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# The Daily Capital Journal

CIRCULATION IS  
OVER 3800 DAILY

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1915

PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS—FIVE CENTS

## ACTION NOT DECIDED IN ARABIC AFFAIR

### Administration Is Still Awaiting Full Reports and Seems Inclined To Act With Deliberation—Doubts Are Expressed Concerning Nationality of Supposed American Victims—Germany Is Plainly Perturbed Over Loss of Life and May Adopt Some Plan Which Will Modify Situation—Views Are Conflicting

Washington, Aug. 23.—Action to be taken as a result of the sinking of the liner Arabic will not be decided on "fragmentary evidence."

This was stated by a high authority of the state department today and was taken to mean that the administration might need two or three weeks to make up its mind.

The British version of the torpedoing or sinking of the liner is expected to be received with reasonable promptness. Ambassador Gerard at Berlin has been instructed to seek a statement from Germany, it was announced today, but detailed mail advices from Ambassador Page and the report of the submarine commander to Berlin may not be received for a fortnight.

Secretary Lansing today denied stock market reports that Germany had disavowed the sinking of the Arabic, but this was followed by the admission that some such statement might have been made to Ambassador Gerard in Berlin. It was said this explained the action of the state department instructing Gerard to request a statement, and also to inquire whether the German admiralty has received any report from the commander of the submarine supposed to have torpedoed the Arabic.

It was not exactly clear this afternoon why the state department seemed doubtful as to the nationality of Mrs. Josephine Brugniere, of San Francisco and New York, and Dr. Edmund Woods, of Janesville, Wis., two of those who perished when the Arabic sank and heretofore accepted as being Americans. It was declared that officials here had merely accepted the statement of Ambassador Page that they were American citizens. The intimation was that if Mrs. Brugniere and Dr. Woods were not Americans, the situation might be modified as a practical proposition, though in principle the case would remain the same inasmuch as there were Americans aboard the liner when she was supposedly torpedoed without warning.

Many Conflicting Views.  
(By C. P. Stewart.)

Washington, Aug. 23.—Ambassador Gerard has been instructed to ask that Germany furnish him with a statement as to the sinking of the liner Arabic at the earliest possible moment, Secretary of State Lansing announced today.

With the step the administration made in its important move in an attempt to learn the facts concerning the sinking of the White Star liner with the loss of two American lives. The instructions forwarded to the ambassador in Berlin made clear that action is to be taken on the British report alone, and Gerard was requested to ask if the German admiralty has yet received a report of the German submarine which is supposed to have torpedoed the Arabic.

Question of Nationality.

The question was even raised today as to the nationality of Mrs. Josephine Brugniere, of New York and San Francisco, and Dr. Edmund Woods, of Janesville, Wis.

At the state department it was said it had not been learned definitely that the victims of the Arabic were Americans. The statement of Ambassador Page that they were has merely been accepted.

Secretary Lansing today said reports received so far as to the Arabic were "fragmentary." He denied a stock market report that Germany had disavowed the attack upon the liner.

Guesses As to Policy.

There were two guesses today regarding action that is to follow the sinking of the big liner last week. The first is: That President Wilson is prepared to "strain a point" to escape the risk of involving the United States in war.

Second, that the president is prepared to sever diplomatic relations with Germany, call an extra session of congress, and take steps looking to possible hostilities unless the kaiser "comes to time" immediately.

There was no way of telling today which of these theories is correct or which is the more nearly correct.

Some Want Stern Measures.

Some theorists, passionately in favor of stern measures, do not believe President Wilson will adopt such means of enforcing the administration's demands for the safety of Americans at sea. Others, who personally are on the opposite side, feared the administration would adopt an attitude which would endanger the nation's peace.

A third group, having American commerce in mind, thought the relations of the United States toward the allies, and Great Britain in particular, a matter of first consideration. They favored subordinating the controversy with Germany to the Anglo-American dispute in which England has so far flatly denied all contentions of the administration as to the seizure and detention of neutral cargoes.

Want War on Allies.

This group is not far from desiring war on the allies and is strong for placing a heavy charge upon shipments of munitions and supplies to the powers of the entente.

The group is composed chiefly of representatives of the cotton interests, packers and dealers in dye stuffs.

Most of the information regarding the Arabic shows that the liner was torpedoed without warning and that she made no effort to ram the submarine or escape. Some unofficial stories, at least, suggested, however, that maneuverers of the Arabic gave the submarine the excuse of thinking the liner was attempting to ram her or was endeavoring to flee. If these reports are verified, they might furnish ground for accepting the German story, assuming that Germany makes an explanation.

