

THE WEATHER

Fair and colder Saturday; Sunday fair.

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OPPORTUNITY BECKONS. Opportunity waits for a look from your eyes every morning in The Star's Business Local.

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ONE FRENCH AND TWO BRITISH BATTLESHIPS ARE DESTROYED SEVERE DAMAGE DONE OTHERS

British Battleships Irresistible and Ocean and French Fighter Bouvet Sunk

CONTACT WITH MINES

British Battle Cruiser and Others Damaged by Fire in the Dardanelles.

Fire from Turkish Forts Effective on Fleet.

London, March 19.—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines while engaged with the remainder of the Allied fleet in attacking the forts in the narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

Virtually all of the crews of the two British ships were saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine and most of her crew was lost. The Bouvet sank three minutes after she hit the mine.

The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines but the British admiralty asserts that the Turks and the Germans set floating containers of explosives adrift, and these were carried down by the current onto the Allied ships gathered inside the entrance of the straits.

Ships Were Old But Useful. All the ships were old. The Bouvet was built nearly 20 years ago and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1903. They were useful, however, for the work in some time ago in anticipation of just such losses as have occurred. Two other ships, the British battle cruiser Inflexible and the French battleship Gaulois were hit by shells and damaged. British casualties, according to the British official report, "were not heavy, considering the scale of operations."

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not been ascertained. It is stated that operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked were those on either side of Kephez bay and those on the point opposite the Narrows and those on the island Bahr and Chanak in the Narrows.

The Kephez forts replied strongly when the battleships advanced up the Dardanelles and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that the forts were silenced and a bombardment of those in the Narrows was under way when the three battleships hit the mine. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood the engagement was resumed today.

The Admiralty's Statement. The admiralty tonight gave out the following statement regarding operations at the Dardanelles: "An account of the operations at the Dardanelles on the 18th of March: 'Mines sweeping having been in progress during the last ten days in the straits, a general attack was delivered by the British and French fleet yesterday (Thursday) morning upon the fortresses at the Narrows. At 10:45 a. m. the Queen Elizabeth, Inflexible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson bombarded forts J, L, T, U, V, while the Triumph and Prince George fired at forts P, E, and H. A heavy fire was opened upon the ships with Howitzers and field guns. 'At 12:05 p. m. the French squadron consisting of the Suffren, Galois, Charbonnet and Bouvet advanced up the Dardanelles and engaged the forts at closer range. The fire was silenced by the battleships inside the straits, and the ships being hit several times during this part of the action. 'Blowing Up of the Bouvet. 'By 12:25 p. m. all the forts had ceased firing. The French battleships, the Albion, Ocean, Swiftsure and Maestricht then advanced to relieve the six British battleships inside the straits. As the French squadron, which had engaged the forts in a most brilliant fashion, was passing out the Bouvet was blown up by a drifting mine. She sank in 10 fathoms, north of Erenkeui village in less than three minutes. 'At 2:36 p. m. the relief battleships renewed the attack on the forts which were maintained while the operations of the mine-sweepers continued. 'At 3:09 p. m. the Inflexible quit the line, listing heavily, and at 5:50 the Ocean sank, probably having struck a drifting mine. At 6:05 o'clock the Irresistible having struck a mine, sank. Both the vessels sank in deep water. Virtually the whole of their crews have been saved. (Continued on Page Two.)

Commander of Dardanelles Fleet Taken Sick.



Vice Admiral Sackville Hamilton Carden, of the British navy, who has come into fame because of his success in bombarding forts of the Dardanelles, has been taken sick and is succeeded in command of the Allied fleet now operating against the Turkish positions by Rear Admiral John M. DeRobeck.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS AND POLICIES ARE DENOUNCED

Senator Lewis in Speech at Jefferson City, Mo., Blames Party Formerly in Power for Present Situation—Praises President Wilson for Work Administration Has Accomplished.

