

UTILITY BOARD TO HOLD CITY BOUGHT PLANT

Germans Torpedo American Ship Nebraskan

ADMIRALTY SAYS WASP TEARS BIG HOLE IN SIDE OF BOAT WITH U. S. FLAG

Caught Off Irish Coast, Steamer Hit by Explosive—Crew Stands by, Says Lloyd—Vessel Limp Toward Queens-town, Says Wireless—U. S. State Department Perplexed Over Latest Underwater Boat Rail—Await Official Report

NEW COMPLICATION FEARED WITH GERMANY

LONDON, May 26—President Harold Sanderson of the International Mercantile Marine late this afternoon officially confirmed the torpedoing of the American steamer Nebraskan by a German submarine. The ship was under charter to the concern of which Mr. Sanderson is the head.

The Nebraskan was flying the American flag when she was torpedoed, said Mr. Sanderson. "She was chartered by us to bring over a cargo, but was returning in ballast."

"The ship had not a single thing aboard which could possibly come under the German ban. The German action is astounding because the Nebraskan was flying the American flag and was bound for an American port."

The Nebraskan incident caused a profound sensation here. The general impression is that it will affect the German-American situation acutely.

Blames Torpedo. Lloyd's Maritime agency announced this afternoon that the American steamer Nebraskan, bound from Liverpool to the United States, was torpedoed off the Irish coast at 9:05 o'clock last night.

The Lloyd's statement added that the Crookshaven wireless station has received the following: "The Nebraskan is calling for help. The crew are in the boats and are standing by. The weather is fine and calm."

It was stated at the embassy later that the British admiralty had sent it a notification that an armed trawler had reported the Nebraskan making her Liverpool with her forehold flooded.

Steamer Still Afloat. The first Lloyd dispatch was issued at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon. About half an hour later the following was given out:

Kinsdale reports the American steamer Nebraskan passing eastward at 11 a. m. She is uncontrollable, but is under her own steam, and is apparently bound for Queens-town."

The Nebraskan, although owned by the American-Hawaiian line, is under charter to the United Transport line and bears the American flag. She carries a crew of forty. The ship did not carry any cargo when she left Liverpool on her westward voyage but was making the trip in ballast.

Captain John Greene and the other officers of the Nebraskan are Americans.

The Nebraskan sailed for Liverpool from New York on May 7, and started her return journey on Monday. She is a steel built twin-screw driven steamship of 4,499 tons gross and 2,824 tons net, and is owned by the American-Hawaiian Steamship company. She is 360 feet long and 48 feet in the beam and is in the freight trade. The Nebraskan was built at Camden, N. J., in 1902 and hailed from New York.

WASHINGTON INFORMED. State Department Officials Worry Over Latest Attack.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—An official report that the American steamer Nebraskan was torpedoed was cabled to the state department today by Consul General Skinner at London as follows:

Admiralty reports American steamer Nebraskan torpedoed forty miles south by west of Fastnet. Crew in boats standing by. Weather fine. No direct report yet.

The state department officials are waiting for a direct report from Consul First at Queens-town, the nearest port to Fastnet, before making any comment on the affair. The Lusitania was torpedoed about 60 miles east of Fastnet.

While Counsellor Lansing and other state department officials observed the role of silence imposed by Secretary Bryan on cases involving serious international complications, it was recognized at once that the case presented grave possibilities. It was indicated at the department that if the Nebraskan be found to have been actually torpedoed and the responsibility placed on Germany, it would present the most serious violation of neutrality yet committed by the German government.

ITALIAN KING GOES TO LEAD HIS ARMIES

ROME, May 26.—King Victor Emmanuel left for the front today to lead the Italian army against the Austrians.

Austrian troops have blown up or set on fire sixteen towns in their own territory to prevent their being used by the Italian troops.

AUSTRIANS DESTROY ITALIAN AEROPLANE

VIENNA, via Berlin and Amsterdam May 26.—A dispatch from headquarters of the Austrian army operating against Italy states that an Italian aeroplane which dropped bombs upon Goetz, a town near the frontier, was brought down yesterday by Austrian artillery and that two Italian staff officers in the machine were killed.

SHIP RAMMED IN DENSE FOG ON ATLANTIC

U. S. Squadron of Battleships Hear S. O. S. Call and Stand By Ryndam Returning to Port.

PASSENGERS SAVED

Transferred to Tramp Fruit Steamer Which Rammed Liner and Are Brought Back to Land.

