

GERMANS WILL NOT DESIGNATE SHIP'S SINKING "ILLEGAL" ACT

One Word Is the Stumbling Block to Settlement of Lusitania Case

BERLIN ADMITS CRISIS IS AT HAND

Kaiser Seeks to Avoid the Humiliation Demanded By United States

On Board President Wilson's Special train, Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 4.—President Wilson was on his way to Washington today to take up with Secretary Lansing consideration of the Lusitania and Appam cases.

After six days spent in the middle west in urging stronger national defenses and describing the grave possibilities of the international situation, he was returning to decide international questions of great importance.

The president was due to arrive in Washington at 1 p. m. He slept until a late hour today to recover from the effects of his strenuous trip.

Berlin, Feb. 4.—Information reaching The Associated Press today indicates that under no circumstances will Germany admit the sinking of the Lusitania was an illegal act.

The new instructions forwarded to Ambassador von Bernstorff, according to this information, contain simply one phrase of the new formulation of the proposed note of regret for the sinking of the Lusitania. The suggested sentence is short, consisting of only eight words and does not contain the word "illegal." It represents the extreme limit of Germany's concessions in the Lusitania case.

The view is entertained here that one of the most serious crises of the war has arisen in connection with the Lusitania case, and that it is impossible to foresee the outcome from any indications here. The result of the negotiations appears to hinge solely on the one word "illegal."

In the way of an agreement between the United States and Germany stand only these seven letters, expressing the conception which President Wilson and Secretary Lansing insist must be embodied in the German formula expressing regret for the loss of American lives aboard the Commodore.

The Associated Press is informed positively and authoritatively that Germany cannot and will not designate as illegal the sinking of a liner by any submarine.

No Other Bar.

Virtually no other difficulties in the way of settlement remain, and the new instructions forwarded to Ambassador von Bernstorff on Tuesday contain merely the new formula by which it is hoped to satisfy Washington without humiliating this country.

Although the suggested sentence, according to a reliable version, consists of only eight words and does not contain the word "illegal" or characterize the sinking of the Lusitania as such, it goes otherwise to the furthest extent possible toward meeting American desires.

Will Fight If Need Be.

The Kreuz Zeitung interprets President Wilson's present warlike course, as dictated to some extent by political considerations. It says both the American and European press have regarded the president's attitude throughout the war as being influenced by the approaching campaign, but that no one considered such an interpretation of his utterances as especially unfriendly to him, regarding it as a thing to be expected. Assuming a more serious tone, the paper adds:

"At the moment it seems best to emphasize the point on which the German people are most completely agreed; namely, that nobody, of course would regard a conflict with the United States as a slight matter, but that we are all resolved nevertheless to take on this new enmity if it can not be avoided without sacrificing our self-respect and dignity, without laying on ourselves fetters that hinder our freedom of movement in the struggle for our existence."

The Vossische Zeitung and the Tageblatt hold that the announcement in regard to the latest instructions sent to Ambassador von Bernstorff are not so sweeping as generally supposed. The Tageblatt says the language used was very reserved and could not warrant any hasty or far reaching conclusions.

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TURK STRONGHOLD REPORTED GIVEN OVER TO RUSSIANS

ERZERUM, SAID TO CONTAIN EIGHTY THOUSAND SOLDIERS EVACUATED.

Petrograd, Feb. 4.—The Novoe Vremya asserts it has received from a trustworthy source information that the Turks have evacuated Erzerum, to which a large Turkish force was recently driven after a defeat by the Russians.

Erzerum has been considered one of the main Turkish strongholds on the Caucasus front. A relief force sent thence from Trebizond on the Black sea coast was recently reported in retreat after a stubborn fight against the Russians. Today's statement from Constantinople does not mention the Caucasus operations except as they are included in the general statement that no events of importance have occurred.

BIG GUNS ACTIVE.

London, Feb. 4.—Artillery fighting continues along the western front, especially near Loos, which the British hold, and around Neuville, where the Germans recently took some French positions.