Jefferson City Mo., March 19.—A review of the administration's records, praise for President Wilson and denunciation of Republican leaders and policies were included in the speech of Senator Lewis tonight at a banquet of Democratic members of the Missouri legislature. "Ex-President Taft," he said, "in an address in New York, called attention to the fact that in 1910, this nation was on the eve of a revolution. 'The answer is that the Republican masters had so administered this government that the courts were toppling, judges were believed to be universally corrupt; corporate power had been permitted to subordinate the individual to the point that he had become a subject. Competition in the arts of mankind was throttled, and in the race of life men were hobbled and an attempt was made to gag them to prevent them from crying out their grievances. In high quarters, it was proposed that be established to barter every factory and to turn every municipality into a fort for the suppression of revolt against oppression, from which the citizen was suffering. 'This is the state to which policies of the Republican masters had brought this Republic. 'To remedy such a state, the democracy was called to power. Notwithstanding the treachery in his own party the relentless obstruction of organizations calling themselves Republicans and the tyranny of large business interests, its privilege was exploited, the American public, looting corporate treasuries, defiling legislatures and corrupting courts had been destroyed—despite this the President and his administration moved on and mankind will witness that it has carried out its promises to a greater extent than has any other administration since the Civil war. 'Addressing the Missouri legislature today, Senator Lewis said the United States now must decide whether she would retain the Philippines and maintain the part of foreign powers or leave the Philippines and return to the traditional policy of isolation. 'Should the United States find it necessary to make a protest against Japan's forcibly seizing China, Japan would probably exact of her present allies—England, France and Russia—support for her against the United States," said Senator Lewis. "If war followed, he continued, 'Japan would seize the Philippines and Hawaii, and Russia, the ally of Japan, would seize Northern Alaska. 'This would divide our army and navy. England, because of her alliance with Japan could render no aid to the United States. 'Central America, which has a grievance because of the claim that she forcibly took Panama, might aid our foes by destroying the Panama canal to prevent our fleets in the Atlantic and Pacific from entering. 'It is plain that the United States has but one or two courses. Either we must remove any governmental interest from the Far East, or we must maintain an Atlantic fleet large enough to cope with a combined Europe and a Pacific fleet large enough to combat a combined Orient."

ALLES' METHODS STILL NOT KNOWN

United States to Ask Further Information of Nations CONCERNING BLOCKADE

Next Protest to be Based on Blockading of Neutral Coasts While Enforcing Blockade Against Germany—Only Objection

Washington, March 19.—While the United States government does not know as yet whether the Allies intend to maintain a legal blockade or propose to apply general rules of contraband and non-contraband in enforcing their embargo on commercial intercourse between Germany and neutral countries, American naval officers and officials versed in international law expressed the opinion today that the indefinite limit prescribed—"European waters, including the Mediterranean"—might be construed as a legal area of operations for a blockading fleet.

Naval officers frankly admit that the old form of blockade by warships close to an enemy coast passed with the investment of Santiago in the Spanish-American war. Accordingly, in asking Great Britain and France for an explanation of their recent declaration of an embargo, the United States conceded the existence of submarines might make physically impossible a close blockade of an enemy coast, and suggested that if the declaration of the Allies were to be construed as a legal blockade, some "radius of activity" be announced.

"This principle of a 'radius of activity' for a blockading fleet was discussed at the international naval conference at London in 1909 and the declaration which followed contained this rule: 'Seizure of neutral vessels for violation of blockade may be made only within the radius of action of ships of war assigned to maintain an effective blockade.' The United States Naval War College authorities point out that while originally under American doctrine the area of blockade was not limited, the definition of the area of operations of a blockade even if in such a manner as to include a large range of high sea is regarded as a legitimate act of war; and while it is undoubtedly an inconvenience and may be a loss to neutral commerce to be excluded from the blockaded area, it is a recognized consequence of war."

The Declaration of London and all previous expositions of international law specifically ruled, however, that "the blockading forces must not bar access to the ports or coasts of neutrals." It is on this point which the British order in council, if intended to be a notification of blockade, would be in the view of officials here, a violation of previous rules. For that reason, further development of the British policy in such cases is awaited with keen interest.

