

AUSTRO-AMERICAN SPLIT PROBABLE

ONE OF NOTE MAKES BREAK MORE LIKELY

No Disavowal Is Made of Act
and No Demands of Wash-
ington Are Treated.

CRITICIZE U. S. PAPER

Pick Flaws in Document
Prepared by Secretary—
Discussion Is Open.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona is regarded, on the basis of the unofficial reports received today from London and Amsterdam, as wholly unsatisfactory, unacceptable and disappointing to the United States. Diplomatic relations between the two countries may safely be described as standing at the breaking point.

President Silent.

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing are reserving comment until they have the official translation and text at hand, but it is stated authoritatively that the United States will enter into no exchange of opinions, as the Vienna foreign office is represented as suggesting and absolutely will decline to discuss the facts of the torpedoing and shelling of the Ancona by an Austrian submarine with loss of American lives.

Await Official Word.

No official word had reached the state department today that the Austrian reply had been delivered to American Ambassador Penfield, but the news dispatches containing excerpts were taken in official quarters as sufficient evidence that the rejoinders on its way to Washington.

From such part of the unofficial text as is contained in the news dispatches, officials consider the reply vague in many respects, but they were not prepared to decide whether that was caused by translation or not.

To Refuse Austro Request.

The suggestion for an exchange of opinions, the virtual request for a bill of particulars of the American complaint against the action of the submarine commander and the proposal for a discussion of the facts were clearly set forth, however, in the unofficial text and officials of the state department who have knowledge of its policy in the crisis unhesitatingly declared that all would be refused. It was made clear that the United States does not propose to enter into a diplomatic discussion which would have possibilities of being prolonged almost indefinitely.

Reply Disappointing.

The outline of the reply was disappointing because some American officials had been led to believe by predictions from Germanic quarters that it would be favorable or at least would propose something which the United States could accept.

As Secretary Lansing based the representations in his note upon the official statement of the Austrian admiralty itself, American officials are at a loss to understand where there is much room for discussion or dispute of facts.

News from Vienna recently that the submarine which sunk the Ancona was missing led some officials to believe that a new element had been introduced into the dispute, which has promise of carrying some weight. That point, however, seems to have been disregarded in Austria's answer so far as officials can judge from the unofficial text received here.

No Room for Parley.

American officials believed that taking as a basis the official admission of the Austrian admiralty that the Ancona was shelled, torpedoed and sunk while passengers still were aboard, there would be little room for discussion of Secretary Lansing's contention that the commander violated the principles of international law and humanity and that it was "wanton slaughter of defenseless non-combatants."

Sever Relations.

Officials pointed out today that a

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BRITISH GIVE BIG ORDER FOR GUNS

Sharon, Pa., Dec. 16.—The Driggs-Seabury Ordnance company, it was announced today, has closed a contract with the British government for 10,000 aeroplane guns and another contract has been closed for 500 cannon and a large number of six-inch high explosive shells.

Lone Man is Stranded on Bare Island

Clayquot, B. C., Dec. 16.—Marooned for 24 days on a small island in the Pacific ocean was the experience of Everett Fitzpatrick, a rancher of Flores Island, according to word received here today. Nov. 11, he left Ahousat, where he had purchased provisions, alone in a canoe and when about 12 miles from Ahousat and near a small uninhabited island, he was caught in a squall and his canoe was swamped. Fitzpatrick, who cannot swim, saved his life by holding on to rocks. He managed to save a sack of flour, a package of oatmeal and a few matches. A case of oil was also washed ashore. On the provisions he existed more than a month.

When found yesterday by two Mesquiquit Indians who were passing in a canoe, Fitzpatrick was in a demented condition. The man will be taken to the Presbyterian mission at Ahousat.

GARMENT MAKERS RETURN TO WORK

Strike Which Has Held Out Three
Months To Be Satisfactorily Set-
tled in Few Days.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The strike of 15,000 garment workers, which for three months has practically tied up the clothing manufacturing business of Chicago, will be settled within ten days, Sidney Hillman, president of the garment workers' union, announced today.

