

Sinking of American Ship Was Deliberate Act

INDUSTRIES OF COUNTRY FEEL THE TIE-UP ON EASTERN ROADS

No Relief in Sight From the Congestion of Freight Brought on by the Virtual Stopping of Ocean Traffic.

GOVERNMENT ASKS RAILROADS TO ACT

Heads of Thirty Transportation Systems Urged to Make an Inquiry Into the Situation and Find a Way to Bring About Relief.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Investigation by 30 railway heads into freight conditions and the relation of the German submarine campaign to eastern shipping conditions was asked by the government, it became known positively here today. The investigation has now broadened into discussion of detailed plans for the protection of all seaboard railway lines in the country in event of war. In the past much attention has been paid to Atlantic lines, but now the Pacific coast is to receive attention.

Plans for the protection of tunnels, railway bridges and important mountain railway passes are to be given close attention.

IDLE PLANTS MAY COME SOON UNLESS RELIEF IS FOUND

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Chicago business men, whose industries are menaced by the freight blockade, are facing the most serious situation since the threatened railway strike last summer. With their inability to get their finished products to the markets or raw materials, comes the prediction that unless immediate relief comes, thousands of workmen will be thrown out of employment.

The embargo on further shipments for export, which was decided upon yesterday by representatives of 39 railroads at Washington, virtually brought the matter to a focus here. Rail officials and members of the Chicago Board of Trade held a conference in an attempt to devise some measure of relief.

FOR ARMING OF VESSELS.

Practically the only solution offered was the move to urge President Wilson to either allow merchant vessels to arm themselves or to furnish convoys.

Grain shipments to the east from Chicago are at a standstill and domestic stagnation is becoming pronounced.

Millions of dollars' worth of freight is lying in warehouses here awaiting cars. In Detroit \$10,000,000 worth of new cars are awaiting shipment. One hundred new cars, being driven cross-country in preference to waiting transportation, passed through Chicago today.

Grain elevators here contain 30,000,000 bushels waiting shipment, while an additional 7,000,000 bushels is tied up in loaded cars in the yards. A considerable part of the grain held here is for domestic consumption in the east and not for export.

MORE EMBARGOS DECLARED. Several more embargos were declared by western roads last night. The Texas and Pacific put up the bars on grain to New Orleans; the Santa Fe, Katy and Burlington on perishables to east of Illinois.

The probability of thousands of workers being thrown out of employment within a few days has aroused city officials and associations of commerce. Manufacturers and other employers will meet today with railroad representatives and government agents. United States military authorities here are making no effort to hide their anxiety over the situation. It is admitted that if the nation were plunged into war the freight congestion would not only hamper the movement of troops and supplies, but this traffic would serve to increase the crisis to the point of a complete tie-up of the larger transfer points.

EMBARGO HAS SMALL EFFECT ON PRICES

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 15.—With the middle west facing the worst freight tie-up and car shortage in its his-

AMERICAN LINER IN DANGER ZONE; HAS PASSENGERS

Philadelphia Sailed From Liverpool for New York Wednesday — Anchor Also Crossing.

New York, Feb. 16.—The American steamship Philadelphia is today on her way to New York from Liverpool. The American line offices here today announced a cablegram from Liverpool and gave the time of her departure as Wednesday morning.

The Philadelphia has aboard 61 first-class passengers; 66 second-class and 110 steerage.

AMERICAN VESSELS NEAR END OF VOYAGE

New York, Feb. 16.—The American steamships Orleans and Rochester today are very near the submarine danger zone. Running abreast in a race to reach Bordeaux, both ships are expected to turn into the port of Fayal, in the Azores, some time today or early tomorrow, there to take on coal before beginning the final leg of the trans-Atlantic journey.

At the offices of the Oriental Navigation company, owners of the Orleans, it was stated today by W. S. Sullivan that he has made a wager at odds of 15 to 1, that the Orleans will reach Bordeaux in safety.

The Kerr steamship line, owner of the Rochester, declined to comment further than to express confidence in the trip of the Rochester.

