

Local rains and colder Friday; Saturday probably fair.

WILMINGTON THE EVENING STAR

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AFFIDAVITS IN THE PERSIA CASE DO NOT GIVE ANY NEW FACTS

Conclusive Proof That Liner Was Torpedoed is Not Revealed by Survivors.

QUESTION MARKS TIME

Lansing is Hopeful That Information From Vienna May Clear Up Situation.

Government at Present Unable to Shape Course.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 6.—Hope of obtaining from survivors conclusive proof that it was a torpedo that destroyed the liner Persia, was virtually abandoned at the State Department today when Consul Garrels, at Alexandria, Egypt, cabled that no new facts were contained in the affidavits he had gathered.

Secretary Lansing is hopeful that inquiries made by Ambassador Penfield, at the Vienna Foreign Office, may clear up the situation. A dispatch announcing the presentation of the inquiry was received by the secretary today, and information concerning a reply is expected before tomorrow night.

Awaiting Necessary Information. Various aspects of the submarine crisis probably will be discussed tomorrow. The President is understood to have told senators who called upon him today that as soon as the necessary information was at hand he would take the action which he believed would satisfy the people of the United States.

The matter also is expected to come up before the Senate Foreign Relations committee tomorrow when it holds its first meeting of the session. The committee discussion may extend to the question of submarine warfare in general, the sinking of the Lusitania, the Lusitania case and other incidents of the European war in which Americans were involved. Chairman Stone said tonight he believes that committee members map out a programme of procedure with regard to all pending matters, including treaties awaiting ratification and resolutions regarding the European situation.

The official text of Austria's reply to the second American note on the sinking of the Ancona was made public during the day by the State Department. Except for variations in translation the official text is identical with the unofficial version cabled to the United States in press dispatches from London. The note is regarded as meeting the demands made by the United States for punishment, punishment of the submarine commander who torpedoed the vessel, and reparation by payment of indemnity for the Americans killed and injured. A response to the communication will not, it is said, be prepared until the facts surrounding the sinking of the Persia are known, or it is evident that to obtain them will be impossible.

No Definite Information. One week has now passed since the Persia was sunk with a loss of at least two American lives and the American government still is without formal information necessary to its course. State Department officials are most anxious to determine just where the Persia received her death blow and the manner by which she sunk. With accurate information of this character and a plan showing the bulkhead arrangement of the steamship at hand, naval experts might be able to determine with some degree of certainty whether a torpedo or a mine caused the Persia to go down. There is little disposition here, however, to credit the suggestion that a mine might have sunk the vessel. It is pointed out that the place of the disaster was nearly in midway between the island of Crete and the Northern coast of Africa. No mine has been believed to be located there. On the other hand, Austrian submarines are known to have been active there. Naval officers think that if a mine had floated to that part of the sea from a distant point of operations, it would have automatically become ineffective while en route.

That any information that may be forthcoming from the Austro-Hungarian government will lead to serious complications is considered improbable. Government officials would not be greatly surprised should Ambassador Penfield be informed that an Austrian submarine commander was responsible for the sinking of the Persia, but that he exceeded his instructions or failed to receive them and that the Austro-Hungarian government regretted the fact and stood ready to make satisfactory amends. The State Department is represented as not expecting information from Ambassador Gerard at Berlin. No instructions to inquire for information were sent to him. However, the ambassador might have made inquiries at the Berlin foreign office, as has been indicated in press dispatches, upon his own initiative.

MELLEN MADE THE GOAT, BATTS SAYS

When New Haven Officials Got Themselves in Trouble.

ARE SEVERELY SCORED

Denounced for Trying to Shift Responsibility—Counsel Declares Mellen in Testimony Tried to Protect Officials.

New York, Jan. 6.—R. L. Batts, chief prosecutor for the Government at the trial of William Rockefeller and ten other former directors of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad under the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law, made his last appeal to the jury today for the conviction of the defendants. Tomorrow, after Judge Hunt has delivered his charge, the case will go to the jury for a verdict. Speculation on what the verdict might be suggested a number of verdicts. The acquittal, conviction, or a disagreement on all the defendants, the conviction of some, and the acquittal of others or the conviction of some and a disagreement on the others.