NEW YORK, May 26.—The Holland-America liner Ryndam, bound from New York to Rotterdam, with 77 passengers on board was rammed and badly damaged by the tramp fruit steamer Joseph J. Cuneo, in a thick fog off the Massachusetts coast early today.

Wireless calls for help were picked up by the United States battleships engaged in war maneuvers on the Atlantic coast and the battleships South Carolina, Louisiana and Texas sped to her assistance.

All the Ryndam's passengers and 160 of her crew were taken aboard the Cuneo.

The following radiogram was received by the Holland-America officials in this city shortly before 9 o'clock:

"S. a. m.—150 miles from Ambrose Channel. Hold No. 5 full of water; hold No. 6, water gaining. Engine room flooded. Proceeding 13 knots. Passengers and 160 of the crew aboard Cuneo. American squadron standing by."

(Signed) "Heuvel." The Cuneo's bow was smashed by the collision.

The Ryndam carried 20 first cabin passengers; 34 second cabin passengers and 23 passengers in the steerage, according to figures at the Holland-America offices in this city.

The collision occurred at about 4 o'clock and at once the wireless operator on the Ryndam began bombarding the Atlantic coast with "S-O-S" calls.

At 10:30 a. m. the captain reported that he was 124 miles off Ambrose light ship, "much strained but holding out," he reported.

At the office of W. W. and C. W. Noves, owners of the fruit steamer Cuneo, it was stated that the Cuneo carried no passengers and that her crew numbered twenty men. She was in command of Captain A. A. Modt.

The Ryndam flies the Dutch flag. She was built in 1901 and is one of the slowest boats plying between New York and Amsterdam. She is 550 feet long, 62 feet wide and her tonnage is 7,976. She has four water-tight bulkhead compartments and is fitted with ample life boats and rafts.

The Joseph Cuneo is one tenth the size of the Dutch liner. A small tramp steamer carrying fruit between the West Indies and Boston, she is 210 feet long, 30 feet wide and her tonnage is 500. She flies the Norwegian flag and belongs to W. W. and C. W. Noves, Boston.

BOLT WRECKS STABLE

HAGERSTOWN, Ind., May 26.—Lightning struck the new barn of Jeff Yoke, four miles east of Hagerstown, about 2 o'clock this morning and the structure and contents were destroyed. The loss of \$2,000 is partially covered with insurance.

Weather Forecast

FOR INDIANA—Unsettled with thunder showers tonight or Thursday. Cooler tonight in east and south portion.

Temperature. Noon ..... 63 Yesterday ..... 67 Maximum ..... 77 Minimum ..... 48

For Richmond—Occasional rains. Probably thunder showers tonight and Thursday.

General Conditions—The storm now over the Mississippi valley continues to move slowly eastward. It will cause unsettled weather tonight and Thursday. A cool wave covers the Great Lakes today.

W. E. Moore, Weather Forecaster.

CHEER RUSSELL AT LAST TALK BEFORE CHAPEL

Earlham Students Show Loyalty for Head of Biblical Department as Board Hears Testimony.

TRUSTEES ADJOURN

Close Hearing Without Deciding Whether Dr. Kelly Is to Be Retained Head of College.

As the students cheered Prof. Elbert Russell to the echo in college chapel this morning, after he had concluded what will have been his farewell chapel address unless he is reinstated to the faculty, the Earlham trustees were hearing the testimony of the last witness summoned before the board.

The trustees completed their investigation of President Robert L. Kelly's administration of college affairs at noon today and adjourned without having formulated any decision as to whether Dr. Kelly will be retained as president or whether he will be asked to tender his resignation.

Courses Open to Board. It is understood that the trustees may meet some time in the near future to make final disposition of the case. There is also a possibility that the trustees will decide to refer the question to the Indiana and Western yearly meetings, which control and finance the institution.

Several of the trustees have indicated that they are dissatisfied with the methods President Kelly has employed in administering the affairs of the college, and are in favor of dispensing with his services.

There are other trustees who are very loyal to Dr. Kelly and are, apparently, perfectly satisfied with his regime at the college. Consequently a disagreement among the trustees on the question of removing Dr. Kelly from the presidency would occasion no surprise. In fact this is anticipated.

[Continued On Page Two.]

TEUTONS FEEL STING OF ITALIAN WASPS

GENEVA, May 26.—Two Italian submarines attacked Austrian ships near Pola yesterday, fired eight torpedoes at merchant ships and damaged an auxiliary cruiser, according to a dispatch from Laibach.

