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THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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EX-PREMIER DEALT WITH HUN AGENT

State Department Publishes Communications of Damaging Character to Caillaux

Bernstorff Kept Berlin Informed Former Premier's Action Shown in Message From Bernstorff to German Foreign Office—Censorship on Caillaux's Name

Washington, Jan. 16.—From its mysterious stock of intercepted diplomatic communications the State Department today published correspondence between Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador here and the Berlin Foreign Office, showing that former Premier Caillaux of France was in communication with German agents in Argentina in 1915.

The first Bernstorff dispatch contained very damaging reference to Caillaux's references to the French government and warned German newspapers against praising him. Another gave notice of the ship on which Caillaux was sailing from Argentina and planned its capture by submarines.

The capture of the ship was sought because her captain carried important papers. The German government was asked to treat Caillaux with every courtesy and consideration if the ship was taken.

Following is the text of the message sent by Bernstorff: "Buenos Aires telegraphed the following: 'Caillaux has left Buenos Aires after a short stay and is going direct to France, evidently on account of the (group undecipherable) scandal which he regards as a personal attack upon himself. He speaks contemptuously of the President and the rest of the French government with the exception of Briand. He sees through the policy of England perfectly. He does not anticipate the complete overthrow of France. He sees in the war now a struggle for existence on the part of England. Although he spoke much of the 'indications and clumsy policy' of the Wilhelmstrasse, and professed to believe in German atrocities, he in essentials hardly changed his political orientation. Caillaux welcomed indirect courtesies from me, but emphasized the extreme caution which he is obliged to show, as the French government, he said, had him watched even here. He warns us against the excessive praise bestowed upon him by our papers, especially the Nue Frie Presse, and desired on the other hand that the Mediterranean and Morocco agreements should be adversely criticized. Our praise injures his position in France. Caillaux's reception here was cool. His report about Brazil had nothing new. On his return to France he will reside in his own constituency. He fears Paris and the fate of Jaures."

ACTION IN CAILLAUX CASE IS ENDORSED

The Chamber of Deputies Votes Approval of Government's Course

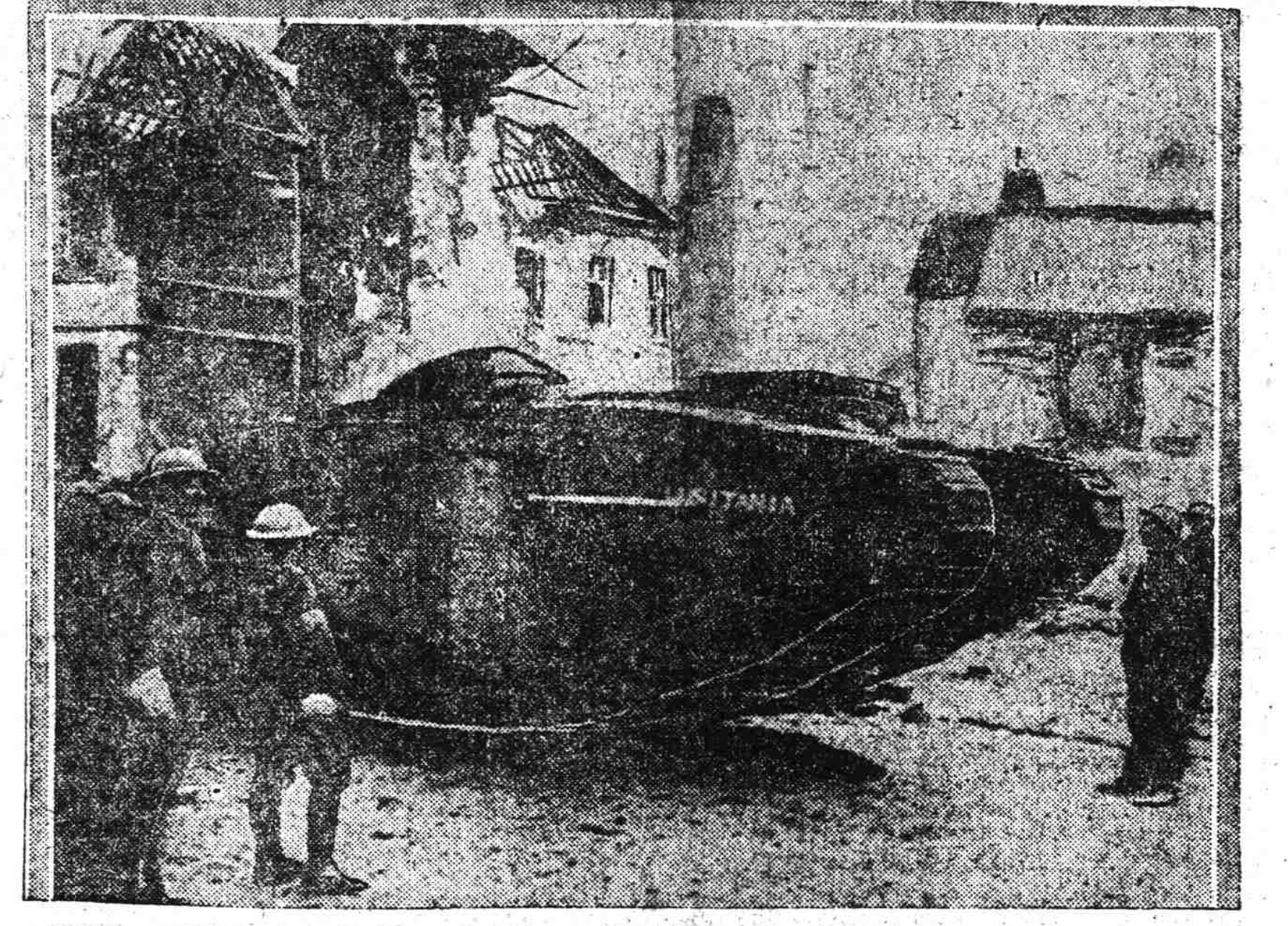
Paris, Jan. 16.—The Chamber of Deputies sustained the government's action in the Caillaux case late yesterday by a majority of 274 out of the 484 members present. The vote was taken after the government had been interpellated by Ernest LaFont, a Socialist Deputy, who held that the opening of Caillaux's safe deposit box in the absence of a representative of the accused was illegal.