The Mar Baltica, bound for Bordeaux and the Mar Negro, bound for Marseilles, both of Spanish registry, will sail today carrying non-contraband cargoes, it was announced at the Kerr offices. Officials expressed confident belief that the two vessels would reach their destinations safely.

The Aztec, of the Kerr steamship line, reached New York today from Havre in ballast. She will leave here Feb. 23 for Bordeaux, loaded with automobile trucks, foodstuffs, clothing and machinery.

The Rawson, of the Kerr line, will leave Feb. 24 for Bordeaux with a similar cargo.

THE TUSCANIA SAILS. New York, Feb. 16.—The Anchor liner Tuscania sailed from New York today for Glasgow. She carried a general cargo and a number of passengers. The Tuscania is owned by the same line which owned the torpedoed liner California.

tory, commission men, retailers and railroad men did not express any alarm today over the situation. Yesterday the five western stock markets received only two-thirds as many losses as was received a week ago, yet the price was not materially affected. The cattle market was weak.

"So far the freight congestion has made little difference in prices, either up or down," one commission man said today. "I doubt if there will be a material difference. We fear no serious results. The trouble in the west can easily be alleviated by Pacific coast shipments."

Wholesale embargoes were announced yesterday by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, the Union Pacific and the St. Louis and San Francisco railroads. From the south it was announced at Dallas, Tex., that the Texas & Pacific railroad had placed an embargo on shipments east of the Illinois state line, while the Missouri, Kansas & Texas announced an embargo against export grain to Galveston. This latter step, it was explained, would stop almost the entire export grain trade from gulf ports.

FLOUR NOW PILING UP IN TWIN CITIES

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 16.—A car shortage and not an embargo on freight shipments, has created in Minnesota a situation, "very serious, but not yet alarming," according to Ira B. Mills of the state railroad and warehouse commission today. His statement was in part confirmed by shippers.

No embargo has yet been placed upon shipment of flour to southern and eastern cities by railroads. All shipments offered them today were accepted. This is due to the light crop in the northwest last fall, lightning traffic conditions, and the fact that flour mills for several weeks have not been running full capacity, because of the car shortage. Eventually, Mills said, this freight must back up on Minnesota, if eastern embargoes are maintained.

COMPLAIN BITTERLY.

Minneapolis millers today agreed with Mills in stating that there is little immediate danger of flour prices being boomed because of the embargo, although they complained bitterly of the car shortage, blamed for mills now running one-fourth to one-half normal.

G. G. Riegler, of the Gould Grain company, Minneapolis, said he knew of 5000 empty cars in the Twin City yards, being purposely held by the

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COUNTERFEIT FOOD TICKETS.

Amsterdam, Feb. 16.—An extensive plan for counterfeiting of food tickets has been unearthed at Dresden, according to information reaching here today. The German authorities, it is said, have made a number of arrests.

FREDERIK AT HALIFAX.

Halifax, Feb. 16.—The liner Frederik VIII bearing Count von Bernstorff, dismissed German ambassador, and his party from the United States was reported sighted off Halifax harbor shortly before noon today.

SAILORS GIVEN LIBERTY AFTER LONG DELAY ON PART OF KAISER

Press Reports State Berlin Has Officially Announced the Release of Seamen Taken From the Steamer Yarrowdale.

NO OFFICIAL WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED

Probable That the American Demand Will Go Ahead at Once Unless Confirmation Is Forthcoming—Situation Slightly Relieved.

Amsterdam, Feb. 16.—Release of the American sailors held among those captured by the German sea raider and brought into port on the Yarrowdale, was officially announced in Berlin early today. Dispatches received here gave no details.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The United States may send its Yarrowdale note to Germany regardless of press reports that the 72 American sailors had been released. Up to 11:30 today no official confirmation of the press reports had been received here.

The note is ready to go. Since it contains detailed statements regarding treatment of German sailors, German citizens and German property in the United States, the state department, it was officially intimated today, may feel that it should be sent even should this government in the meantime receive official word that the Yarrowdale prisoners have been set free.

KEEP RECORDS CLEAR.

Such a note would "keep the records clear" and serve to place on file America's protest against what the president and Secretary Lansing consider a clear cut violation of international law by Germany.