A German Zeppelin with her crew of twenty has been lost in the North sea and it is said that the aircraft was brought down by the fire of Dutch anti-aircraft guns.

The collier Franz Fischer was sunk in the North sea by a bomb from a Zeppelin returning from a raid on England. Thirteen of the crew were drowned and three saved.

On the Russian, the Austro-Italian and the Caucasus fronts little fighting has taken place.

An Austrian submarine has captured the steamer Koenig Albert from the Italians in the Adriatic sea.

BRITONS ARE AROUSED.

London, Feb. 4.—The Times announces today that the government is "taking various important steps" in consequence of Monday's air raid. The first of these, the newspaper says, is a change in the policy regarding the publication of accounts of what happens.

The other steps, the Times adds, "are obviously of a confidential character, but there is no question that the visitation has produced an outburst of unusual activity in the departments concerned."

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PARLIAMENT HALL RUINED BY FIRE

FIRE OF MYSTERIOUS ORIGIN DOES CONSIDERABLE HARM TO FINE STRUCTURE.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 4.—Two women and three men are known to have perished in the fire which swept the central portion of Canada's magnificent parliament building last night, destroying the chambers of commons and senate. Several others were reported missing and it is feared today they are buried in the ruins.

All night long firemen, police and soldiers fought to save the \$6,000,000 structure, which is considered one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture on this continent. They were successful in saving the library building and the east and west wings of the main edifice.

Immediately after the fire started a report was spread that it was caused by the explosion of an incendiary bomb. The fire started in the reading room of the house of commons, and several persons who were present at the time, including Mayor Martin of Montreal, asserted that it was preceded by an explosion which knocked down several persons. The bomb theory was, however, rejected today by Col. Sherwood, commissioner of dominion police, who insisted that the conflagration was accidental.

The two women who lost their lives were Mme. Bray, wife of H. A. Bray of Quebec, and Mme. Morin, wife of Louis Morin of Beauce, Quebec. The men, whose bodies are buried in the debris, are a policeman, an employe in the building and a waiter.

Among those reported missing is B. Y. Law, a member of parliament for Yarmouth, N. S. Mr. Law is understood to have been at the house at the time the fire broke out and has not been seen since. J. B. Laplant, assistant clerk of the commons, is also among those reported missing.

POLICE COURT IS WITHOUT OFFENDER

The police court was idle again this morning, not one offender being in the toils when Judge R. R. Ramsell could court. The month of January was the lightest in police court circles in the history of Ottumwa and this month is also expected to be light.

GIRL PICTURES SHIP DISASTER

Red Cross Nurse From U. S. Describes Sinking of Steamer Brindisi

MONTENEGRO MEN SLAY EACH OTHER

Refuse to Die By the Hand of the Enemy; Sees Serbs Starving to Death

Athens, Feb. 4.—"There is not any way to tell you so that you would understand the awful horror of the things that I have seen in the last month," said Marie Lemos of Chicago, one of the Red Cross nurses who survived the sinking of the Italian steamship Brindisi, which recently struck a mine in the Adriatic. She continued:

"The hideous rapidity of the sinking of the steamship Brindisi with her decks covered with dead; myself shot into the water, which was full of struggling youths trying to keep afloat but disappearing one by one within sight of land; the Austrian aeroplane attacks on San Giovanni di Medua and Durazzo; the sight of hundreds of Serbs falling exhausted and dying from hunger and cold along the road of their retreat through Albania—it does not seem believable."

Miss Lemos is 22 years old, with broad features, revealing her Bohemian extraction. High laced boots, a khaki blouse, a jacket embroidered with the Red Cross insignia and a flannel waist constitute her only possessions.

Montenegrins Kill Serbs.

"We struck a mine at 9:30 o'clock in the morning and the ship began to sink immediately," said Miss Lemos. "We tried to lower a boat but the ship heeled over so that everybody was thrown into the water. Miss Hamble could not swim and never came up. I scrambled back aboard the Brindisi where I found some 200 Montenegrins who were unable to swim."