Germany Is Perturbed.

Reports from Berlin contained in United Press dispatches as to the perturbation because of the loss of life and the doubt expressed that the Arabic was sunk by a submarine were regarded as hopeful. It is not believed Germany can disprove the liner was submarine, but the reports were regarded in some quarters as indicating the kaiser will try to make out a good case.

Those viewing the situation with pessimism were more generally inclined to accept the British version of the attack, in that the Germans, being exhausted, naturally desire to draw in the United States so as to represent that there is no other option than peace, inasmuch as the world is arrayed against them.

## ITALY'S DECLARATION CAUSED BY FAILURE Effort To Penetrate Austrian Frontier Is Completely Checked

By J. W. T. Mason.  
(Written for the United Press.)

New York, Aug. 23.—Italy's declaration of war on Turkey is due principally to her failure against Austro-Hungary. Italy must compensate elsewhere for the blood and treasure being uselessly expended against Austria, and Turkey is the sacrifice.

Italy now risks losing her new Tripoli colony recently taken from the Mohammedans. This is doubtless why the Italians delayed entering the war. But confronted on the Ionian and Alpine fronts by deadlocks the Rome government was compelled to risk the possible loss of Tripoli. Turkey has enough soldiers for a Tripolitan campaign, but it is doubtful whether sufficient ammunition can be spared at present.

If Bulgaria should enter the war on the side of the Teutons, Turkey's mutual chances are even, that Tripoli will be retaken by the Turks. Italy may decline to participate in the Gallipoli campaign, or at most send only a small expeditionary force to the Dardanelles.

## BALKAN NATIONS EXPECTED TO ACT WITHOUT DELAY

### Italy's Declaration of War Against Turkey Will Hasten Developments

By Ed L. Keene.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

London, Aug. 23.—The Balkan situation has entered an acute stage today. Italy having declared war on Turkey, early action is now expected from the powers whose position has long been a puzzle to diplomats and for whose aid the nations of the entente and alliance have been bidding for months.

Serbia is expected to let it be known, possibly before night, whether she is willing to cede Serbian Macedonia to Bulgaria in return for the latter's participation on the side of the allies. Premier Venizelos will be sworn in during the day as the head of the new Greek cabinet and it is believed a statement may come from him as to the policy of his government.

As yet no hint has come from Serbia as to the course King Peter's government will pursue. Serbian diplomats have characterized Bulgaria's demands as exorbitant.

But important influences have been working at the Serbian capital during the past week. Whether this has brought about a change in sentiment is problematical and it is felt that Italy's declaration of war against Turkey may possibly delay the answer of the Serbs.

Bulgaria has made no fresh move to indicate whether Czar Ferdinand intends to join the allies. From various sources, however, it was learned today that Turkey and the Austro-Germans are not so confident of keeping Bulgaria as they were a fortnight ago.

United Serbia and Bulgaria announced their decisions no change is expected at Athens or Bucharest as to the positions of Greece and Rumania. Diplomats here are convinced that the Greek cabinet will favor continuance of the policy of neutrality until developments make it appear certain that Greece will have something to gain by entering the war. Dispatches from sources which have not always proved to be reliable today declared Rumania has been seized with a war fever, but for the present this statement was accepted with reserve.

It is believed here that the question of supplying Turkey with munitions is becoming more serious, especially from the Turkish standpoint, owing to the landing of British reinforcements in the Dardanelles. It is thought possible that Austria and Germany are attempting to coerce Rumania owing to the extreme necessity of opening the road from Germany to Constantinople for the shipment of guns and ammunition.

Diplomats took no stock in reports that Rumania would declare war on Turkey because of her long standing friendship with Italy. It was pointed out that Rumania did not join the allies when Italy declared war on Austria, though it was believed Rumania and Italy had entered a pact to join in the war at the same time.

## RUSSIANS SINK GERMAN WARSHIPS IN RIGA GULF

### Thanks Are Given In Churches For Successes In Sea Battle

Petrograd, Aug. 23.—Eleven German warships, including one of the enemy's "best dreadnaughts," were sunk by the Russian squadron in the Riga naval battle, an official statement from the admiralty announced today. One Russian submarine was destroyed.

The official announcement of the admiralty conflicts with some points with an earlier statement of President Rodzianko, of the duma, announcing the Russian victory, but in the main the claims of a crushing blow being dealt the Germans are borne out.

