL FIRE.

### Grand Jury to Hold Inquiry Into Disaster at El Paso. El Paso, Tex., March 8.—An inquiry to determine the cause of the fire at the city jail Monday was to be begun late this afternoon, according to plans of local officials. A formal coroner's inquest was to be supplemented by a county grand jury investigation, which Judge Jackson ordered to be prosecuted with vigor.

Early today the death list remained at eighteen with six or more of the scores of injured reported in a critical condition.

Charles Phelps, motorman, who was shot and seriously wounded Monday night, was reported in a precarious condition. Phelps was shot by a Mexican who boarded his car following reports that the Mexicans had been purposely burned.

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INVESTIGATE JAIL FIRE. Mrs. Lew Shaw, Expert Billiardist, Dies in Chicago, Ill., in Restaurant.

Des Moines, March 8.—The supreme court today ruled as follows: Cray et al. vs. Beatty et al., appellants. Boone county. Affirmed. Oviatt et al. vs. Oviatt. Boone county. Reversed and remanded. McGlade, appellant, vs. city of Waterloo. Black Hawk county. Affirmed. Johnson vs. Plymouth Gypsum Plaster Company, appellants. Webster county. Affirmed. Wright vs. Percival Porter Company and others. Polk county. Reversed.

Des Moines, March 8.—The state board of education met today at the state house to consider the report of the educational commission on the survey of Iowa state educational institutions. The report will be made public in a few days.

Car Repairer Killed. Centerville, March 8.—Frank J. Baker, a car repairer, was killed today when he was struck by a Burlington switch engine. He formerly lived at Milton.

Baker is survived by his wife and three children.

Mexican Consul's Son Arrested. St. Louis, Mo., March 8.—Gaston H. Serrano, son of Raphael Serrano, Mexican consul here, was arrested by detectives last night on a charge from Kansas City, where a warrant was issued for him on non-payment of bills.