Police details have been withdrawn from nearly every plant affected by the strike. Nearly 200 strikers returned to their work in one establishment yesterday. More are expected to resume work today.

The terms under which the strike is to be ended have not been settled, but according to Hillman, the strikers practically have won what they demanded, with the exception of recognition of the union. Some of the manufacturers assert, however, that they have made no concessions. The strike, which began eleven weeks ago, has resulted in two deaths, more than one thousand arrests and property damage amounting to thousands of dollars.

TEST VALIDITY OF THE WOMAN VOTE

Des Moines to Call Upon Supreme
Court for Ruling in the Muni-
cipal Election.

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 16.—The Iowa supreme court was to be called upon to determine whether the election of Nov. 19, adopting the municipal court plan for Des Moines is valid or not, District Judge Utterback yesterday afternoon decided that the election, in which women voted was valid.

The opponents of the plan indicated today that they would lay special stress upon the alleged illegal registration, which, if their contentions were upheld by the higher court, it was said, would raise a question as to the validity of the franchise voted by the Des Moines City Railway company. Both propositions were passed upon by the voters in the same election the latter carrying by an overwhelming majority and the former winning solely because of the woman vote.

It was said today that the case would go to the supreme court at once, and that the hearing would be advanced in order that the question might be determined in time for the spring election next year.

Tinker Operation Successful.
Chicago, Dec. 16.—The operation performed on Joseph B. Tinker, manager of the Chicago Federal league club, yesterday was said today to be successful. Tinker was suffering from kidney trouble. He will be obliged to remain in the hospital for three weeks, physicians said.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for
Rock Island, Davenport, Moline
and Vicinity.
Unsettled weather tonight and Friday; probably snow or rain, somewhat colder Friday with the lowest temperature tonight about 20 to 25 degrees. Temperature at 7 a. m. 26. Highest yesterday 26, lowest last night 24.
Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 14 miles per hour.
Precipitation .22 inch.
Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 100 at 7 a. m. 76, at 1 p. m. today 100.
Stage of water 4.1 foot, a fall of .3 in last 24 hours.
J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

Women Help Argus Santa Claus Fund

Yesterday evening there was brought to The Argus office the sum of \$2.50 accompanied by an interesting history of the way in which it was collected. Ten ladies compose what is known as the D. A. L. Embroidery club and every two weeks they meet to sew and enjoy a time of sociability together. Six months ago the idea was suggested that each lady do something for The Argus Santa Claus Fund and it was then agreed that each lady give one cent every time she attended a meeting of the club. The cent was faithfully collected each meeting and yesterday the sum total was handed to the committee to aid in procuring gifts for the poor children of the city.

It was a great pleasure to the committee to receive this amount and there can be no doubt but that each of those ten women will have much greater happiness in her own home in knowing that she has done something for those less fortunately situated.

Have you yet sent your contribution to The Argus Santa Claus committee? It is needed NOW.

IS FOUND GUILTY OF SLAYING WIFE

Winterset, Ia., Dec. 16.—Fred Meyer today was found guilty of the second degree murder of his wife on July 27, 1915, by a jury in the criminal division of the district court here. The jury had been out since midnight.

Attorneys for Meyer announced that they would appeal to the supreme court.

CHINA IS SENT A SOOTHING NOTE

Believing Time Is Ripe Japan Forwarded Document of Entente to Chinese People.

Tokio, Dec. 16.—The Italian edification having arrived, Japan has forwarded to China the note from the entente powers relative to the reestablishment of the Chinese monarchy. The note is of a soothing nature but emphasizes the necessity of the maintenance of peace in China and the determination of the entente nations to protect their rights in the case of outbreaks.

CHICAGO STRIKE TIES UP FREIGHT

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Thousands of freight cars, loaded with all kinds of merchandise, clogged the tracks of seventeen railroads entering Chicago today pending settlement of the strike of 600 employes on the Belt railway of Chicago.

G. W. W. Hanger of the federal board of mediation and conciliation, continued his conferences with employes and officials of the road in an effort to adjust the controversy.