Premier Clemenceau was called upon by the Socialist to reply. Edouard Ignace, under secretary for military justice, however, answered for the government, saying that the case was in the hands of the Department of Justice and was following the usual course.

After repeated calls, Premier Clemenceau rose from the government bench and said it was the Italian government which had presided at the search of the safe in the Florence bank, and France was obliged to surmise that all legal forms had been observed.

The Chamber then by a vote of 273 to 105 gave precedence to a resolution accepted by the government over a resolution introduced by the Socialists. The Socialist resolution invited the government to observe legal forms and the principles of justice in the prosecution of the cases being investigated.

THE "AVENGER" GOING INTO ACTION



Fighting machine, named after sunken liner called "Avenger", and was photographed as it was making its way through a ruined French village to attack Germans in the offensive at Cambrai.

PLANS FOR RELIEVING FARM LOAN EXPENSE

To Cut Down Title Examination Cost—Many Loans Negotiated

Washington, Jan. 16.—Plans for relieving borrowers under the Federal Farm Loan system of most of the expense of title examination were made today by presidents of the 12 Farm Land Banks in their first annual conference with the Federal Farm Loan Board since organization last spring.

Arrangements probably will be made by a few Eastern land banks with surety companies to guarantee titles after limited examination and if the experiment proves successful the system will be adopted by all banks.

A GIVE AND TAKE AGREEMENT REACHED

London, Jan. 16.—German newspapers, as quoted in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam say that as a result of conferences an understanding has been reached between the political and military parties in Germany in order to avoid further friction.

The Lokai Anzeiger of Berlin says the basis of the agreement is that Chancellor von Hertling's view point in regard to the Eastern questions (acquiescence in the Russian program of no annexations or indemnities and the right of self determination of peoples) is to prevail, whereas Field Marshal von Hindenburg will have full liberty in the West in case of a German victory to deal with any possible annexations there.

Hill Carter Dead. Richmond, Va., Jan. 16.—Hill Carter, 82 years old, prominent Confederate veteran, member of the last constitutional convention, and one of the best known members of the legal profession in Virginia, died last night at 12 o'clock in his home in Ashland, after an illness of several days of blood poisoning, which resulted from an infected abrasion on one of his limbs.

French Deliver an Attack. Berlin, Jan. 16.—(Via London.)—French troops, after several hours of artillery preparation, delivered an attack in the vicinity of Badonviller, in the Vosges region, and temporarily penetrated the German front trenches, army headquarters announced today.

