

## FLOOD SHUTS UP BIG STEEL PLANT

### Central Works Are Compelled to Cease Operations by a 16- Foot Stage in River

## SO. HARRISBURG CELLARS FILLED

### Residents of Low Sections of the City Move Their Belongings Up Stairs— Forecasters Say the Danger Mark of 17 Feet Will Not Be Passed

When the flood in the Susquehanna river reached the sixteen-foot stage here this morning at 9 o'clock, water started backing into scores of cellars in South Harrisburg. Many of the residents worked during the night removing to upper floors anything that might be damaged by water. This occurred in places where there are open sewers in the cellar floors.

This condition existed as far east as Cameron street where water backed into the cellar of the Susquehanna fire engine house to the depth of six inches. Water also backed into the cellar of the Paxton fire engine house, on South Second street to the same depth. The river stage here at 8 o'clock this morning was 15.4 feet and had reached 16 feet an hour later. There it remained for a time.

Prospects of serious damage here from the flood is remote. The State Water Supply Commission to-day forecasted a maximum stage well within seventeen feet, the danger limit. Weather bureau officials fixed the maximum at seventeen feet.

## Flood Closes Central Plant

The open hearth furnace of the Central Iron and Steel Company plant began to be flooded at a river stage of fifteen feet early this morning and work at the plant, including all of the various mills, had to be suspended. Work will be started again as soon as the water goes below fifteen feet, which will likely be late to-morrow morning.

The State Water Supply Commission, which yesterday forecasted a flood stage for Harrisburg by this afternoon, issued the following to-day:

"On this particular fresher or high water stage the Susquehanna river at Harrisburg will crest before the maximum stage of the North Branch reaches Wilkes-Barre, owing to the fact that the West Branch and the Juniata flood waters were considerably ahead of the North Branch flow."

The contractors on the two subways and the new bridge of the Cumberland Valley railroad at Mulberry street reported to the railroad agents this morning that the water had not interfered with the work on the subways or the bridge. Should the water go above the danger point to any extent, it will interfere with the work, but on being assured by the Weather Bureau this morning that the crest would not be above 17 feet fears in the direction were dispelled.

## Crest Late This Afternoon

The water in the upper branches of the river is receding somewhat and it is believed that the crest of the flood will pass Harrisburg late this afternoon. Selingsgrove reported a rise of 3.3 feet and Wilkes-Barre 3.9 feet in the twenty-four hours preceding 8 o'clock this morning. Wilkes-Barre was the only city in the watershed experiencing a flood stage last night.

The rise in Harrisburg was greater than at any place, amounting to 5.6 feet in the twenty-four hours preceding 8 o'clock this morning. Weather Bureau officials to-day forecasted a flood stage, which is seventeen feet, for late this afternoon.

Slight falling action is expected in the river to-night. Weather Bureau officials forecasted a stage of 15.6 feet by 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. This will still keep water in the cellars in South Harrisburg.

Traction company officials watched the river for a rise sufficient to cause a back-flow into the Market street subway, as this would make necessary the running of the Altkon Hill cars on the block signal system on Thirteenth street, between Market and State streets, and the Steulton and Middle town cars by way of Hemlock and Race streets. It was believed late this afternoon that there would be no serious flood in the subway.

## 7 WITNESSES IN LIQUOR CASE

### Straub Says He Will Be on Hand to Testify in Berrysburg Fight

W. S. Straub, the Berrysburg man who in a recent letter to the Dauphin county court alleged that the liquor laws have been violated by William H. Bowman, proprietor of the St. Lawrence hotel, in Berrysburg, has written a second letter to the judges, announcing that he and half a dozen or more witnesses will be on hand Monday in an effort to prove his charges.

The court has fixed Monday as the time for a further hearing on the Bowman application. Straub charges Bowman with selling liquor to drunkards and persons of known intemperate habits. Representatives of the Dauphin County Temperance Union have joined Straub in the fight against the relicensing of the hotel.

The court late this afternoon had not disposed of the applications of Harry White, for the relicensing of the Ann Street hotel, Middletown, and the Harry F. Eckinger application for the Paxton Inn. All other applications have been passed on.

## RED CROSS LINE STEAMER. IN DISTRESS, ASKS FOR HELP

New York, Feb. 26.—The steamer Mongolian of the Red Cross Line bound from Philadelphia for Glasgow, Scotland, is in distress 400 miles off Cape Race, according to a message received here to-day by Bowring & Company, steamship agents.