HOLLAND TO OBJECT Note Being Prepared for Delivery to England and France

The Hague, March 19.—It is reported that Holland is preparing a note to be sent to Great Britain and France in reference to the order in council. The note is regarded as not in accordance with international usages. There is no official confirmation of this report.

FRENCH NEWSPAPER COMMENT General Opinion is That America Will See Reason for Action

Paris, March 19.—The newspapers today discussed in sober terms the blockade measure of which the United States has been notified by France and England. "Temp says that it considers that the American people, who are noted for their practical good sense, will understand that the situation created by the German war zone regulations imposes on France and England recourse to comprehensive and energetic measures to meet a situation on the seas unknown to any previous modern war."

ANGLO-AMERICAN CONVENTION Sir John Macdonell Suggests Compromise to Order in Council

LONDON, March 19.—Sir John Macdonell, considered an authority in international law, in an article in the nation discussing the new blockade suggests "that if the new order in council is to be put into operation on a large scale, the proper complement to it is an Anglo-American convention by which questions arising under the new order might, along with other matters affecting American claimants, be referred to a joint tribunal." RETURNS FROM ONE PRECINCT AT TERRE HAUTE HELD BACK Fearing Favorite Candidate Would Need Some Extra Votes Cast

CANADIAN TROOPS IN THE TRENCHES

Associated Press Correspondent Pays Night Visit. MAKE GOOD SOLDIERS

Troops From Canada Show American Initiative in Trench Work—Are Making Good and Anxious for General Offensive.

(By Frederick Palmer) For the Associated Press. British Headquarters in France, Mar. 18 (via London), March 19.—"Gangway! Lookout for that bunch of wagons!" A voice with an American accent called and one knew he was near the part of the line held by the Canadians.

It was pitch dark and at the hour when supplies go up to the trenches. There was not a light on any vehicle or in any habitation, but after stumbling along the correspondent passed through an open door and the darkened hall of a farmer's house and entered the brightly illuminated room, with thickly curtained windows, of the brigade headquarters. An officer was talking over the telephone. He had just had word that a man had been shot in the back by a concealed sniper in the rear of the trenches.

The commander and his officers gathered around the correspondent to go into the trenches had been gladly granted. The correspondent soon was on his way down a dark road with a sergeant from Ottawa as his guide, to the battalion headquarters. They struck a few shells in the wreckage every day. The shells made us nervous at first, but we are used to them now, all right. "The Germans are not satisfied yet. They chuck a few shells into the night as a photographer's dark room—sounded found the battalion commander, who was from Quebec. He sleeps in the cellar and the other officers of the battalion staff in dug outs. The officers remarked that a shell had knocked off a piece of the roof the other day, but that the missile did not do any harm. The colonel was glad to see the correspondent in the night and took the correspondent with him.

"Lookout for that narrow foot bridge, and here you are likely to slip off into the ditch," warned the colonel as he advised the correspondent to keep close behind him in the inky darkness. "Right along here is a favorite place for the Germans to loosen up with a machine gun, for they have a clear field for fire," the colonel added when the trench was reached. "There is nothing to it but to lie flat and wait until they are done shooting."

Under German Searchlight's A German searchlight's rays swung toward the colonel and the correspondent and the latter stepped on the ground. "Standstill," said the officer. "That's the rule until it sweeps off. Thus they are not able to spot us." "Occasional shots were heard behind the trenches. 'That's a sniper in the rear," the colonel said. "Occasionally one gets through. We don't know how. He is always in khaki. We are out after this fellow and we will get him before morning." The colonel and the correspondent kept moving on passing soldiers carrying food and ammunition to the trenches or returning from the trenches empty handed. The colonel spoke them as "boys" a greeting which one never hears from an English officer. As the trenches were entered a sudden command was given to "stand one" (Continued on Page Eight.)