"These men said they would not die by the enemy's hand. They sang their national anthem and then one squad shot the others and finally killed themselves. The decks were covered with dead and awash with blood."

"When the ship began to founder I slipped back into the water and swam to a plank on which several men were clinging but who dropped off one by one."

"Finally, after being three hours in the water, I was picked up and taken to San Giovanni di Medua."

Attacked by Airmen.

"As soon as the 143 persons rescued were safely ashore, the Montenegrins lined up and rearing the national anthem. While the men were singing, an Austrian aeroplane squadron bombarded the town, killing eighteen of those who had just been saved."

"From San Giovanni di Medua we walked to Scutari and sought to join the Serbian staff at Plavnica but six days later the evacuation of the town took place."

"King Nicholas of Montenegro brought us to Scutari in his boat. He is a kindly old man who seems to understand, but Prince Peter says he wants to give up the struggle and again begin life as a private citizen, preferably in America."

"From Scutari we walked five days through sleet and snow over detestable roads, along which the hunger weakened Serbs died like flies."

"Reaching Durazzo, seven pursuing Austrian aeroplanes bombarded the town where the remnants of the Serbian army were so crowded that they were unable to escape the missiles. Many were killed and others wounded, and owing to the lack of medical stores, the suffering was frightful."

FARM EXPERT IN ILLINOIS IS DEAD

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 4.—State officials and members of the state board of agriculture were planning today to attend the funeral of James K. Dickerson, who died yesterday at Lawrenceville, Ill. For twenty-five years Mr. Dickerson was a member of the board of agriculture and at different times was president, vice president and when he retired January 1, 1915, was secretary of the board. Mr. Dickerson was 71 years of age.

EASTLAND CLAIMS TOTAL LARGE SUM

Chicago, Feb. 4.—The period set for filing claims before the United States commissioner for damages in connection with the capsizing of the steamer Eastland in the Chicago river closes tonight. Claims totaling \$2,000,000, it is said, will be presented. More than \$350,000 in claims had been filed with the commissioner today.

PAINTINGS FOR GRINNELL.

Grinnell, Feb. 4.—Paintings valued at more than \$1,000 have been presented to Grinnell college by Dr. Frank W. Gonsalus, the Chicago preacher, according to announcement made here today. One of the pictures is an original by Henry Levolle, a French artist of international fame.

ALL BRITONS ON STEAMER APPAM GIVEN LIBERTY

UNITED STATES DECIDES THAT PRUSSIAN-AMERICAN TREATY RULES IN CASE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, today presented a formal demand on behalf of his government, for the return to British owners of the liner Appam, taken by a German prize crew. A new diplomatic controversy with Great Britain is foreshadowed as the United States practically has decided to hold the prize as Germany's.

Washington D. C., Feb. 4.—Secretary Lansing indicated today that the United States had decided to hold that the Prussian-American treaty governs the case of the Appam, as Germany contends, and that all that remained to be decided was the interpretation of the application of the treaty's terms.

The secretary disclosed further that the sole question to be decided by the interpretation was how long the Appam should be permitted to remain in American waters.

The treaty guarantees to a German prize the right to come and go freely. If the Appam were forced to depart she would doubtless become the prey of British cruisers outside the Virginia capes. If forced to depart, German officials have stated the ship would be sunk to prevent her capture by the British.

Germany is expected to contend that the treaty guarantees the Appam the right to remain safe in Hampton roads until the case goes before a prize court for adjudication. Technically the ship does not become Germany's prize until such a court establishes the validity of her capture.

BRITONS ARE RELEASED.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 4.—Only Lieut. Berg and his small prize crew remain today aboard the former British passenger steamer Appam, brought into these neutral waters last Tuesday as a prize of war. The liner's passengers and original ship's company, taken prisoners when the ship was captured by a mysterious German raider off the Canary islands January 15, were liberated last night by order of the United States government.