SET TRIAL DATE FOR SEIZED MEAT CARGOES

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Ambassador Page at London today notified the state department that he had been informed by Sir Edward Grey, British foreign minister, that the request of the Chicago packers to have their detained cargoes brought to trial in a British prize court on June 7 had been granted. Four cargoes of meat, seized by the British last December, are involved.

COURT SETS DATE FOR BECKER'S DEATH

ALBANY, N. Y., May 26.—Unless former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker secures a stay pending his contemplated appeal to the United States supreme court, he will die in the electric chair for the murder of Herman Rosenthal the week beginning Monday, July 12. The court of appeals today fixed that time for his execution.

GERMANS TURN ON CZAR'S CENTER LINE

PETROGRAD, May 26.—In an attempt to cut through the Russian center and force the abandonment of the attacks on their own right and left wings the Austro-German armies along the San are fiercely attacking the Czar's troops. News of this counter offensive by the Teutons caused surprise here today as recent reports had indicated that their campaign had collapsed. The Russians on the defensive are resisting obstinately the new thrust. The Austro-Germans are losing heavily.

KING CONSTANTINE NEAR DEATH'S DOOR

ATHENS, May 26.—King Constantine is believed to be dying. The royal family has been summoned.



KING CONSTANTINE OF GREECE. ATHENS, May 26.—King Constantine is believed to be dying. The royal family has been summoned.

HOW TO REDUCE TAX RATE FROM \$3.25 TO \$1.25

County Auditor Bowman Tells Tax Commission Low Rate Possible on Cash Value of Property.

PROPOSES CHANGES

Suggests Reasonable Exemption of Household Goods, Longer Tenure for Treasurers; Better Classification

How would a tax rate of \$1.25 instead of \$3.25 sound? This is the suggestion of Auditor L. S. Bowman who testified yesterday before the state tax commission recently appointed by Governor Ralston to obtain testimony and draft new taxing and assessment laws for the state.

Mr. Bowman declared \$1.25 would bring sufficient revenue for this county if the assessment of property were

[Continued On Page Two.]

ITALIANS IN RICHMOND DIVIDED ON WAR ISSUE

An Italian reservist said today the Italians in Richmond are as greatly divided on the Italian war question as the Americans were on what action the government should take on the Lusitania incident.

The reservists have not received notice officially that war has been declared and will not return to their country until such notice is given. If they fail to respond to this call, they will never be able to return to Italy again because of the close registration system, not only of army men and reservists, but also of private citizens.

Some of the more conservative Italians believe Italy plunged into war unnecessarily and favor a policy similar to the "watchful waiting" of President Wilson, the Italian said, who explained the situation.

How Police Work. "The police are in charge of everything in Italy all the time," he said. "In time of peace, if you wanted to go from one district to another as you go from Indiana to Ohio, we would have to have a customs house paper which is similar to a passport. If you don't have this, the police will arrest you. There is a complete registration system for everybody. Every district is districted into smaller sections and a person from one section of a city is not permitted to shop in a neighboring section without a permit."

"This shows the strictness of Italy. I was not compelled to join the army. If there is only one son in a family he is expected to stay at home and help his mother and father. If there are two or more the others must go. It is sometimes necessary to remain at home because the wages there are thirty cents a day."

UNOFFICIAL EXPRESSION BY TWO COMMISSIONERS CONTRADICT BOND'S VIEW

Chairman Duncan and Commissioner McClure Make Statement on Dilemma of City Officials to Secretary Haas of Commercial Club After Careful Study of Provisions of Statute Involved by Richmond's Condemnation Proceedings Against Rival Electric Company and Request that the Public Service Commission Establish a Valuation for the Purchase Price.

WITHDRAWAL REQUIRES SANCTION OF L. H. & P.

City Attorney Bond Informed Council that Municipality Could Withdraw Condemnation Proceedings Before Purchase Valuation Had Been Fixed on Within 120 Days After Estimate Was Made—Following Interview with State Officials Haas Declares Rescinding Resolutions by Council Would Be Without Effect—City Must Complete Deal or Take Appeal, Attorneys Say.

The city of Richmond has actually purchased the electric plant of the Richmond Light, Heat & Power company, and there can be no withdrawal of condemnation proceedings either before or after the purchase valuation of the plant has been established by the Indiana Public Utilities commission, unless such action meets with the approval of the Light, Heat & Power company.