PEOPLE ON ROANOKE ISLAND ARE RESCUED

Relief Supplies Reached the Storm Bound Islanders Just in Time

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 16.—Relief from Elizabeth City and Washington, N. C., reached the residents of Roanoke Island and Cape Hatteras today and the threatened suffering as the result of a famine was averted.

The warmer weather of yesterday and today freed the sounds of ice sufficiently for the operation of small boats, and sailings were made both from the islands and main land today. The boats from the main land carried supplies to the stricken people and the boats from the islands carried a number of people who were eager to escape from the terrible conditions which have existed at Cape Hatteras and Roanoke Island since the recent freeze prevented the operation of boats.

Suffering from the extreme cold and lack of adequate food supplies has been acute at both Cape Hatteras and on Roanoke Island for more than two weeks. The stocks of groceries and other foodstuffs in the small stores were exhausted several days ago and the people have been forced to divide among themselves what little food they had at their houses.

Had the ice-bound conditions in the sound continued for more days, it is certain that there would have been untold suffering and possibly many deaths.

The climax to the islanders' troubles came yesterday, when the wind, which at one time reached a velocity of 72 miles an hour, blew between 15 and 18 houses off their foundations and damaged two or three of them beyond repair, leaving a large number of men, women and children without shelter other than the scanty accommodations their neighbors offer them.

DOUGHTON ASKS FOR MOTOR MAIL SERVICE

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—Congressman Doughton is making a strong effort to have the Post Office Department establish one or more of the motor mail express routes through his district. He talked with Postmaster General Burleson about the plan one day this week.

Mr. Doughton believes that one of these routes could be established to run over the good roads between Salisbury, Mooresville, Statesville and Concord, making stops at smaller places along the route.

SEVERAL WILMINGTON BOYS TO BE CADETS

Congressman Godwin Names Young Men For West Point and Annapolis

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—Congressman Godwin sent to the War and Navy Departments today the nominations of several young men to be cadets at West Point and Annapolis. He nominated Frederick S. Dixon, of Fayetteville, and Thomas M. Wells, of Wilmington, to be principal candidates for West Point Military Academy. For entrance to Annapolis Naval Academy, he made the following nominations: Steven Rosier McRae, Fayetteville, principal, and Ancrum Spencer, of Whiteville, first alternate; Ellison Goddard, of Dunn, principal, and W. G. Farmer, of Wilmington, first alternate; Lewis Pennington Hinton, of Wilmington, principal, Howard Allen Penton, of Wilmington, first alternate, and A. E. McKeithan, of Wilmington, second alternate; Alexander Cook, of Fayetteville, principal.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS WORRY ABOUT PEACE

Amsterdam, Jan. 16.—Great dissatisfaction is expressed by the German newspapers at the slow progress of peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk and the Russians are charged with prolonging them deliberately. This delay is affecting the negotiations in progress at Petrograd where, according to the Weser Zeitung of Bremen, the discussion regarding exchange of prisoners has yielded no results yet.

The Tagblatt of Berlin makes a similar complaint regarding the work of the special German commercial commissions now in Petrograd.

Most of the newspapers assert Germany will never think of completely evacuating the occupied Russian territory before peace has been brought about on all fronts.

FULL INVESTIGATION OF CAMP CONDITIONS

Washington, Jan. 16.—Strong sentiment in favor of a sweeping investigation of health conditions in army camps arising from the shock of the recent death of Major Augustus P. Gardner, former Massachusetts Congressman, who succumbed to pneumonia at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, was apparent in the House today.

Indications on every side pointed to support for a resolution introduced by Representative Gard authorizing such an inquiry.

ITALIANS INFLICT HEAVY LOSSES ON AUSTRO-GERMANS

Several Hundred Prisoners and Large Amount of War Material Captured

THREE BLOODY FIGHTS STAGED IN ONE DAY

Enemy Dislodged From Commanding Position at Monte Asolone by Attack of Italians

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Tuesday, Jan. 15.—The action east of the Brenta river yesterday in which the Italians inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and captured several hundred prisoners and a large amount of war material, began late in the afternoon and was carried out by infantry. It was directed chiefly against Monte Asolone, where the enemy has set up observation posts overlooking the San Lorenzo valley and the Venetian plain leading down to Bassino.