"One of the best German dreadnaughts was sunk by a British submarine and at least two German cruisers and eight torpedo boats were sunk," the official statement declared.

"The Russian submarine Sivutich was set aflame after brilliant fighting and sank, carrying down with her a German torpedo boat."

President Rodzianko declared that the dreadnaught Moltke, three German cruisers and seven torpedo boats were sunk by the Russians. He said four barges loaded with German troops were captured and the enemy forces destroyed. The admiralty made an claim of the sinking of German troop ships.

In admitting the sinking of the gunboat Sivutich, the Petrograd statement makes no reference to the Korsets, a sister ship, which an official statement from Berlin Saturday claimed was also destroyed.

## GERMANS IN DOUBT WHETHER SUBMARINE SUNK LINER ARABIC

By Carl W. Ackerman.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
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Berlin, via The Hague, Aug. 23.—Officials here expressed doubt today that a German submarine sank the liner Arabic—especially without warning. They are reading carefully every dispatch, and more telegrams are arriving hourly, but every one in official circles with whom I talked said he doubted if the Arabic was sunk by a German submarine.

I talked at the admiralty with a captain who is in close touch with the American situation. He has just been promoted to be commander of a large ship. "It will be from eight to 13 days before the submarine which is away now can report," this officer said. "Until then we will have no official information."

From excerpts of the English, Dutch and Scandinavian press, it is not certain that a submarine sank the Arabic. No one saw a submarine. The Arabic's captain says he saw a torpedo 300 feet away, but this does not seem probable.

The captain produced a Rotterdam telegram to a Berlin newspaper saying the passengers on the Arabic were provided with life belts when the ship reached the "danger zone."

"What 'danger zone' was reached?" asked the captain. "It is possible the Arabic struck a mine. A Copenhagen statement says mines are floating off the east and west coasts of England. There are so many doubtful points at issue I hope the United States will not jump at conclusions until an investigation determines the facts."

This is the first intimation from any source that Germany may deny that the Arabic was torpedoed by a submarine. The message, in one respect, differed from a message from Berlin late Saturday night stating that the news that four Americans lost their lives in the Arabic disaster caused great concern.

Ackerman also cited the United Press Sunday night a statement given to him by a "very high official" of the German government, in which the official said:

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"The Arabic was an unarmed passenger steamer bound to a neutral port," it was stated. "Thus it was impossible for her to be carrying contraband to this country."

The Arabic was sunk by a German submarine without warning. The vessel neither attempted to attack the submarine nor to escape.

It is assumed this statement is based on the report made by Captain Finch of the Arabic. The liner's commander has maintained from the outset that he saw the track of the torpedo which sank his ship, resulting in the death of two Americans and upwards of 40 others.

Asked as to the possibility of the Dunsley being considered as a convoy to the Arabic, the foreign office declared the Dunsley was a peaceful trading ship. She did not attack the submarine and neither the Dunsley nor any other vessel convoyed the Arabic.

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Grant Renton, noted military critic of the Tages Zeitung, who has been strongly anti-American in his editorial expressions since the opening of the controversy following the sinking of the Lusitania, today broke his silence regarding the Arabic. In his article Renton emphasized that it has not yet been proved the Arabic was sunk by a submarine. Commenting upon the report that Captain Finch furnished life belts to the passengers and crew, he suggested this was possibly done because the Arabic's captain planned to ram the submarine.

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### VICTORY IS REGARDED AS ANSWER TO PRAYERS

Petrograd, Aug. 23.—For the first time since the capture of Przemyśl, tanking services were held in the cathedrals of Russia yesterday and today.

A statement from the admiralty today confirmed the announcement of President Rodzianko, of the duma, of a sweeping Russian victory in the big naval battle fought in the Gulf of Riga. The German dreadnaught Moltke, three cruisers and seven torpedo boats of the enemy were sunk by the Russian fleet, according to Rodzianko's announcement. In confirming this statement today the admiralty said:

"A British submarine sank one of the best German dreadnaughts in the battle in the Gulf of Riga."

Answer to Prayers.

The sinking of the Moltke and other German warships was regarded by Russians as in answer to their prayers for victory of a week ago. At that time thousands prayed for success when Czar Nicholas called upon his people to seek divine aid.

With the news of the victory in the Gulf of Riga, word also came from the war office that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's attempt to take the Russian flank in Poland had been halted. The Teutonic land forces on the northern end of the great battle line are being shown the most desperate resistance, it was announced, and the advance of the enemy has been checked.

No Separate Peace.