Both Chairman Duncan of the state commission and Commissioner McClure gave this as their unofficial opinion of the situation the city has placed itself in by filing condemnation proceedings with the commission for taking over the electric plant of the local competing company. They were interviewed yesterday by Secretary Haas of the Richmond Commercial club.

Haas Reports Opinion After Interview. "In giving their opinions each of the commissioners I talked to qualified their statements by saying that the question involved had never been brought up for consideration before in this state and that they might be mistaken in their interpretation of the law," Mr. Haas said today. "They said, however, that their off-hand opinions were given after careful study of the provisions of the statute involved."

The opinions given by these two commissioners are in direct contradiction of the opinion recently given the public service committee of the Commercial club by City Attorney Bond, who held that the city could withdraw its condemnation proceedings before the purchase valuation had been established or any time within 120 days after the fixing of this valuation. The opinions of Duncan and McClure are, however, practically the same as the interpretation given the statute involved by the attorneys of the Light, Heat & Power company.

Secretary Haas said today that under the hypothesis that the opinions of the two commissioners interviewed by him are authoritative, any action by council rescinding its condemnation resolution prior to the date set for the hearing of the case would have no effect.

Council Act Taken on Bond's Advice. What effect the unofficial rulings of two members of the state utilities commission on the hitherto enthusiastic advocacy of the purchase plan by the administration officials and councilmen is not known. It is known, however, that this advocacy was based originally on the opinion of City Attorney Bond that if the purchase valuation established by the commission was too high to be considered all the city had to do was withdraw its condemnation action.

The question raised by the City of Richmond in filing condemnation proceedings for the purchase of a privately-owned competing plant has attracted the general interest of attorneys all over the state. Practically all who have expressed an opinion state their belief that the city must now take over the plant at the price fixed by the commission or take advantage of the only recourse provided by law, an appeal of the commission's order to the courts.

No authoritative opinion has yet been given as to whether the purchase of the plant would be nullified in the event a bond issue in excess of the city's bond indebtedness limit was required.

ITALIANS OCCUPY CITIES ON AUSTRIAN FRONTIER

ROME, May 26.—Striking rapidly at the Austrian frontier positions, the Italian army is winning all along the front, according to an official report from General Cadorna, the Italian commander-in-chief, issued at the war office today.

All the frontier passes in the Cadore district have been captured by the Italians, who have also occupied several more towns in Austrian territory. The official reports of operations thus far received show that the Italians are moving forward along a front of about sixty miles. The Austrians thus far have not offered battle, continuing their retreat and destroying bridges to hamper the Italian army.

Report of General. The report from General Cadorna was as follows: "We have occupied all the frontier passes near Cadore. The enemy bombarded Conquiesurina without results during the night."

"We took Valinfernio pass with the bayonet. The enemy is retreating everywhere, destroying bridges."

"Our aviators threw bombs upon the electric works and railway station at Montafalcone, sixteen miles northwest of Trieste."

"Our troops on May 24 occupied Forcella, Montozzo, Tonale, Ponte de Caffaro, Guidicaria, the territory south of Ferrara, Montebaldo, Monte Corne, Monte Foppiano, Pasubio, Monte Bofeleni, at the extremities of the of the Agno and Leogra valleys and the high defiles of the Brenta valley. We have taken several prisoners."

"Along the Friuli frontier and the middle Isonzo we continued successfully on May 25. On the lower Isonzo we continued our offensive in order to reach the line of the river."

"We have occupied all the frontier passes near Cadore. The enemy bombarded Conquiesurina without results during the night."

"We took Valinfernio pass with the bayonet. The enemy is retreating everywhere, destroying bridges."

"Our aviators threw bombs upon the electric works and railway station at Montafalcone, sixteen miles northwest of Trieste."

"Our troops on May 24 occupied Forcella, Montozzo, Tonale, Ponte de Caffaro, Guidicaria, the territory south of Ferrara, Montebaldo, Monte Corne, Monte Foppiano, Pasubio, Monte Bofeleni, at the extremities of the of the Agno and Leogra valleys and the high defiles of the Brenta valley. We have taken several prisoners."

"Along the Friuli frontier and the middle Isonzo we continued successfully on May 25. On the lower Isonzo we continued our offensive in order to reach the line of the river."

"We have occupied all the frontier passes near Cadore. The enemy bombarded Conquiesurina without results during the night."