OPERATIONS IN DARDANELLES CHIEF WAR NEWS OF THE DAY LAND BATTLES STILL RAGING

MAKING EFFORT TO REGAIN MILLIONS

Minority Stockholders of Eastern Railroad Act. PROSECUTE DIRECTORS

Former Directors of New York, New Hampshire and Hudson are Under Fire—Alleged to Have Misspent Hundred Million

Boston, Mass., Mar. 19.—Arguing for the plaintiffs in the suit of minority stockholders of the New York, New Hampshire & Hudson railroad who seek to recover from former directors more than \$100,000,000 alleged to have been wrongfully expended, Attorney General Sherman Whipple today declared that "all of the transactions referred to in the bill except the West Chester deal were in violation of laws of the state and nation. "There can be no question of responsibility," counsel asserted. "The time has passed when great corporations can say with impunity 'we will put this thing or that thing through, no matter what the people say.' There is no question, Mr. Whipple said that the suit against the estate of the late J. P. Morgan has been lost. This, he said, was due to "the delay of the directors of the road in filing an answer to our suit." "The directors who were directors of the road at some time during the period between 1904 and 1909 when the money is alleged to have been wasted, are: The Directors Charged William Rockefeller, Charles M. Pratt, Lewis Cass Ledyard, George Mc C. Moller, James S. Heningway, A. Heaton Robertson, Frederick F. Brewster, Charles E. Brooker, B. Newton Barry, James S. Elliot, Henry K. McHarg, Robert W. Taft, William Skinner, Charles S. Mellen and Alexander Cochrane.

The other defendants are the executors of the estates of the late J. Pierpont Morgan, Edwin Milner, I. DeVer Warner, and Amery Lawrence, and the following who have served as directors since 1909 and so are alleged to be liable for failure to bring suit against their predecessors: John L. Billard, George F. Baker, Thomas DeWitt Cuyler, Edward Mulligan, Francis T. Maxwell, Theodore C. Vail, Sidney W. Winslow, Lawrence Minot, Samuel Rea, Morton F. Plant, DeVer H. Warner, Howard Elliott, James H. Richards, W. Murray Crane, Arthur T. Hadley and James H. Hustis.

The bill charges that about 1904 Rockefeller, Mellen, Brooker, Barney Skinner, Miller and Taft, acting in concert with J. Pierpont Morgan, Edwin Milner and Amery Lawrence, entered upon a plan to effect a monopoly of all transportation companies operating in New England and certain parts of New York and in acquiring such properties since 1904 in excess of the actual value. For street railways, it is claimed \$46,000,000 was thus wrongfully expended \$16,000,000 lost in steamship enterprises, \$22,000,000 stock of the Boston and Maine railroad and \$18,000,000 on the New York West Chester and Boston railroad. The principal contention of the defendants is to the right of minority stockholders to bring a bill of this nature.

Damage Done Allied Fleet by Turkish Guns Holds Center of Attention.

TWO MORE SHIPS SUNK

Memel, German Port on Baltic, Taken by Russian Forces is Report.

Political Situation in Southern Europe Obscure.

London, March 19.—The operations in the Dardanelles, in which the British battleships Irresistible and Ocean, and the French battleship Bouvet were sunk by mines and a British battle cruiser and several other of the Allied warships were damaged by shell fire from the Turkish forts, held the center of attention in the war news today.

There were no other events of importance reported except the sinking of two more British steamers by German submarines and the occupation by the Russians of Memel, a German port on the Baltic, which was announced in the German official communication. Memel is a town of considerable importance, in northeastern Prussia.

Start of New Campaign. The presence of Russian forces in this section has taken by military observers here to indicate that the Russian generals have decided to attempt a big sweep down through East Prussia in an endeavor to compel the Germans to fall back from Northern Poland.

Again North Poland has been transformed into an immense bog by the snow, which has set in just as Marshal Von Hindenburg has started his offensive against Przasnysz. It is declared that it is impossible except at widely separated high places to move, let alone fight.

The Germans, however, seemingly anxious always to be doing something, have started an offensive on Central Poland, where they have commenced an attack on the Russians in the region of the Pillica river. There also is heavy fighting in Galicia, the Carpathians and Bukovina, despite the heavy snow. On the Western front no operations of great importance have taken place, although the French continue their efforts to work their way forward in the Champagne and Argonne regions and the Belgians still are active in the little bit of their territory remaining in their hands.