The passengers today are aboard the Old Dominion liner Jefferson, en route to New York, where they were expected to arrive tonight. The members of the crew, with the gun pointers taken from other British steamers which the raider sank before the Appam was overhauled, are in Norfolk awaiting the sailing of another New York steamer tonight.

The Appam is to remain at this port until the Washington government decides what disposition of her shall be made—whether she shall be held a fair prize of her German captors under the Prussian-American treaty or returned to her British owners under The Hague convention.

PLAN SUFFRAGE PARADE

Chicago to Witness Demonstration During the Meeting of Republican National Convention.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—Plans for a suffrage parade in which 20,000 woman suffragists are expected to participate in the hope of bringing about insertion of a "votes for women" plank in the republican platform were made public today.

At a conference yesterday with local suffrage leaders, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the national suffrage organization, discussed the plan to bring women from all sections of the United States to march in the parade to be held during the session here in June of the national convention.

Each Chicago suffragist, Mrs. Catt said, will be asked to entertain at least one visiting suffragist during the convention.

NORTHWEST DIGS SELF OUT OF SNOW

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 4.—The novelty of a two foot fall of snow having worn off, the people of western Washington today are reestablishing normal business conditions while the railroads tried to clear their mountain tracks for overland travel.

The greatest danger confronting the railroads is a sudden thaw which it is believed would start disastrous avalanches down the mountain slopes and release torrents of water in the valleys.

Damage caused in Oregon by the storm was estimated at more than \$500,000.

Seattle schools, it was announced, will not reopen until Monday, while those of Portland and other Oregon points will stay closed until the storm has passed.

WILL ENLARGE ASSOCIATION

Commercial Club at Work on Plans to Increase Its Membership

TO KEEP PACE WITH GROWTH OF OTTUMWA

Reorganization of Body to Meet Demands of Rapid Expansion of City.

Plans for the complete reorganization and enlargement of the Ottumwa Commercial association are now being proposed by a committee of that body and will soon be in definite shape to announce to the public through the press. This information comes today through Secretary J. N. Welden's office and is to the effect that the board of directors has decided that the recent rapid growth of Ottumwa and the necessity for insuring the continuance of this advancement, makes it imperative that the association widen its field of activity and secure the active assistance of an increased number of boosters.

The progress of Ottumwa has been identified with the efforts of the Commercial association for many years, and no project of local interest has gone without the interest and assistance of the loyal body of workers who have composed the organization. The association feels that it can work to better advantage under the new conditions now prevailing in "The Magnet City" if it has increased facilities and a larger membership.

It is with this end in view that the special committee has been working and it is said that at least a portion of their plans will be ready to give to the public in a very short time.

GEN. VILLA TURNS UP AND ATTACKS CITY

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 4.—Juarez, the Mexican border town opposite here, was completely isolated today from communication with Chihuahua City, as the result of the attack late yesterday of Francisco Villa on the garrison at Montezuma, 100 miles south of here.

Beyond establishing the fact that Villa himself led the attack, no news had been received at military headquarters early today to indicate how the fight progressed.

Troops under Gen. Herrera were hurrying from Chihuahua City to attack Villa, while reinforcements from Villa Ahumada of 160 men and some machine guns were en route to Montezuma to support the Carranza troops. They believed that should the fighting be prolonged, Villa would be surrounded on all sides.

FOUR NEW RECORDS MADE BY SWIMMERS

Chicago, Feb. 4.—Four world's swimming records were claimed today as a result of an open meet at the Illinois Athletic club last night.

In the 100 yard swim Perry McGillivray clipped the mark of :54 2-5, to :54. In the same event he was timed at the 80 yard in :41 3-5, bettering the former time of :43.

Michael McDermott, Illinois Athletic club, clipped a full second off the world's record of :33 for the 50 yard breast stroke.

Harry Heber won the 100 yard medley in the fastest time on record.

IOWA METHODISTS HOLD CONVENTION

Des Moines, Feb. 4.—Bishop Theodore Henderson of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Frank M. Bristol of Omaha, Neb., both of the Methodist church, met with Methodists from all sections of Iowa here today. The meeting was one of a series of such meetings in the nation-wide movement to add 250,000 members to the church.