Discussing the probability of this government's sending the Yarrowdale note, even though the prisoners are released, the department frankly stated this government is annoyed at the "apparently gauging manner" in which Germany is doing "only what she should do" in releasing the sailors.

SITUATION IN TURKEY.

The department announced it has received word from Ambassador Eikus at Copenhagen, giving additional details as to how Americans are affected in Turkey. Apparently conditions are not as bad as first feared.

The department refused to reveal the contents of the Eikus message. While no official statement was forthcoming today regarding Austrian-American relations, questions put to department heads as to that phase of the international situation indicated that negotiations continue designed to avert a break with Austria, despite Austria's identical U-boat pronouncement.

This government, it was officially stated, has not advised Americans to leave Austria.

TENSION IS RELIEVED.

In contrast to the general pessimism openly manifested over the German-American situation yesterday there was some relief in the tension today, as a result of reports that Germany has released the 72 American Yarrowdale prisoners and her revocation of her order ousting American relief workers in Belgium.

While officials generally still are in-igniant at the series of apparent insults and violations of American rights and privileges precipitated by Germany since the break in relations, her release of the Yarrowdale prisoners and change in attitude toward Belgian relief workers had a quieting effect.

Some officials said these two incidents may indicate a decided change in the defiant German attitude toward the interests of the United States. A majority, however, held little hope that the optimistic change will be long lived.

CAME JUST IN TIME.

The report of the release of the Yarrowdale prisoners came in the very nick of time to stop a determined and peremptory demand being made on the part of the government for their freedom. The demand already had been prepared. It was to have gone forward today.

Besides the demand the document contained a complete review of this government's attitude toward all German property in this country. It explained actions regarding Germans and German property this government has taken since the break in relations and an explanatory section in frigidly polite terms stated that every step was taken without the slightest regard for any questions of military expediency, but wholly and literally in accord with what treaties and international law de-

KAISER EXPECTS THE SUBMARINES TO CLINCH VICTORY

The German Emperor Predicts Great Things as a Result of His New U-Boat Warfare.

Amsterdam, Feb. 16.—The Kaiser looks to the submarine to clinch Germany's victory, according to a pronouncement addressed to the navy, text of which reached here today.

"In the impending decisive battle the task falls to my navy," the Kaiser said, "of turning the English war method of starvation, by which our most hated and most obstinate enemy intends to overthrow the German people, against him and his allies by combating their sea traffic with all means in our power."

"In this work the submarine will stand in the first rank. I expect this weapon to be developed with wise foresight, in co-operation with all our navy fighting weapons and supported by the spirit which during the whole course of the war has enabled us to perform brilliant deeds, it will break our enemy's war designs."

manded for interests of the German government.

NO CONFIRMATION. No confirmation had been received at the state department early today either of the release of the Yarrowdale prisoners or the revocation of the order to oust Belgian relief workers.

It was intimated that plans to send peremptory demands to Germany for release of the prisoners would go right ahead and if confirmation of the press reports was not received, the demands would be sent. It was also stated there had been no official dispatches telling of the release of American consuls in various belligerent capitals.

TO MOVE DELIBERATELY.

Aggravating events continue to accumulate but the president, his advisers say, will hold to his avowed purpose of moving deliberately in every step he takes.

When he goes before congress to ask authority to protect American lives and property—a move believed inevitable and a matter of not many days—the president wants to feel that the entire country will back his action.

In this action the prevailing question in Washington "what is the president's idea" of an overt act such as would warrant his going before congress?

The president has no concrete idea of what "the overt act" will be. He feels it may be a single incident such as would shock the country into immediate response, or a series of incidents such as would finally cause the country to break out indignantly and despite a spreading peace propaganda practically call upon him to take drastic action.

In other words, he feels that when the time comes, whether marked by some single act or whether marking merely the end of the country's patience over a series of acts, he will "feel" it, the country will "feel" it, the world will "feel" it and all will know that the time has arrived.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

In the meantime, the most immediately vexatious matter is that of economic conditions that are rapidly growing worse as a result of the indirect blockade of American ports. With freight shipments piling higher and higher at eastern seaboard terminals and the nation's export railway men admittedly in a quandary over this situation, it is felt a solution to this problem must come soon.