The political situation as regards Austria and Italy remains obscure, but there are persistent reports in London that negotiations for the cession of Austrian territory to Italy have broken down, Italy's demands having been considered excessive.

BRITISH SHIPS SUNK German Submarine Active Again—Two Vessels Meet Fate of Beachy Head

London, March 19.—The British steamer Bluejacket with wheat from Liverpool has been torpedoed by a German submarine off Beachy Head. The crew took to the boats. The steamer, although badly damaged, remained afloat.

Second Vessel Is Sunk Glasgow, Scotland, March 19.—The British steamer Hyndford was torpedoed today in the English channel by a German submarine. It is reported one member of her crew was killed. This steamer was torpedoed in the favorite hunting ground of the German submarines off Beachy head while she was proceeding for London under her own steam.

The Hyndford was of 2,775 tons net burden. She was 376 feet long and was built at Fort Glasgow, in 1905. She was owned by the Scottish Ship Owners Company, of Glasgow. The Blue Jacket was of 3,271 tons. She was 336 feet long, was owned by G. Haller, of Cardiff and was built at Sunderland in 1904.

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE FAILS According to German Newspaper Correspondent at Austrian Headquarters

Berlin via London, March 19.—Herr Lennhoff, correspondent of the Zeitung Amnittage, sends the following dispatch from Austrian headquarters under date of March 18: "The Russian offensive against the Carpathian line has broken down quicker than was anticipated considering the vigor with which the attack was begun. The Russian hope was to break the Austrian and German lines east of Lupkow Pass. They sent forward huge reinforcements, but all attacks were repulsed with enormous Russian losses and the Austrians and Germans are steadily but slowly gaining ground. "The Russians charged in five successive lines as soon as one line was cut down, another advanced until all five had been shot down. The Russians (Continued on Page Two.)

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF ARBITRATION URGED

By Former President Taft in Lecture at Chapel Hill.

He Urges That the President Be Unhindered in the Exercise of Executive Authority—Closes Series at University.

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 19.—President Wilson's attitude in not recognizing any government in the Republic of Mexico was pointed to tonight by Former President William H. Taft as illustrating the power the president of the United States has in shaping the Nation's foreign relations. Mr. Taft delivered the last of three lectures to students of the University of North Carolina on the presidency. The appointment of an international court of arbitration was advocated by the speaker. He asserted that after the European conflict is ended there will be many who will favor settling international questions other than by bloody wars. Mr. Taft urged that the President be unhindered in the exercise of the executive authority. "Think who would have been recalled," he declared, "had a clause for recall of Presidents been incorporated in the constitution—Jefferson and Lincoln certainly would have been recalled." Professor Taft's subject for the three lectures was "The Presidency, its Powers, Duties, Limitations and Responsibilities." He briefly divided the (Continued on Page Two.)

FURTHER CURTAILMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS

Asked by Southern Railway, But Probably in Vain.

Corporation Commission Wants Figures Showing Earnings of Trains Before Allowing Them Discontinued—H. E. Bonitz.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., March 19.—The Corporation Commission gave hearing to officials of the Southern Railway Company today in their petition for permission to take off a number of trains in this territory and then gave a strong intimation that they were not inclined to allow any further curtailment of train service. However, there will be filed later detailed statements of passenger earnings of the several trains involved and on the showing by those statements will depend the final outcome. The trains asked to be allowed discontinued are the morning train into Charlotte from Winston-Salem and the afternoon train out of Charlotte for Winston-Salem; morning train out of Norfolk for Salisbury and afternoon train out of Salisbury for Norfolk; morning train 108 Greensboro to Goldsboro and afternoon train 131 Goldsboro to Greensboro; trains 239 and 240 between Winston-Salem and Wilkesboro; trains 21 and 22 between Asheville and Waynesville. Southern Railway officials here were General Superintendent E. E. Simpson. (Continued on Page Two.)