ELKS TO ENTERTAIN AT HOLIDAY PARTY

Rock Island lodge No. 980, E. P. O. Elks, will tonight entertain at their annual Christmas party in the club rooms on Eighteenth street. The dance is not only for club members, but for their friends as well, and the entertainment committee in charge of the event anticipates a large crowd. The dance hall has been beautifully decorated in holiday colors. The Critter orchestra has been engaged to provide music for the dancing, which will last from 8:30 till 12 o'clock. Refreshments will be served.

Gathering Dates.

Dates grow at the top of such tall, slender trees that in order to gather them men have to swing themselves up the trunk by means of a rope, one end of which they fasten around their bodies, while they loop the other end so that it will catch on to the notches in the trunk of the tree. —London Telegraph.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

- Senate: Met at noon.
- Finance committee authorized favorable report on war tax extension resolution.
- House: Met at noon.
- Extension of emergency revenue law debated.
- Ways and means committee reported publicans filed report on the emergency revenue bill, charging that the new tariff instead of war conditions caused the deficit.
- Judiciary committee heard suffrage speakers.
- Military, roads and other house committees meet to organize for the 64th congress.

NEWSPAPERS MAKE COMMENTS ON THE UNITED STATES NOTE

Hamburg, via London, Dec. 16, (3:08 a. m.)—The newspaper Hamburger Nachrichten comments at length on the note sent by the United States to Austria concerning the Ancona case. The Fremdenblatt says:

"The note has caused extraordinary surprise in Germany not only because of its harsh tone, but also because of its contradictory contents. The Ancona was fired upon because she tried to escape, not tried to escape because she was fired upon."

The paper thinks that the note cannot be explained by the immediate occasion that gave rise to it but says that probably the president's "temperament was strongly influenced by general vexations like what recently occurred. But the president," declares the paper, "in view of the responsibility resting upon him and also in justice to the judgment which he claims for himself, must after all attach more value to frank joint effort to clear the atmosphere than to a momentary explosion of passion." The paper proposes a joint investigation of the circumstances of the case as a step towards reaching an agreement.

The Nachrichten finds no trace of particularly sharp language in the note, but says it thinks that the gentlemen in Washington "are incorrectly influenced regarding the incident. Moreover," says the paper, "the note abandons the position expressly taken in the Lusitania note, that a passenger ship must not be sunk unless she is trying to escape. The paper blames the Italian captain of the Ancona for attempting to escape and says that because of his action the Washington note should be addressed to Rome and not to Vienna.

Fire on Fort Day After it is Evacuated

London, Dec. 16 (1:50 a. m.)—The next move in the Balkan theatre of war occupies the attention of the Athens and Saloniki correspondents of the British press.

There are 200,000 entente troops at Saloniki, according to the Daily Mail, whose Saloniki correspondent says that the retreat of the entente allies was so brilliantly carried out that the large forces of Bulgarians were unable at any point to overtake and defeat them. In fact, the Bulgarians were so deceived by the rapidity of the maneuvers and the precision of the movements of the entente troops that they lost much time in bombarding certain positions near Strumitza which the French force had abandoned on the preceding day.

KING WITHOUT A COUNTRY PLIGHT OF SERB RULER

Paris, Dec. 16, (5:20 a. m.)—It is reported from Rome that King Peter of Serbia, driven from his country by the Teutonic invasion, will take refuge in Italy. A Rome dispatch to the Matin says the king has accepted Italy's offer of the palace at Caserta, near Naples, which is now being prepared for his use.

IS CROZIER STILL FOR THE SYSTEM?

Chief of Ordnance Quoted On the
Odious Taylor Scientific
Plan.

Washington, Dec. 16.—There is every reason to believe that General Crozier, chief of ordnance, intends to insist upon the installation of the Taylor system in government plants if he can have his way.