Incidentally some officials pointed out today, that this matter will carry in it the potential call from the country that drastic action be taken.

ENOUGH TO DO

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he thinks he can possibly do to keep us out of war," said Mann.

"God only knows where it will lead us. I believe that so far as we can we ought to remain the dominant force on the American continent and I do not believe we are obligated to regulate the world."

"We have got a big burden which we have not yet successfully carried—to take care of the South and Central American countries. When we can perform that job to the credit of ourselves and of our sister republics it will be time enough to undertake to regulate the conduct and civilization of the old nations of Europe, now engaged in an effort to destroy civilization."

CHANGE IN POLICY.

"All opinions must be merged to stand by our country if we get into war—but if we enter the war we will have abandoned our policy to remain supreme on the American continent and remain out of the European continent."

"We will have placed ourselves in a position where at the end of the war we shall have to take part in regulating Belgium, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Holland and Russia. Then we can no longer insist on the American policy that Europe must keep out of American affairs."

ASKED A QUESTION.

"If some European nations ordered us to keep our commerce off the seas, would you interfere?" interrupted Representative Dies of Texas. "What would you do?" parried Mann. "I will tell you when I can explain my views in speech," Dies said. "The gentleman is trying to embarrass me by a question he will not answer himself," said Mann.

AUSTRIANS PLACED BOMBS ON SCHOONER

Kaiser's Course Makes Patriotic American of Hyphenated Citizen

Sioux City, Ia., Feb. 16.—Leonard Frank, German by birth, who has built up one of the greatest restaurant businesses in the northwest through advertising his German cooking, has scrapped the Germanic eagle off his plate glass windows; given his German cooks the customary week's notice; hired decorators to put the sign "American Cooking" on the windows and paint pictures of Old Glory where the former eagle screamed, and served notice that he has forever suspended all relations with things German.

Since the opening of the war Frank has been a bitter anti-ally exponent and since the recent unrestricted warfare has been bawled the newspaper offices for any new piece of information. When the news came that President Wilson had accepted Germany's challenge Frank was in a newspaper office. He took the telephone and gave his directions for his future course.

FOOD SITUATION IN HOLLAND IS ACUTE; RIOTERS DISPERSED

The Hague, Feb. 16.—Serious rioting, in which the crowds were roused by police and Hussars hurriedly called upon for reinforcements occurred here last night. The rioters, mostly workmen, staged their demonstration as a protest against the high cost of food. They occupied the space in front of the queen's palace and the ministerial buildings.

The food situation was regarded today as having reached an acute stage in Holland, small salaried workers find it almost impossible to obtain coal and potatoes. Discontent has been growing and authorities today did not disguise their fear of further outbreaks of probably an even more serious nature than that of last night unless the government takes some remedial measures at once.

Primarily the shortage in food has been due to the fact that Holland of all neutral lands is most affected by the blockade which the belligerent nations of Europe have established about her.

MORE VERSIONS ON SEA FIGHT; RAIDER SUNK BY A CRUISER

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 16.—The German sea raider was sunk by the British cruiser Amethyst, but a converted German cruiser conveying the sea raider escaped, according to reliable information concerning the much reported naval battle reaching here today. This version is said to have been received by wireless by the commander of the British cruiser Glasgow, which put in to the Rio harbor today.

The Amethyst is reported to have been greatly damaged in her encounter with the raider and cruiser. The newspaper Correo had still another version today although agreeing in the main with the one above. It asserted there were several British cruisers in the action which was fought against three large steamers. One of the latter is supposed to have been beached in a sinking condition and another greatly damaged. The Amethyst according to this account, was only slightly damaged.

HOPED TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE IN FLOUR

New York, Feb. 16.—Relief from the danger of food shortage in New York was hoped for today in steps taken to rush cars west in order to carry supplies to New York. A serious shortage of flour and wheat in the east probably will be relieved by promises to return an empty for every loaded car sent from the west.

Western railroads have agreed to begin sending solid trains of empty cars west and south, these trains to have the right of way over all others except passenger trains.

Embargoes will stand until munitions and other supplies are unloaded from cars in New Jersey and New York terminals for shipment to Europe.