The Mongolian was said to be calling for help and leaking badly. The Red Cross liner, Stephano, is about 416 miles from Halifax and is rushing to the assistance of the Mongolian.

A message to Bowring & Company, agents for the Stephano from J. R. Bennett, acting premier of Newfoundland, said that the Mongolian had 200 passengers aboard. It was upon the premier's request that the Stephano was instructed to go to the Mongolian's assistance. Mr. Bennett's message read as follows:

"Urgently request that the Stephano be sent to assist the Mongolian. Leaking badly and heading in for Halifax. Consider action urgent."

The Mongolian was reported by wireless yesterday to be returning to Halifax for repairs. It was said she began to leak when 1,000 miles off the coast of Newfoundland. The Mongolian stopped at St. Johns on her way from Philadelphia to Glasgow and it was believed in maritime circles here that passengers boarded her at St. Johns.

The Mongolian sailed from Philadelphia on January 29 and from St. Johns February 8. She is 4,300 tons register and is 298 feet long.

## WOMAN CLUBBED TO DEATH

### Third Mysterious Murder Added to Crimes That Have Baffled Police at Aurora, Illinois

By Associated Press.

Aurora, Ill., Feb. 26.—In an old woolen glove the police to-day pinned their greatest hope of running down the mysterious murderer who last night struck down Miss Emma Peterson, 21 years old, with a piece of gas pipe. The glove, with the weapon, was found within half a block of where the young woman was killed. The victim's handbag, opened and rifled, was found a block and a half away on the North western railroad tracks. The glove has been carefully guarded and will not be exposed until it is given bloodhounds to sniff the scent. The bounds are on the way here from Decatur, Ill.

Forty-two suspects, 25 of them negroes, have already been picked up in this, the third unsolved clubbing to death of an Aurora woman within a year. The other unsolved murders are: Theresa Hollander, who was clubbed to death in a cemetery on the night of February 16, 1914. Tony Petras, a former suitor, was twice tried on a charge of having slain her and acquitted.

Johnnie Muller was clubbed to death in a church yard on the night of November 19, 1914. Several arrests were made, but the crime was never solved.

## NEAR PANIC IN WHEAT PIT

### Critical Situation Regarding the Possi- ble Opening of the Dardanelles Was Chiefly Responsible

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Selling that bordered on a panicky nature swept the wheat market down more than five cents a bushel to-day. The critical situation regarding the possible opening of the Dardanelles was chiefly responsible. May wheat sold as low as 1.43 1/2 at the opening as against 1.53 1/2 at the close last night.

July wheat dropped 4 cents. Support from those who believe that the straits are still a long way from being open to the shipment of grain was forthcoming at the decline. May sold up to 1.49 1/2, and July, which had touched 1.23 1/2, advanced to 1.22 within the first ten minutes of trading.

On the second wave of selling May dropped to 1.46 1/2, a fall of 7 1/2 compared with last night. The extreme setback for July meanwhile was 4 1/2 to 10 1/2. The crowd of brokers in the wheat pit was not so large as frequently is seen during a much less excited market. The rapidity of the transactions to-day, however, was a state seldom equaled.

May wheat at one time to-day touched 1.46, a fall of 7 1/2, compared with last night, but closed nervous at something of a rally with the price, 1.49 1/4 a net loss of 4 3/8. July delivery, which was more largely traded in, dropped 5c to 1.20 1/4 and finished 3c off for the day.

## SOLD WHEAT LESS THAN COST

### Leiter, Once Noted Operator, Says Farmers Are Poorly Paid

By Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 26.—Joseph Leiter, noted wheat operator of fifteen years ago, testified to-day at the state inquiry into the increased cost of bread, that American farmers had long been selling wheat for less than what it cost. The farmer, Mr. Leiter said, has nothing to say concerning what price he shall receive for his product. That is usually done at the terminal markets or exchange, he added; and the Liverpool Exchange as the leading Exchange of the world usually fixes the price.

The farmer to-day cannot obtain the proper return on his work, Mr. Leiter said, on the old basis of wheat prices because farm labor has increased in price and the laborer's hours have been shortened. The production of wheat in this country is gradually being reduced, he testified.

