

ARMED SHIPS MAY BE BARRED

From Entering Harbors of Neutral Countries—A New Complication

NORWAY AND SWEDEN SAID NOT TO OBJECT

Holland May Prevent Armed Merchantmen from Entering

Copenhagen, March 15.—The right of armed merchantmen to enter neutral ports of Europe is subject to negotiations now being carried on by a diplomatic representative of the United States.

It is understood that among the European neutrals, Sweden and Norway have no objections to the use of their ports by armed American merchantmen.

MUNITIONS SHIP, ARMED DEFENSIVELY, SUNK BY U-BOAT

Warren Line Steamer Sagamore, Which Left Boston Feb. 27, Carried a Crew of 51 Men.

Boston, March 15.—An agent of the Warren line announced to-day that he had received indirect word that the British steamer Sagamore, which sailed from Boston Feb. 27 for Liverpool, had been sunk.

When declining to give the source of information, the line officials said they were satisfied that the vessel was sunk. The Sagamore is the first vessel out of this port to be destroyed by a submarine since the outbreak of the war.

ALGONQUIN CAPTAIN CLAIMS NO WARNING

But Says That Submarine Crew Boarded the Vessel and After 10 Minutes Blew It Up.

Plymouth, via London, March 15.—Capt. A. Nordberg of the American steamship Algonquin, which was torpedoed by a German submarine on March 13, is now at Penzance. He will arrive with his crew in Plymouth to-day.

"On Monday morning," he said, "just after daylight I was on the bridge. It was the mate's watch. I saw two steamers, apparently colliers, steaming west, one on the starboard and the other on the port side.

"The submarine was about three miles distant, as were also the steamers. Immediately I saw a flash of a gun and a shell fell short. At once I stopped the engines and went full speed astern, indicating this by three blasts on the whistle.

"The submarine kept on firing, the fourth shot throwing up a column of water which drenched me and the man at the wheel. It was a close thing.

"The fifth shot struck the ship's side and the next went aft. The submarine was using two guns. Twenty shots were fired at us. I ordered the crew to the boats and we pulled away two ship's lengths.

"The submarine was flying the German ensign. Her commander asked my name, nationality, destination and cargo of the ship, which had the American colors painted on her side and flew the American flag day and night.

BATTLE IN MEXICO.

Carranza and Villa Forces Clashed Near Santa Anna.

Washington, D. C., March 15.—Reports of heavy fighting between Mexican troops and Villa bandits 40 miles west of Santa Anna came to the war department to-day via Nogales. The fighting began on the morning of March 13 and was still in progress at noon the following day.

TURKS BEING PURSUED IN TWO DIRECTIONS

With the exception of a notable German retreat on the Franco-Belgian front which, whether voluntarily or by force, is continuing, the most interesting military movements at present in progress are in western Persia and Mesopotamia.

Disorganized by their defeats at Kut-el-Amara and before Bagdad, the Turkish forces in that section of Mesopotamia are retreating up the Tigris and at last reports were more than 30 miles above Bagdad.

Eastward, across the Mesopotamia border in Persia, two columns of Russians are advancing toward the line of Turkish retreat, driving other Turkish forces before them.

On the Franco-Belgian front operations, aside from those of the British on the Somme front, current statements report little of note.

DETERMINED TO CARRY THROUGH U-BOAT WARFARE

Former Ambassador Gerard's Report to State Department on His Return to Washington—Talk of Peace Abandoned in Berlin.

Washington, D. C., March 15.—Former Ambassador Gerard, fresh from Berlin, reported to the state department yesterday that he had been given every evidence that Germany fully intended carrying out her ruthless submarine campaign, regardless of the prospect of war with the United States, and that talk of peace had been abandoned.

The former ambassador did not see President Wilson because the president still is confined to his room, but he conferred at length with both Secretary Lansing and Counselor Polk, and went over with them in detail events leading to the break in diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States.

Mr. Gerard reported that German officials apparently consider the effects and consequences of submarine ruthlessness before proclaiming it, and as far as he could learn were confident of its success.

When he left Berlin, however, the campaign was only in its second week and the Germans were still predicting the destruction of a million tons of shipping a month, the amount admitted by effective starvation blockades of England.

Since then, however, the average destruction has been below half that.

Food conditions in Germany when Mr. Gerard's party left were reported as serious, but not necessarily critical. This question is looked upon by the American government as very important because of its bearing upon the possibility of further peace moves by Germany in the near future.