Those whose fate will be determined in addition to Mr. Rockefeller are Lewis Cass Ledyard, Edward D. Robbins, Charles F. Brooker, D. Newton Barney, Robert W. Taft, James S. Hemingway, Charles M. Pratt, A. Heaton Robertson, Frederick F. Brewster and Henry K. McHarg. They were collectively scored by Mr. Batts in his final summing up today for having attempted to shift the responsibility of their acts to Charles S. Mellen, former president of the road.

"When trouble came," he said, "they made Mr. Mellen the goat, if I may use that graphic term, and it is not unnatural that during this trial he should continue to act in that capacity."

Sought to Protect Officials. Mellen, he declared had sought to protect them by his testimony and while he may have told the literal truth, he did not seem to appreciate the oath to tell the truth and the whole truth.

"I have a great admiration for Mr. Mellen," he said, "but it is the same admiration that I had as a boy for the fine old buccannery and pirates, who operated on the Spanish Main. While he was handling these yellow dog funds, he showed as complete a disregard for the laws of his country as any man could and keep out of the (Continued on Page Eight.)"

THREE LABOR MINISTERS IN THE BRITISH CABINET RESIGN

Henderson, Brace and Roberts Quit Because of Hostility to Government's Compulsion Bill—Organized Labor Congress Votes Overwhelmingly Against Measure.

London, Jan. 6.—Arthur Henderson, president of the board of education and leader of the labor party in the house of commons; William Brace, parliamentary under-secretary for home affairs, and George Roberts, lord commissioner of the treasury, also labor party leaders, have resigned from the ministry. The resignations of Mr. Henderson, Mr. Brace and Mr. Roberts were the direct outcome of the labor congress held today, which was followed by a two-hour conference among the parliamentary labor members.

At the close of the conference the announcement was made of the withdrawal of the three labor members in the coalition ministry. It is understood that Mr. Henderson will take an early opportunity to explain his point to the house, probably at next Tuesday's session.

There are now four vacancies in the coalition ministry, including that caused by the resignation of Sir John A. Simon, the home secretary. Gossip already is busy over the probable successors of outgoing ministers.

OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION. Thousand Delegates Representing 3,000,000 Workmen Attend Congress. London, Jan. 6.—Organized labor of Great Britain sitting in Congress in London today, decided against the government's compulsion bill by the overwhelming majority of 1,098,000 votes to 788,000.

IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR GREATER ARMY PLEA OF GARRISON

Integrity of Nation and Its Very Existence May Depend Upon It, He Says.

ARGUMENT FOR PLANS

Project Involving Expense of \$600,000,000 Laid Before the House Committee.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Flanked by a score of army generals and heads of various bureaus of the War Department, Secretary of War Garrison today appeared before the military committee of the House in the interest of the administration's plan for building up a citizen army adequate for National defense.

The Secretary read an exhaustive explanation of his scheme to spend \$600,000,000 in the next four years, to create a mobile army of 500,000 men, greatly increase coast defenses, and store up an adequate reserve of arms, ammunition and war equipment.

When Chairman Hay asked if recent orders of the War Department would prevent army officers from giving the committee free expression of their individual views, Mr. Garrison replied: "I am free as air. They are bound only by vocabulary and conscience."

Every member of the committee was present and when Mr. Garrison concluded his statement, Chairman Hay announced that members of the committee in the order of their rank would propose questions. For an hour the questioning continued, and Representative Kahn, ranking Republican member, was drawing out the Secretary's views on various suggestions as to the National Guard when the hearing was adjourned until Saturday.

Secretary Garrison made clear his opinion that no effort to federalize the National Guard would solve the country's military problem and laid great stress upon his contention that a regular army of approximately the size he has proposed, 141,000 men, would be ample to train a Federal citizen army. Increasing the regular army beyond that figure, he said, would add enormously to its cost with a net result of only a few thousands of additional soldiers.

Replying to Representative Kahn, Mr. Garrison said the Monroe Doctrine was menace to the country's peace and should either be abandoned or preparation made for its defense. He agreed that the territory between the Panama Canal and the southern border of the United States was a source of peculiar danger.

"The integrity of the nation and its very existence," the Secretary said, "readily from a lengthy statement he (Continued on Page Eight.)"

lord commissioner of treasury. Their resignations were announced during the evening.

The labor congress was in many ways the most important body of the kind ever assembled. More than one thousand delegates were present, representing four hundred unions and three million workmen.