## 285 ACRES TAKEN OVER BY FAIR CO.

### Deeds Filed For Transfer of Lands Near Middletown to Key- stone Association

## MORTGAGES ARE GIVEN ON PART

### Mrs. Kunkel Receives \$5,000 of the \$30,000 Purchase Price on One Tract—Mrs. Dunbar's Property Acquired—Third Plot to Be Bought

Deeds marking the transfer of two of the three farms skirting the Susquehanna river between Middletown and Highspire which have been selected as the site for the proposed exposition grounds of the Keystone State Fair and Industrial Exposition Association this morning were filed in the office of the Dauphin County Recorder of Deeds by a representative of the fair association, which thus takes over the land.

Options held on these two tracks of land ran out last evening, at which time the deals were consummated. The transfers were made by Mrs. Elizabeth C. Kunkel and Mrs. Catherine S. Dunbar with the Harrisburg Real Estate Company, acting as agent for the fair association.

The association also has an option on the farm of Charles A. Kunkel, which adjoins the land bought last night. That option will not expire until next week. Representatives of the association this morning said the Charles A. Kunkel land will be purchased before the option expires.

The land taken over by the fair association to-day constitutes something like 285 acres, the consideration being the real estate company and the Keystone company being \$1.

## \$30,000 Ultimately to Be Paid

However, the deed between Mrs. Kunkel and the real estate company represents \$30,000 as the purchase price, while the one given by Mrs. Dunbar to the same company represents \$16,250. The deed shows the amount of actual cash paid to Mrs. Kunkel for her farm was \$5,000, as the real estate company gave a \$25,000 mortgage, presumably to cover the balance.

To Mrs. Dunbar was given a mortgage by the same concern in the sum of \$14,500, the difference between the \$16,250 and the purchase price being \$1,750.

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## ARE TWICE AS GENEROUS HERE AS IN PHILADELPHIA

### Citizens of Harrisburg Aiding Home and War Relief at Rate of One Cent Each Per Week—Musicals to Benefit Red Cross

Comparison of the relief work done by the Home and War Relief Committee of Harrisburg with that of the Emergency Aid Committee of Philadelphia shows that citizens here contribute nearly twice as much per capita as those of Philadelphia.

Harrisburg, with an estimated population of 70,000, is furnishing relief to the needy families at the rate of \$700 each week. Philadelphia, with an estimated population of 1,750,000, is furnishing relief to its needy families at the rate of \$10,000 each week.

This means that Harrisburg citizens are contributing money at the rate of one cent each per week, while Philadelphia citizens are contributing at the rate of slightly more than half a cent each per week.

More Than \$9,000 Collected  
Such a comparison is highly gratifying to the local committee, which, through the Ways and Means Committee, has collected more than \$9,000. At first not more than \$7,000 was believed necessary for the handling of the winter's relief work.

Need for a continuance of the work is apparent, not only to the volunteer workers in actual touch with conditions, but to citizens generally. There are very many families throughout the city which have no other way to secure a livelihood than through the work offered by the relief committee. If this work stops they will be forced to become objects of charity. Persons in a position to do so are urged to contribute liberally. John F. Sweeney, Mechanics Trust Company, is treasurer.

## Musicals for Red Cross Benefit

A musical for the benefit of the Red Cross division fund has been planned by Mrs. Roy Cox, vocalist, and Miss Sarah Lerner, violinist. It will be given Thursday evening, March 11, in Fahnstreck hall, Y. M. C. A. building. A splendid program will be offered.

The entire general committee, which is serving without pay, requests that interested citizens call and inspect the work going on daily at headquarters, 7 South Front street. Office hours are from 10 to 12 and from 2 until 5, excepting Saturdays, when the hours close at noon. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the four subdivisions may all be seen working, although the Foreign and Red Cross divisions are open on the other days.

## Coroner to Hold Inquest in Murder

The coroner's inquest over the murder of John Polnoch, who was shot Monday night, February 15, in a Cherry street boarding house, will be held this evening in the office of District Attorney Michael E. Stroup.

## GAINS POINT IN HIS SUIT FOR CHOCOLATE CO. BONUS

### Snyder, a Former Employee of the Her- shey Plant, Gets Verdict for \$144 Which, However, Depends on Decision of a Pending Legal Question

Paul B. Snyder, a Hershey youth, to-day gained a point in his suit against the Hershey Chocolate Company for a bonus on wages received during 1911, in which year he was regularly employed by the company for eleven and a half months. A jury in Judge McCarrell's side of common pleas court returned a verdict in his favor in the sum of \$144.25, representing the full amount of his claim for \$120 together with interest amounting to \$24.25, but there still remains a legal question to be disposed of before judgment is entered.