Newspapers today headed their stories of the Riga battle as "A Great German Rout." They demanded to know whether the German papers will now continue to talk of a separate peace with Russia. The greatest elation was evident as a result of the defeat of the German squadron and a statement from Foreign Minister Sazonoff to the newspapers declaring there was no prospect of Germany succeeding in arranging a separate peace with any of the allied powers was widely published.

This statement said:

"The rumors of separate peace are due to the separated overtures made to France and Russia by Germany. They have been totally rejected. The attempt to sow discord among the allies is predestined to failure."

Believe Germans Bailed.

Military critics today expressed the belief that the crushing defeat suffered by the Germans in the Riga battle will end the attempt of the enemy to land troops there.

In announcing the naval victory in the Gulf of Riga, President Rodzianko declared an attempt was made to send troops ashore during the battle. Four barges loaded with soldiers took part in the descent upon the Russian coast. They were met by Slav infantry and exterminated without the aid of artillery. The barges were captured.

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Paris Official Report Tells of Activity On Western War Front

Petrograd, Aug. 23.—Extreme activity along practically every section with the capture of German positions in the Vosges, bombardment of railway stations at other points and artillery engagements over a wide front, marked the day.

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Berlin, via The Hague, Aug. 23.—Officials here expressed doubt today that a German submarine sank the liner Arabic—especially without warning. They are reading carefully every dispatch, and more telegrams are arriving hourly, but every one in official circles with whom I talked said he doubted if the Arabic was sunk by a German submarine.

I talked at the admiralty with a captain who is in close touch with the American situation. He has just been promoted to be commander of a large ship. "It will be from eight to 13 days before the submarine which is away now can report," this officer said. "Until then we will have no official information."

From excerpts of the English, Dutch and Scandinavian press, it is not certain that a submarine sank the Arabic. No one saw a submarine. The Arabic's captain says he saw a torpedo 300 feet away, but this does not seem probable.

The captain produced a Rotterdam telegram to a Berlin newspaper saying the passengers on the Arabic were provided with life belts when the ship reached the "danger zone."

"What 'danger zone' was reached?" asked the captain. "It is possible the Arabic struck a mine. A Copenhagen statement says mines are floating off the east and west coasts of England. There are so many doubtful points at issue I hope the United States will not jump at conclusions until an investigation determines the facts."

This is the first intimation from any source that Germany may deny that the Arabic was torpedoed by a submarine. The message, in one respect, differed from a message from Berlin late Saturday night stating that the news that four Americans lost their lives in the Arabic disaster caused great concern.

Ackerman also cited the United Press Sunday night a statement given to him by a "very high official" of the German government, in which the official said:

"I doubt if a German submarine sank the Arabic without warning. Ger-

## WOMAN INSTANTLY KILLED WHEN CAR AND RIG COLLIDE

### Mrs. Casper Andregg Sustains Broken Neck By Fall To Pavement

Portland, Ore., Aug. 23.—The British foreign office went flatly on record today as claiming that the liner Arabic, an unarmed passenger carrying steamer, was sunk by a German submarine without warning and without having attempted to escape or to attack the submarine.

"The Arabic was an unarmed passenger steamer bound to a neutral port," it was stated. "Thus it was impossible for her to be carrying contraband to this country."

The Arabic was sunk by a German submarine without warning. The vessel neither attempted to attack the submarine nor to escape.

It is assumed this statement is based on the report made by Captain Finch of the Arabic. The liner's commander has maintained from the outset that he saw the track of the torpedo which sank his ship, resulting in the death of two Americans and upwards of 40 others.

Asked as to the possibility of the Dunsley being considered as a convoy to the Arabic, the foreign office declared the Dunsley was a peaceful trading ship. She did not attack the submarine and neither the Dunsley nor any other vessel convoyed the Arabic.

Liverpool dispatches here today reported that the submarine which sank the Arabic hid behind the Dunsley after torpedoing the latter while the White Star liner was approaching. When the Arabic came close enough, the submarine dived and launched its torpedo.

Grant Renton, noted military critic of the Tages Zeitung, who has been strongly anti-American in his editorial expressions since the opening of the controversy following the sinking of the Lusitania, today broke his silence regarding the Arabic. In his article Renton emphasized that it has not yet been proved the Arabic was sunk by a submarine. Commenting upon the report that Captain Finch furnished life belts to the passengers and crew, he suggested this was possibly done because the Arabic's captain planned to ram the submarine.

## GERMANS IN DOUBT WHETHER SUBMARINE SUNK LINER ARABIC

By Carl W. Ackerman.  
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