The former ambassador arrived here from Key West, Fla., shortly after noon, and was met at the station by a group of officials, including Counselor Polk, and Assistant Secretary Phillips of the state department.

Good conditions in Germany when Mr. Gerard's party left were reported as serious, but not necessarily critical. This question is looked upon by the American government as very important because of its bearing upon the possibility of further peace moves by Germany in the near future.

The report made by the former ambassador to the state department was understood to deal particularly with the treatment accorded himself and other Americans following the break in diplomatic relations, the efforts of the German government to get him to reaffirm the old treaty of 1828 with extensive changes, the general attitude of the German government and public towards submarine warfare, peace and relations with the United States and conditions in Germany.

GRAND LARCENY CHARGED.

Edward W. Bailey Was Bailed Out by His Parents.

St. Johnsbury, March 15.—Edward Win Bailey of East Ryegate was arraigned before Judge G. C. Frye in municipal court yesterday afternoon on a charge of grand larceny.

Wednesday afternoon State's Attorney Campbell and Sheriff Worthington were called to East Ryegate, where they found Bailey in the custody of Deputy Sheriff Winch and Wallace. The defendant was charged with taking a sum of money from the safe of George Wallace, a merchant of East Ryegate, at whose house he roomed.

SIX BUILDINGS WERE BURNED

And Also Library of 1,500 Books at Westminster West

SMALL INSURANCE; WILL NOT BE REBUILT

Absence of Wind Prevented a Much Heavier Loss This Morning

Brattleboro, March 15.—Three houses, three barns and much personal property were burned in the village of Westminster West at 2 o'clock this morning, the fire starting in a barn connected with the Congregational parsonage.

Rev. Walter R. Curtis discovered the fire, being awakened by the crackling. A general alarm brought many from the surrounding towns, but there was no apparatus. The parsonage was burned after the barn, and with it the public library of 1,500 volumes.

HOTEL DAMAGED BY FIRE.

Guests of Van Ness in Burlington Made Hurried Exit.

Burlington, March 15.—A fire that originated in the bottom of the elevator shaft of the Van Ness house was discovered early this morning by one of the bell boys, an alarm being turned in from box 5 at 12:48 o'clock, the entire fire department responding.

The fire must have had headway for some time and the building was soon filled with a dense smoke. The fire was confined to the elevator shaft. The greater part of the damage was caused by smoke.

The origin of the blaze was not definitely determined, but is thought to have started in oily rags. Several of the occupants of the house, some of whom were thoroughly frightened, came down the St. Paul street side fire escape, as the smoke in the hallways and stairs was thick.

It was about an hour after the alarm was sounded when the firemen left the building.

TELEPHONE MEN IN BARRE.

Came from Wide Section for Conference on Important Topics.

Officers, managers and superintendents of the New England telephone company and its subsidiary organizations met in Barre this forenoon for one of their periodic get-together gatherings and conferences.

All told around 50 telephone men, including a number of the Boston officials, were present and others were expected for the entertainment to-night.

The department presented a scene of unusual activity with the many returned diplomats who accompanied Mr. Gerard reporting to their superiors. Some of them will be kept at the department and others will be given new posts.

While conditions are extremely anxious to learn the personal opinion of men fresh from Germany, there is not the slightest disposition to feel that the international situation can be effected in any way at this time.

Germany is believed to have shown herself in the series of sinkings such as the Laconia, the California and many others, including the American steamship Algonquin, reported yesterday sunk without warning, to be utterly unmindful of the country's rights or its possible participation in the war.

Reading conditions, one of the best observers who has reported to the state department in months said that 20,000,000 people directly connected with the army or government, another 20,000,000 people in the rural population and about 8,000,000 wealthy people were well fed but that the balance, about 20,000,000 are in a serious plight.

PART OF POWDER MILL WAS BLOWN UP AT SWANTON

Manager E. M. Funk Is Thought to Be Seriously Injured as the Result of the Explosion.

TAX ON DOGS NOT RAISED

House Killed Measure Which Was Debated at Length

HAD BEEN ORDERED TO THIRD READING

Senate Killed Bill to Abolish the Fair Haven Probate Court District

Swanton, March 15.—A slight explosion in a small building detached from the main building of the International Explosives company at 7:15 o'clock this morning wrecked the small building and seriously injured Dr. E. M. Funk, the general manager, who was in the large building, as well as knocking down several other men in the larger structure.