JAPANESE STEAMER IS SENT TO BOTTOM

Shanghai, Feb. 4.—The Japanese liner Daijin Maru was sunk Wednesday night in a collision with the steamship Lanan and 160 lives were lost.

Twenty-one persons were saved. The Linan, badly damaged, is returning to Hong Kong.

CHILDREN RESCUED.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—Annual report of the Illinois Humane society, issued today, shows that within the last year 1,900 children were rescued from homes where they were subjected to brutal treatment, or home conditions improved. The number of animals relieved after inhumane treatment was 17,319.

NOTED MASON DIES

Davenport, Feb. 4.—George M. Barrette of this city, aged 80, one of the most prominent members of the Masonic fraternity in Iowa, died here this morning. He belonged to every degree of the Masons represented here.

PERRY IS GIVEN STATE BANNER FOR LODGE GAIN

LARGEST NET GAIN FOR 1915 WON BY NO. 16; MANY ATTEND W. B. A. RALLY.

The Ottumwa district meeting of the Women's Benefit association being held here today has brought a large number of women to the city from numerous other cities in the southeastern part of the state and a great many of the local members are out despite the weather, playing the role of hostess to their friends and lodge sisters from abroad.

The annual rally has been thus far a big success and the program for the day has been carried out almost on schedule time which owing to train delays and other interferences is generally subject to change.

The awards of the state banner, loving cups, large delegation and hostess prizes have been made and Perry, No. 16 is given the first prize for net gain in membership during 1915. The loving cups for membership gains go to Manchester, No. 27; Sioux City, No. 6 and Perry, No. 16. The loving cups are given for the largest gain in district membership. The prize for largest delegation at the district meeting today was awarded to Muscatine, No. 13 and Ottumwa was given the \$10 cash hostess prize. The awards were announced by Mrs. Ella Mark Lee of Des Moines, supreme sergeant and deputy supreme commander for Iowa.

The morning session opened about 11 o'clock at which time an address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Fred Carter and the response was made by Mrs. Lee. The reception of visiting members followed with a school of instruction until noon when dinner was served in the lodge room on the third floor of the Donelan & Christie building, formerly known as the Ut building, on East Second street.

The afternoon session opened at 2 o'clock for members only and the amplification of the entire ritual was a feature of the meeting. A class of twenty-five members from Ottumwa was initiated into the membership of the organization, many of the visiting delegates participated in the degree work among them being the Muscatine members.

Carter and the response was made by whom arrived are as follows: Muscatine 25; Oskaloosa 10; Keokuk 7; Davenport 7; Centerville 4; Creston 2; Burlington 2 and Red Oak 2. More than 100 local members participated. A program in which a number of Ottumwa members of talent will be given in the lodge room this evening at 8 o'clock.

ROBBERS BEING HUNTED BY POSSE

IOWA TOWN IS TERRORIZED FOR HOURS BY BANDITS UNTIL ARRIVAL OF HELP.

Clarinda, Feb. 4.—Sheriff Whitmore and a posse of armed citizens are searching the country about Shambaugh for eight robbers who early this morning made an unsuccessful attempt to rob the State Savings bank at Shambaugh.

The robbers kept the citizens of Shambaugh in terror from 2:10 o'clock when the first of a series of explosions was heard until 3:30 a. m. None of the explosions opened the big safe, however, and \$3,000 in cash and large sums in checks and drafts were untouched.

The first explosion awoke nearby residents, who telephoned to Clarinda for help. Sheriff Whitmore broke into a hardware store, obtained rifles and revolvers and with a hastily organized posse, hastened to Shambaugh in automobiles.

The bandits saw the light of the approaching machines and made their escape in a waiting automobile. Just after residents had telephoned to Clarinda for help the telephone wire was cut by the robbers. Several citizens who left their homes to investigate the explosions were met by the robbers and ordered back to bed at the point of revolvers.