This decision to-day merely settles a question of fact—that Snyder was yet in the employ of the company as a suspended employee, although not actually at work when the bonus was paid to other employees. Judge McCarrell next will be called upon to determine in so far as the county court is concerned, the legal question of whether the company's paying this annual bonus was a gratuity on its part to faithful employees or a profit-sharing proposition.

Counsel for the company raised this legal point when the testimony was closed, having asked Judge McCarrell to give binding instructions to the jury to return a verdict in favor of the defense. The court, however, reserved decision on that application and will dispose of it after argument is presented on a "motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict" which the defense will make in a day or so.

Snyder and a hundred other chocolate company employees were suspended in December, 1911, they said, because of lack of work. All remained idle until a month or so after that awaiting a call, they said, to go back to work. Witnesses for the company declared that the employees had been discharged outright, because the installation of modern machinery done away with many positions.

Two weeks after these men were thrown out of work the company declared the usual twenty per cent. annual bonus on wages, but restricted it to those employees who were then in active service of the company.

Thirty-two former chocolate company employees who, like Snyder, suffered the loss of the bonus, have retained counsel and are planning suit, should the pending action result in an ultimate victory for Snyder.

Not more than two cases similar to this one have been tried in other states of the Union, and in each of these the appellate courts decided in favor of the employees. No such case ever before was tried in this state and it was said about the Court House to-day that no master what the Dauphin county court may decide, the matter will be taken to the highest court as a test case.

## 2 LICENSES IN UNION COUNTY

### Two Hotels in Lewisburg Favored Un- der Restrictions

Lewisburg, Pa., Feb. 26.—A. W. Johnson and Associate Judges Diefenderfer and Rowe, of Union county, to-day granted liquor licenses to two hotels in Lewisburg, where Bucknell University is located and refused the application of one hotel. This reduces the number of licensed places in the county from 17 three years ago to two.

No treating, no women in the places, no selling of bottled goods, and close at 10:30 at night, were the instructions given the hotel men by the court.

## Navy Plucking Board to Go

Washington, Feb. 26.—Abolition of the navy plucking board, as provided in the naval bill by the House, was approved to-day by the Senate.

## RECOMMENDS NEW BRIDGE FOR NINETEENTH STREET

### County Engineer Declares That the Present Structure Was Never In- tended to Carry the Heavy Traffic For Which It Is Now Being Used

Clinton M. Hershey, county engineer, who was directed by the County Commissioners to examine the Nineteenth street bridge over the tracks of the Philadelphia and Reading railway in the city, following a request for such examination made by City Highway Commissioner Lynch, made a report this morning in which he recommended that a new bridge be constructed there.

He said that while the present structure is in good repair, except with regard to the footwalks, the traffic over the bridge to-day is much heavier than it was ever intended that the bridge should carry. The County Commissioners took no action to-day on the engineer's report, which is as follows:

"As per your request I have examined the bridge on Nineteenth street, crossing the Philadelphia and Reading tracks, and so far as I am able to discern, find not anything particularly wrong with the bridge except as reported on an earlier inspection. The bad condition of the cantilever footwalks. Brackets for the repairs thereof have been ordered and are on the ground.

"But will say that the bridge is over-taxed and never was designed for the loads it is asked to carry. The pipe lines, the traction company and ten and twelve ton trucks passing over this bridge, the combined weight of which over-taxes its capacity, and since the motor cars are even on the increase in capacity and weight and the automobile trucks are becoming more in use daily and have larger capacity, in my judgment, the only safe thing to do is to erect a new bridge designed to carry loads to meet the present and immediate future traffic.

"I cannot suggest any way of strengthening the present structure, being a truss bridge and it is the truss part that is over-taxed."

## DISCUSSING U. S. FOODSTUFFS NOTE

### German Officials and Ambassador Gerard Giving the Subject Much Consideration

## REPLY IS TAKING DEFINITE FORM

### Said That American Proposals Are Re- garded as Constituting a Satis- factory Basis for Future Negoti- ations—To Banish Floating Mines

Berlin, Feb. 26, Via London, 10 A. M.—The American note to Germany and Great Britain on the subject of foodstuffs to civilian populations of belligerents and submarine activities at sea, a copy of which was handed to the German Foreign Office by Ambassador Gerard the night of February 22, has been a subject of exhaustive discussion, the past two days between the German imperial authorities concerned and the American Ambassador.