The Army and Navy Journal of Dec. 11 had the following to say on the subject:

"The efforts made during the session of 1914-15 to induce congress to pass legislation prohibiting time studies and premium payments in government establishments and in private concerns manufacturing for the government, which resulted in the passage of the so-called Dietrich amendment to the army appropriation bill. This legislation was not as effective as its proponents intended, and it is expected that during the present session of congress stronger efforts will be made to secure more completely prohibitive legislation. A meeting to consider the advisability and means of presenting to members of congress and to the public a full, accurate and impartial explanation of the nature of time study and premium payments, and of the situation in government and other plants where these have been established will be held in the Engineering Societies' street, New York city. The Society to Promote the Science of Management has issued the call for this meeting, accompanying it with a copy of the address on "Scientific Management in Government Establishments," delivered before the Philadelphia School of Commerce, and accounts by Brigadier General Crozier, chief of ordnance, U. S. A., Oct. 15, 1915. In this address General Crozier describes the application made of the Taylor system in ordnance work and the difficulty he found in organized labor. General Crozier says: 'If not prevented by prohibitive legislation, I am confident that the system of scientific management, as it is now practiced at the Watertown arsenal, can be carried on successfully, to the mutual advantage of the government and the employes, and with the cheerful compliance of the employes, although probably not of the labor organization of which some of them are members.'"

ARE WORRIED BY FINANCIAL MUSS

Puzzled at Question Arising From
American Security Plan Pro-
posed by Exchequer.

London, Dec. 16, (2:45 a. m.)—The question of whether brokers would be paid a commission for the sales of American securities under the plan of Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, for the mobilization of such securities, has taken the treasury authorities rather by surprise, the point not having been considered before hand at all, according to the financial column of the Times. Its importance, however, is fully recognized now that it has been brought to notice and it is stated that some arrangement will be made to meet the case.

REPORT ILLNESS OF KING CONSTANTINE

London, England, Dec. 16.—King Constantine of Greece has contracted a mild influenza, with symptoms of a slight fever, according to the Athens correspondent of the Daily Chronicle. The court physicians are said to have prescribed that the king take a complete rest and abstain from participation in state affairs.

Wilson-Galt License Has Been Issued

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—A marriage license for President Wilson and Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt, was issued today at the local bureau. The wedding will take place Saturday night at Mrs. Galt's home here. Rev. Herbert Scott Smith, rector of the Episcopal church Mrs. Galt attends, will officiate. President Wilson is a Presbyterlan.

The license, which was obtained by Chief Usher Isaac Hoover, chief of the White house staff, gives the president's age as 59 and Mrs. Galt's as 43.

EXPECT PRODUCTS FOR YEAR TO FAR ECLIPSE RECORDS

Washington, Dec. 16.—Secretary Houston's annual report made public yesterday places an estimate of \$9,873,000,000 on the value of American farm crops and animal products for last year, a valuation without precedent. This, however, probably will be eclipsed by the present year's showing.

This valuation is an increase of about \$50,000,000 over the value of 1912, hitherto the highest ever recorded. The increase occurred in the face of a decline in cotton from 12.5 cents a pound for the 1913 crop to an average of 7.3 cents for 1914. The total value of the 1913 cotton crop, estimated at \$846,000,000, was \$283,000,000 more than the 1914 crop, although the latter was 14 per cent greater in quantity.

Of the tremendous flood of exports which began near the end of the fiscal year covered by the secretary's report, many hundreds of millions represent farm products.

"Between Aug. 1, 1914, and Feb. 1, 1915," the report says, "exports were \$1,157,900,000 and imports \$774,000,000, giving a favorable balance of \$383,900,000. Of the total value of exports, \$652,000,000 represented agricultural and only \$495,000,000 non-agricultural commodities, chiefly manufactures.

"The total agricultural exports in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, practically the first year of the war, were \$1,470,000,000, which is an increase of \$356,000,000, or 22 per cent over those of the preceding year and of \$432,000,000, or nearly 32 per cent over the average of the five years 1910-1914."

What is needed more, perhaps, than anything else, the secretary says, is an increase in meat animals. To that end, the department has extended its activities as far as its funds would permit. Elimination of common live stock diseases, from which losses are said to be enormous, would result in a material increase of the meat supply.

"It has been conservatively estimated," the report continues, "on the basis of data for 30 years, that the annual direct losses from animal diseases are approximately \$212,000,000; contagious abortion, \$20,000,000; blackleg, \$6,000,000; anthrax, \$1,500,000; scabies of sheep and cattle, \$4,600,000; glanders, \$5,000,000; other livestock diseases, \$22,000,000; parasites, \$5,000,000; poultry diseases, \$3,750,000."