MEN TO WEAR GAY CLOTHES; BLACK TO GO AFTER THE WAR

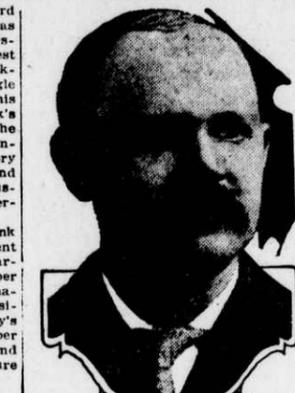
Philadelphia, Feb. 16.—Once the war is over, wearing dress will no longer be the "conventional black." Gay colors will be worn, purple, lavender and blue, according to leading tailors here for the convention of the National Association of Merchant Tailors.

And, once the "society birds" get started wearing evening clothes with more "snap" only one more step will be needed to get men started wearing knickerbockers, fancy frills and elaborately colored hose, is also the belief. The basis for the belief in gay colors coming is that dye will be plentiful when the war is over.

The convention voted that each large city should follow the example of Cincinnati, and establish a sartorial college. It also voted to recommend that the government pay its employees better salaries, so it will be possible to wear better clothes. Detroit was selected as the place for the next convention.

The first torpedo school of the United States navy was established at Newport, R. I. in 1869.

The Trenton, of the United States navy, was the first warship in the world to be lighted by electricity.



Leonard Frank.

INQUIRY SENT TO GERMANY ON THE DELAY TO TRAIN

Former American Officials Who Were Scheduled to Leave Early in Week Still in the Country.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Inquiry has been sent Germany through the Spanish embassy at Berlin regarding the delay in the departure of the trainload of former American officials from Germany for Switzerland. It was announced officially today. The train should have left Munich early this week carrying 86 former American consuls and their families and an unknown number of other Americans.

FAIL TO REACH BERNE.

Berne, Feb. 16.—The last contingent of the American colony arriving here from Germany left last night for Paris on their way to Spain and home. The expected arrival of an additional number of Americans from Germany, including American consuls, has not occurred. Reports are current they are being detained in Germany.

RATES ON POTATOES TO TEXAS AT ISSUE

San Francisco, Feb. 16.—Potato shippers of California locked horns with potato shippers from Minnesota and Wisconsin before Examiner Charles F. Gerry of the interstate commerce commission here today. Comparative freight rates to Texas are at issue.

Testifying before Examiner Gerry, Herbert G. Zuckerman said if the commission grants the reduction asked by the Minnesota and Wisconsin shippers, it will demoralize the potato trade in California and bankrupt many farmers. Some Minnesotans are scheduled to testify today.

The Minnesota and Wisconsin potato men ask that the freight rate from their territory to Texas, 58 cents, be reduced because California, much farther away, pays only 75 cents freight.

CHURCH WORKER OF EVANSTON GONE; SO IS HIS SECRETARY

Evanston, Ill., Feb. 16.—Robert L. Babenruth, an elder in the First Presbyterian church and formerly an official of the American Can company, has disappeared. So has his beautiful young secretary, Miss Louise Shannon.

Babenruth, known as "silver voice" because of his choir activities, was attentive to Miss Shannon. Anonymous letters warned his firm, and his wife, as a result he resigned, and Miss Shannon is said to have been dismissed. Both have been missing since.

Mrs. Babenruth, mother of the elder's three children, has filed suit for divorce.

NO EXTRA SESSION WILL BE NECESSARY

Washington, Feb. 16.—Congress will adjourn on time, March 6. Majority Leader Kitchin insisted today, despite the big program of legislation in both house and senate and threat of war with Germany in the air. "We will finish all appropriation bills and any other necessary measures—including the Webb bill," Kitchin said. "If there is war, the president does not want us here."

The army bill through, the house will take up the military academy bill. Then, according to plans, the Webb prohibition bill will come up, perhaps the middle of next week. House leaders all back up Kitchin in the assertion that no extra session will be necessary.

NEGOTIATIONS BROKEN OFF.

Copenhagen, Feb. 16.—The Berlin Tageblatt today declared negotiations between Austria and American over submarine warfare have been broken off, according to Berlin advices.