As a result of this close attention the German reply is gradually taking definite form. The correspondent of the Associated Press has been assured by a most competent and reliable authority that the American proposals are regarded as constituting a satisfactory basis for future negotiations and that they are themselves in many respects acceptable. Certain of the proposals, however, will be subjected to more or less important modifications.

## Impressed With Friendly Spirit

Government officials expressed themselves as impressed by the friendly spirit in which these proposals have been advanced, and the evident desire on the part of the American administration to reach a solution of the difficulties involved in the present methods of maritime warfare, to belligerents and neutrals alike.

The American note probably will not be published here until a German response has been sent forward, but there is good reason to believe that it deals with three principal subjects, namely mine and submarine blockade of coasts; the use of floating mines, and the entry of foodstuffs for civilian populations.

It is difficult to obtain any authoritative expression of opinion concerning the German point of view on these points from any of the imperial governmental departments interested in the negotiations or to overcome the censorship restrictions in treating of this mat-

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## MISS CRAMP EXONERATED SAYS PRINCIPAL MILLER

### He Began Former Harrisburg Young Woman Who Got "Hello, Girlie," Letter to Continue as Teacher, but She Indignantly Resigns Post

(Special to the Star-Independent.)

New York, Feb. 26.—"No, indeed, I never am going back to the Guttenberg public school again, to teach or anything else," snapped Miss Helen Ida Cramp, formerly of Harrisburg, as she stood over the trunk she was packing in her boarding place in Weehawken.

"Why won't I go back? Suppose, everywhere you went, some one called out to you: 'Hello, Girlie!' That's what they have been doing to me ever since I got up this morning and my name was brought into that affair with Charles W. Blackmore, the school trustee, who took me to dinner in a cafe in New York and wrote that 'Hello, Girlie' letter."

"I feel as if everybody I meet is looking at me, and I'm not on display," and Miss Cramp bent low over her trunk and beat hard at clothing she was pressing down. She was mad clear through.

"Where am I going? Well, I'm going away from here and I'm not coming back. First, I'm going to New York to visit relatives. Then I'm going to my home in Pennsylvania. Don't you ask me where my relatives live. I don't propose having them brought into old man Blackmore's attentions to me. It's hard enough on me."

The first thing Miss Cramp did yesterday morning, after reading the newspapers which brought her name into the Guttenberg School Board controversy, was to call up Principal Miller on the nearest telephone.

"Is that you, Mr. Miller? It is!" she said. "Well, I have just called you to let you know I have quit—quit for good."

"But I don't want you to leave; you are an excellent teacher," objected Principal Miller. "You will be exonerated from all blame, and I want you as a witness against Trustee Blackmore if his case comes to trial."

"I have quit," insisted Miss Cramp. "I don't propose being a witness against anybody or making a show of myself longer. Good-bye," and she hung up the receiver.

Half an hour later Miss Cramp was bound to say that she had nothing further to add last night, having already declared that he proposes to fight being ousted by the trustees simply because he took an interest in a nice, pretty little teacher.

The Guttenberg school authorities received a telegram last evening from Miss Cramp's father at Lebanon, Pa., asking to be kept informed of developments.

## REPORT BRITISH TRANSPORT GONE DOWN WITH 1,800 MEN

Berlin, Feb. 26, by Wireless to Sayville.—The Overseas News Agency to-day gave out a story to the effect that the "Corriere della Sera," a newspaper of Milan, declares that Lloyds Agency has received a telegram from Eastbourne, in Sussex, to the effect that a British transport has gone down with 1,800 men.

The foregoing dispatch doubtless is another reference to the reported torpedoing of a British transport by a German submarine. Announcement to this effect has been made officially in Berlin, but the British authorities deny the story.

## FRENCH DESTROYER HITS AUSTRIAN MINE AND SINKS

Paris, Feb. 26, 12.10 P. M.—The destruction of the French torpedo boat destroyer Dague in the Adriatic sea was announced to-day 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) on February 24 and sank. Thirty-eight of the crew disappeared. The accident did not hinder finishing the work of provisioning and the return of the convoy."