The potash situation, the report states, continues serious. There is practically no potash available for fertilizer and indications are that the supply for that purpose will not be increased materially next year.

MOLINE TO LOSE VALUABLE PLANT

Ten-Inch Mill of the Republic Iron
and Steel Company Will Be
Moved to Youngstown, O.

Moline yesterday lost a plant valued at nearly \$20,000 and at the same time it was indicated that approximately eighty workmen will leave their homes here and move to Youngstown, Ohio, while 40 others will seek other work here.

The plant is the 10-inch mill of the Republic Iron and Steel company on Sylvan island. It was moved from this city to Youngstown because the product it turns out is now in great demand among eastern manufacturers who have war orders, it is said, and by moving it to Youngstown it will bring it in closer contact with the field it supplies, insuring smaller transportation charges and speedier delivery.

The last piece of the mill machinery was moved yesterday. The 12-inch mill here will be operated as usual, however, and the company will at a later date undoubtedly make use of the space vacated by removal of the 10-inch mill.

TURKO-TEUTS THREATEN TO STRIKE EGYPT

Great Campaign by Ger-
manic and Turkish Allies
Reported Under Way.

300,000 TROOPS READY

Vast Army Said to Be Al-
ready Concentrated—To
Cross the Suez Canal.

Rome, Dec. 15 (Delayed).—The Turco-German threat against Egypt is becoming more grave daily, in the belief of military men here.

The construction of a railway line from Damascus to the Egyptian frontier has been pushed with extraordinary speed, it is stated, and it is expected that it will be finished by the first of February, there being only 50 miles more of track to lay before the Sinai peninsula is reached. This railway, which has double tracks, is considered by military men to permit of concentration of half a million men in one month, together with the necessary supplies and ammunition, at the Egyptian frontier.

300,000 Concentrated.

About 300,000 Ottoman troops, commanded and drilled by German officers, already have been concentrated between Alessandretta, Aleppo and Hama, it is stated. Army engineers are laying miles of tubes for carrying drinking water across the desert and also are providing material for the construction of bridges with which to cross the Suez canal.

Western Attack Urged.

Turco-German emissaries are said to be urging the Senouit to attack Egypt from the west, while an attempt also is being made to induce the Abyssinians to march into Sudan. German officers are reported to be acting as propagandists, organizers and military instructors.

The Rome newspapers ask if, after the lesson of the Balkans, the entente powers are going to allow themselves to be taken by surprise in Egypt.

Inn in Macedonia.

London, Dec. 16 (12:25 p. m.)—On the Macedonian front there has set in a full which well informed observers at Athens believe will extend over the Greek elections on Sunday. The retirement of the Anglo-French forces has ended and they now occupy strong positions north of Saloniki, where thus far their opponents have made no effort to disturb them.

The German forces probably would need some time to prepare for any assault on these positions, particularly as light artillery and mountain guns would not suffice. There would be need of heavier guns, few of which, if any, seem to be near the border.

The entente capitals view with satisfaction what is regarded as the masterful manner in which the retreat was conducted and the comparatively small losses of the allies.

In London the retirement of Field Marshal French from command of the British forces in France temporarily overshadows other war news. The commander-in-chief, Sir Douglas Haig, who is almost the youngest general in the British army, enters upon his duties with a high reputation.

THE WAR TODAY

Austria-Hungary has replied to the American note on the Ancona, say dispatches through London.

Washington has not been officially advised of the reply of the Vienna government and comment on the unofficial reports of its contents is withheld.

Reports have reached Rome that extensive preparations have been made for a Turco-German campaign against the Suez canal and Egypt.

It is declared that 300,000 Turkish troops already have been concentrated for the operations.

Turkish gains against the British at Kut-el-Amara on the Tigris are reported by Constantinople.

According to London advices from Saloniki the Anglo-French forces there now total 200,000 men. The opinion is expressed that the allied forces will not be disturbed by a Bulgarian invasion of Greece, but that in any event the entente forces are prepared for a stand on a fortified line in northern Greece, which they will try to hold until the Saloniki positions are well protected.