All towns in Page county have been notified and the authorities and armed citizens are on the lookout for the bandits. The robbers, however, are believed to have gone south and may have escaped into Missouri or Nebraska.

Later reports from Shambaugh said that the entire front of the bank and one side of the building were blown out and the inside badly damaged. It was said the robbers used an exceedingly heavy charge of explosives after the first few discharges had failed to open the safe. Shambaugh is seven miles south of Clarinda.

ROBBERS BLOW SAFE.

Joy, Ill., Feb. 4.—Burglars blew the safe in the jewelry store of Nels Jensen here early this morning and secured jewelry worth \$1,500 and \$30 in money. They made their escape in a buggy.

ASKS \$50,000 DAMAGES FROM STREET CAR CO.

G. W. Chambers Files Suit for Big Sum Because of Serious Burns

CLAIMS LOSS OF ARM AND OTHER INJURIES

South Side Street Scene of Accident; Contact With Live Wires

A suit for \$50,000 personal injury damages has been filed in the district court by G. W. Chambers against the Ottumwa Railway & Light Co. Chambers claims this amount for an injury he alleges he received on September 8, 1915, while standing on Glenwood avenue near the intersection of Milner street. He claims it was caused by wires belonging to the company and stationed in that vicinity.

The petitioner gives his age as 40 years and the time of his life's expectancy as 24.6 years. He says that he was struck and severely burned and injured by the high tension copper wires there which he says carry a voltage of 2,200 volts. He charges that the company was negligent in not having these wires properly strung and, by the lack of proper precautions around the poles, cross arms and guy wires.

He says that his injuries were so serious that he was compelled to stay at once in the hospital where he remained until Thanksgiving day. His accident is alleged to have caused a portion of his scalp to be burned, affecting the sight of one eye, his right hand was burned so severely that two operations were necessary, one to remove the thumb and three fingers and the second to amputate the arm above the wrist and his left hand was strained, the tendons destroyed and the loss of the arm suffered. He says that it was necessary then to graft skin from his limbs on his arm and the former have been permanently disfigured and weakened. In addition to all of this he maintains that his back and feet are severely burned and threaten to be permanent in their weakness.

MYERS' BUILDING EXCHANGES HANDS

Joseph Chilton has sold his two story, brick building fronting on Second street between Court and Market streets to Dutro brothers. The deed covering the transfer will not be filed until March 1. The property has a frontage of thirty-six feet on Second street, runs back to the alley and is known as the two story part of the buildings, occupied by Claude Myers. The Dutros expect to put a new building on the site as soon as present lease expires which will not be until the spring of 1917. The structure to be erected will probably be three or four stories in height.

FIVE BURN TO DEATH IN HOTEL

Atlantic City, N. J., Feb. 4.—Five persons lost their lives and eight others were seriously injured today in a fire which destroyed the Overbrook hotel here. Several of the injured are expected to die.

The fire is believed to have started in the kitchen. When it was discovered, flames were shooting up the elevator shaft and soon afterward the entire building was burning. Many guests had to jump from windows.

One woman was seen to faint after calling for help from an upper window and was burned to death while her body lay across the sill in view of hundreds of persons unable to help her. The engineer of the hotel hung out of a window until the fire reached his hands and caused him to drop to the street. He was killed almost instantly. Another woman who managed to crawl out of a window fell and also lost her life.

HOTEL IS DESTROYED.

Hull, Mass., Feb. 4.—The Rockland house, one of the largest hotels at Nantucket beach, was destroyed by fire today. The loss is \$150,000. The only person in the building was the caretaker, the hotel having been closed since the end of the summer season.

AGED POSTMASTER.

Roland, Feb. 4.—Osmund O. Stole, who has been postmaster here for many years, is dead at his home. Cancer was given as the cause of death. He was 71 years of age and was a recognized republican leader in Roland.

ATTICA SCHOOLS REOPEN.

Knoxville, Feb. 4.—The Attica schools will reopen next Monday, after having been closed for several days on account of diphtheria.