The Dague was 256 feet long and had a displacement of 720 tons. She was built in 1911 and was rated at a speed of 33.1 knots. Her complement was 81 men. She was armed with two 3.9 inch guns, four 9 pounders and four 18-inch torpedo tubes.

## 3 LIVES LOST WHEN U. S. SHIP CARIB SANK IN NORTH SEA

Berlin, via London, Feb. 26, 11.15 A. M.—Three members of the crew of the American steamer Carib lost their lives when their ship was sunk Tuesday 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 (another island, 45 miles northwest of the mouths of the Elbe and Weser rivers) as was presumed from the first announcement. The American steamer Evelyn also was sunk off Borkum Island. No further details of the Carib disaster are available here.

## DEPUTY DROPS DEAD AS HE URGES ITALY TO ENTER WAR

Milan, Italy, Feb. 26, via Rome, 6.15 A. M.—Signor Mosti-Trotti, a Radical deputy, died suddenly to-day while he was delivering a speech in favor of the intervention of Italy in the war.

Signor Mosti-Trotti was addressing a large crowd in the Verdi theatre. His remarks stirred the crowd deeply. As he reached the climax of his speech, amid an unusually enthusiastic burst of applause, he suddenly pitched forward, dead.

## FATAL RIOTS IN ITALY FOLLOW NEUTRALITY DEMONSTRATIONS

Genoa, Feb. 26, via Rome, 6.15 A. M.—One person was killed and many were wounded during riots at Ventimiglia, which resulted from a demonstration in favor of the maintenance of neutrality by Italy. A counter demonstration by persons desiring the intervention of Italy in the war led to a serious fight.

Police and carabinieri interfered but were unable to restore order for some time. During the fighting several of the police and a major of the carabinieri were injured.

## LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Two additions to the long list of disasters at sea during the war were made known to-day. The French destroyer Dague struck a mine in the Adriatic and went down, with the probably lost of 38 lives. The Swedish merchantman Svarton was damaged badly by a mine or torpedo in the North Sea but was able to reach a Dutch port.

From Constantinople is announced a victory by the Turks over Russian forces in the trans-Caucasus. It is said that after a battle of several days the Russians were put to flight having suffered heavy losses.

So far as official statements from London, Paris and Berlin show, there have been no important changes on the main battlefields of the west or east. In London the opinion is growing that the Germans are soon to make a great general attack in France, remaining on the defensive in Poland, Petrograd, on the

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## ALLIES' SHIPS DAMAGED BY TURKISH FIRE

### In Reducing Darda- nelles Forts Three Big Vessels of Allied Fleet Suffer

## FIRING LASTED FOR 7 1-2 HOURS

### London Announced Last Night That All Forts at Entrance of Dardanelles Were Reduced by Combined Fleets of Great Britain and France

Constantinople, Feb. 26, via London, 12.33 P. M.—Three warships of the allies were damaged in the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts February 25, according to an announcement given out to-day at the headquarters of the Turkish army here. Here is the text of the announcement.

"Ten big armored vessels on February 25 again bombarded the Turkish forts at the Dardanelles for a period of seven and one-half hours. At the conclusion of this operation they retired in the direction of the Island of Tenedos.

"One ship of the Agamemnon type and two other armored vessels were damaged by the fire from the forts on the Asiatic side of the straits. It was announced from London last night that all of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles had been reduced by the combined fleets of Great Britain and France, a naval force which had been estimated at something over thirty vessels.

The English announcement made no mention of losses, either to vessels or in men. It described the operations as successful and said they were continuing.

## Key to Constantinople

The Dardanelles are the key to Constantinople, and the effort to force them has been going on since the middle of December. In possession of this waterway, which is a strait about forty-five miles long and from one to three miles wide between the sea of Marmora and the Mediterranean, the warships of the allies would not encounter any serious difficulty in making their way to Constantinople and training their great guns on the Turkish capital. Turkey always has relied upon the strength of the Dardanelles fortifications for protection from attack by sea; their defenses in the sea of Marmora and around Constantinople have been described as relatively unimportant.

It has been declared that with Constantinople in possession of the allies, a vast amount of Russian wheat would come out from the Black sea and be distributed to ports in France and England. The possession of Constantinople also would have the effect of driving Turkish naval power and particularly the former German cruisers Goeben and Breslau into the Black sea where they would be without any port of refuge.

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