From these heights the enemy was a continual menace, his guns having a range of a considerable distance down the valley and over the plain. The cannonade began toward noon with the Italian batteries being seconded ably by French artillery on their right. A heavy fog screened the movement as the infantry was ordered to advance. It moved straight up the slope of Monte Asolone through snow, mud and slush. There was no halt until the positions on Monte Asolone were reached and the enemy advance posts, where observations had been conducted, were swept away.

Along the whole line the Italians gained a foothold. Under the concentrated fire of the enemy lines, the latter were withdrawn slightly after laying waste the enemy works.

The struggle around Monte Asolone continues, but one of the main objects already has been accomplished, that of dislodging the enemy from his works, to say nothing of the prisoners and material taken.

About the same time an incursion into the enemy trenches was made further east around Monte Solarolo where more prisoners and material were captured.

The third bloody fight occurred on the Lower Piave, where the Italians engaged their positions between the Piave and Sile rivers and beat back a counter attack with heavy loss.

An officer who has just returned from Monte Asolone says that the enemy there made his chief resistance with machine guns and did not have time to bring any considerable force of infantry into action.

When the Italians first reached the crest they found all the enemy soldiers in their winter quarters in log barracks. A large part of one battalion, including one major and two captains, was captured in one of these buildings.

ANOTHER ARREST IN THE CAILLAUX CASE

Paris, Tuesday, Jan. 15.—Paul Comby was arrested tonight in connection with the government's investigation of the activities of former Premier Caillaux, at a luncheon given to Signor Cavalline, an Italian. Comby also is said to have accompanied Deputy Loustalot, whose immunity has been suspended in connection with the Caillaux affair, to Switzerland, to see Abbas Hilmi, the former Khedive of Egypt.

ENDORSEMENT OF CENTRAL CONTROL OF WAR SUPPLIES

Statement by War Committee of United States Chamber of Commerce

A SMALL BOARD THE BETTER PLAN

The Committee Points Out Inability to Get Results or Locate Responsibility Under Old Rule

Washington, Jan. 16.—Endorsement of centralized control for war supplies was given in a statement made public by the War Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States today, but none of the proposals now before Congress, including one-man responsibility, was specifically supported.

The committee, headed by Wadsworth Catcheside, of New York, was ready to appear before the Senate war inquiry with the results of its investigation into the production and purchase of war supplies, which, according to the statement, was begun last June in an effort to co-operate with the National Council of Defense.

Bills provided a department of munitions headed by a new cabinet officer already have been introduced in Congress, but the Senate investigating committee has indicated it would favor legislation for one-man control probably through an administrator with broad powers under the President, instead of the new department.

The statement issued by the Chamber of Commerce Committee was unanimously approved by the Chamber's board of directors and points out that the newest plans of the government are "tending to decentralize war efforts." The statement urged "the strongest emphasis the creation of an adequate central control."

The committee's statement protests against the government's recent plan of making the war industries board a co-ordinating body, and disagrees with Secretary Baker's plan to take the place of a department of munitions or a board of central control. A small board or council is viewed by the committeemen as the most feasible plan.

A large part of the statement is devoted to the work of the committee through which information was gained upon which the report is based. In this connection the statement says: "It soon became evident that notwithstanding the intimate relationship established, your committee was unable to secure information regarding the government's program and requirements, for the obvious reason that there was no centralized power from which such comprehensive information could be obtained. It is clear there was no central authority, essential in securing such information, and in formulating general plans to meet the rapidly developing industrial problems of the war."

LITTLE EVIDENCE AGAINST SPOERMANN

Baltimore, Jan. 16.—United States District Attorney Samuel K. Dennis declared today that after a thorough examination of the papers and effects of Walter Spoermann, alleged German spy arrested at the new army aviation depot near Newport News, Va., he did not believe the man in the Baltimore jail was guilty of anything more serious than obtaining the plans of the President's movements of army planes. Mr. Dennis added that if the naval intelligence agents have no more evidence than that which was brought to his attention nothing will come of the case.

WILLARD RESIGNS INDUSTRIES BOARD

Washington, Jan. 16.—Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, has resigned as chairman of the War Industries Board. His resignation will be accepted as soon as a successor is found. In offering his resignation Mr. Willard gave as his reason that the Baltimore and Ohio railroad required his entire attention. It was stated that his resignation was not brought about by another apparent conflict between the war industries board and the reorganization of the War Department.