St. Albans, March 15.—The case of C. W. Brush vs. Jed Cherrier, assumpsit, was taken up before Judge Zed S. Stanton in Franklin county court yesterday and the plaintiff's testimony was taken.

Mr. Stewart made the opening arguments in the case on trial and the closing arguments and the charge to the jury were made this morning.

KEEPING BARRE ON MAP IN COMMERCIAL WORLD

Interesting Phases of Publicity Work with Special Reference to Barre Wrote and Conducted by Thomas H. Moore of New York Last Evening.

First principles in advertising were interestingly discussed at Hotel Barre last evening when 100 men, gathered there for the third of a series of business men's dinners inaugurated by the Barre Board of Trade in January, listened attentively to Thomas H. Moore of New York, an associate director of the bureau of advertising of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, who spoke on the subject, "Newspaper Advertising."

It was one of the most instructive gatherings of the series and the speaker, leading his after-dinner audience afield into the highways and byways of modern publicity, found a response which was effective as it was genuine.

From first to last the speaker bristled with impressions, facts and figures. Evidently he has a well-grounded working knowledge of advertising everything but himself and he qualified as an expert in the advertising field by reason of long experience in publicity lines.

He spoke as follows: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: It is refreshing to leave the hurly burly and come up among these granite hills—even if they do persist in putting you off the sleeper at about the hour a respectable city man is ready to go to bed.

It is refreshing to meet such a group of business men and to talk on a subject almost as distinctively American as the flag itself.

Granite is a useful commodity—unless it happens to be in a man's head. Unfortunately some men we meet have granite heads.

The wearer of a granite head is an otherwise human being dead from the neck up, but not sufficiently dead to afford you the small satisfaction of selling him a tombstone.

The advertising man meets the granite type and frequently, if he may leave us (which he seldom has) he may pause long enough to try to blast in a few ideas, but as a rule he just puts away his tools and moves on to Barre or some other live place.

Granite, as you know, is everlasting, and the man with the granite head is very set in his ways.

TAX ON DOGS NOT RAISED

House Killed Measure Which Was Debated at Length

HAD BEEN ORDERED TO THIRD READING

Senate Killed Bill to Abolish the Fair Haven Probate Court District

A bill proposing to raise the tax on dogs was killed after a debate in the Vermont House this morning, the bill having been ordered to a third reading yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Cudworth of Londonderry, in opposing the bill, said he did not think that the friends of the bill had yet deprived it of its objectionable features; he opposed the bill in an entirely impersonal way and on the grounds of principle.

When the House adjourned for noon-day lunch the Senate bill 70, an act to create a board of control was still being debated.

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By Senator Vilas of Chittenden, an act to make a chattel mortgage valid security when written to cover renewals of promissory notes named therein and when written as an accruing mortgage.

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CHILD DIED OF PARALYSIS

First Death from 1917 Outbreak of Poliomyelitis Occurred at Waterbury

HERBERT BILLINGS WAS THE VICTIM

Kenneth Somerville, Page in Legislature, Comes Down with the Disease

Waterbury, March 15.—Little Herbert Billings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Billings, who was quarantined yesterday for infantile paralysis, died this morning at 6 o'clock.

Besides his parents he is survived by his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Blair, and three sisters, Anna, Delta and Jessamine. He would have been five years old this summer.

Waterbury, March 15.—The funeral of Mrs. Henry Ricker, who died at her home on North Main street Tuesday night of Bright's disease and heart trouble, will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

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BARRE MILK PRODUCERS' BANQUET

Interesting Event Was Carried Out Under the Auspices of the Association, with 60 Persons Present.

Members of the Barre Milk Producers' association, Washington County Farm Bureau association, and Barre, Montpelier and Burlington business men to the number of 60 assembled last evening at the Knights of Pythias hall to attend the first annual banquet of the Barre Milk Producers' association.

The evening's entertainment opened with the supper, and from the time the gentlemen were seated until the last speaker of the evening had finished, not a dull moment was in evidence.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. J. D. Towne, president of the association, acted as toastmaster and kept the meeting from going dull by his wit in introducing the speakers.

The information against the Grand Trunk has 58 counts and asks for total fines amounting to \$29,000. It is brought for alleged violation of the hours of service act. The charge against the company is that they have violated the federal law by working men in their employ in excess of the number of hours per day permitted in the government act.

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