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submarine fired a shot across my bow. I turned to the windward at once. The submarine came alongside and I was ordered aboard her. There an official examined all my ship's papers, which I carried with me.

This concluded, the officer accompanied me back to my schooner and came aboard to examine my cargo, which consisted of small boards. He told me to take him back aboard the submarine and said I might follow him if I desired. Later, after I had held my lifeboat for 20 minutes alongside the submarine, I was advised that the crew could take to the boats, as it was necessary that the schooner be destroyed.

CARRIED BOMBS ABOARD.

An officer and three men returned aboard the Lyman M. Law, carrying two bombs. They opened the hatchways and took the bombs below. Then the officer took my papers and departed.

The submarine flew no flag, but members of her crew told me she was an Austrian war vessel.

After we had abandoned my ship and taken to the lifeboats, we pulled away a few miles before I heard two explosions and saw the schooner burst into flames.

HOISTED THE FLAG.

When I observed the submarine I was about five miles distant from her, and immediately hoisted the American flag. The Stars and Stripes were also painted on both sides of my boat.

We disembarked from our lifeboats at Cagliari. The entire crew was saved. We were received at Cagliari by the captain of the port and were the objects of the prompt care and attention of the British consul.

The crew included Stephen MacDonough, master; William Lowe and Edward Nickerson, officers, and Lee Thompson, Charles Crocker, Frank Batt, Irving Graw and Leslie Sprague, all of Maine; with William Stydton, of Jamaica, and Con Hartington of Bantry Bay, Ireland.

We will all leave today enroute home via Rome.

SWEDEN CONSERVES HER FOOD SUPPLY

Stockholm, Feb. 16.—The Swedish government is taking vigorous measures to regulate the food supply. Orders have been issued prohibiting the exportation of barley, barley flour, half of all supplies of oats and all animal and wheat grits. The government has forbidden the use of potatoes as fodder and the peelings of potatoes before cooking.

The official decree now covers all breadstuffs except cornmeal and corn, which are expressly excluded. The daily bread ration will probably be reduced by 50 grams.

DROP IN PRICES OF POTATOES EXPECTED

Appleton, Wis., Feb. 16.—Wisconsin farmers are ready to release the stores of potatoes they have been holding for higher prices and commission men here predicted prices would drop within the next two weeks.

Warmer weather and the fact that western and southern potatoes will soon be available to wholesalers are leading factors in prompting the release of Wisconsin potatoes. Car shortages may hold up shipments temporarily.

THREE NEGROES PAY THE DEATH PENALTY

White Sulphur Springs, Mont., Feb. 16.—Three negro murderers, Leslie Fahley, Harrison Gibson and Henry Hall were hanged in the county jail yard here today. There was but one scaffold. The men were taken out one at a time. The trap was sprung first at 6:20 and at 6:40 the third of the trio was dead. The men killed and robbed Michael Freeman, a white farm hand, on a freight train near Judith Gap, Oct. 6 last.

MEXICANS TURNED OVER BY PERSHING

Washington, Feb. 16.—Twenty-one Mexican prisoners arrested by General Pershing's expedition for participating in the Columbus, N. M., raid were today turned over to representatives of the department of justice at Columbus, N. M.

This was announced by the war department today. Department officials were unable to state whether the Mexicans had been arrested on Mexican territory or not.

TWO DEAD AS RESULT OF EXPLOSION IN A TUNNEL

San Francisco, Feb. 16.—Two men are dead, two are believed to be dying, and four others are seriously injured as the result of the explosion of a delayed blast in Twi: Peaks tunnel here last night.

Twenty-four blasts had been set off in rapid succession. The workmen, waiting behind a protecting hummock, heard only 23 shots. They waited 10 minutes for the twenty-fourth, which exploded as they stooped over it.

GERMANS TAKE PRISONERS.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—Four enemy lines on a width of 2600 metres and a depth of half a mile were stormed and taken by German forces around hill No. 185, Champagne district, the official statement said today. German forces took 237 prisoners and 20 machine guns. "Our losses were slight," it was stated. "The French made fruitless counter attacks."