In addition to the formal vote against the government's compulsion bill, the congress rejected by four to one a motion pledging the principal of compulsion for single men, and passed by 2 to 1, another motion directing the labor party to oppose the bill in all its stages in the house of commons.

The congress closed with an enthusiastic scene, the feature of which was the singing of the socialist anthem "The Red Flag," by some of the delegates.

ITALIAN GUNNERS MAN TWO GUNS ON THE LINER VERDI

Captain Says Daily Practice Was Held on Voyage from Palermo to New York.

INTENDED FOR DEFENSE

Clearance Denied Until Guns Are Removed—State Department to Investigate.

New York, Jan. 6.—Gunnery of the Royal Italian Navy were in charge of the two guns on the Italian liner Giuseppe Verdi, which arrived here today from Genoa, Naples, and Palermo, according to the captain, Luigi Zanoni. After the vessel left Palermo, the captain said, daily practice was held with the guns, barrels having been thrown overboard as targets. The guns were placed on the Giuseppe Verdi by order of the Italian naval authorities, but the Captain declares he was instructed to use them for defensive purposes only.

The guns were mounted on the after house of the vessel, one on either side and were in such position as to command all positions from the ship. The captain described these guns as having a calibre of 77 M M capable of firing a shell weighing 55 kilos four and one-half miles.

WILL BE INVESTIGATED. If Liner is Considered in Class of Warship She Will be Interned.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The Italian liner Giuseppe Verdi, which arrived at New York today with two 6-inch rifles aboard, ranked by gunners of the royal Italian navy, will be refused clearance papers until the guns have been dismantled and removed. Moreover, State Department officials said tonight investigation will be made to determine whether the liner is armed solely for defense and not as a man of war, liable to internment.

This action will be taken to insure against violation of the general rules enforced by the United States defining the status of armed merchant vessels entering its ports.

The State Department probably will take up informally with the Italian government the question of removing the guns, acting on the precedent established in the case of the Waimana, an armed British vessel, which was denied clearance papers recently until the four-inch gun it carried was removed.

The question of merchant ships carrying arms for defense has given official British concern, which was involved at present in the inquiry into the sinking of the British liner Persia and officials here frankly admit some modification of the laws dealing with the subject needed in light of changing conditions of warfare and the introduction of new elements such as the submarine.

Unofficial facts as to the Giuseppe Verdi indicate violation of the rules defining the status of armed merchant vessels entering the United States as announced by the State Department in September, 1914, when the British government complained that German merchant vessels with offensive armament were escaping from American ports to prey upon British commerce. Under this ruling, which is still enforced, the indications that vessels are not equipped for offensive action are:

"1. That the vessel is manned by its usual crew and the officers are the same as those on board before war was declared.

"2. That the vessel carries passengers who are as a whole unskilled to enter the military or naval service of belligerents whose flag the vessel flies."

The fact that the Giuseppe Verdi had enlisted men of the Italian navy aboard either as passengers or part of the crew is held by officials to be in violation of these requirements. Consequently, the vessel would be no surprise here if the German ambassador or some other agent of the Central Powers should request that the Italian gunners be interned.

An official report of the incident from Collector Malone under whose direction agents of the New York neutrality squad have examined the ship's armament probably will arrive tomorrow. The report will be submitted by the Treasury Department to Secretary Lansing and will be laid before the neutrality board for its action. Its final action will be taken by Mr. Lansing.

RUSSIANS PILE UP MORE GAINS OVER AUSTRIAN FORCES

Advices Indicate Austrians Are Hard-Pressed Over Long Line of Defense.

ARE BEING REINFORCED

Central Powers' Plan for Attack on Saloniki and in Egypt Possibly Upset.

London, Jan. 6.—The area of Russian successes over the Austro-German forces in the East continues to widen. Although the situation around Csernowitz has not yet been cleared up officially, it appears from advices from Russian sources that the Austrians are hard pressed over a long line of defense and are throwing huge reinforcements into the district. The Russians, however, are expected to strike at the Kolomea-Stanislau-Halicz line, where powerful defensive works have been in preparation for some time by the Austro-Germans.

Meanwhile the Russian position 350 miles further north on the middle Styria river has been greatly strengthened by successful operations in the region of the great marshes where the Russians are beginning to emerge with prospects of being able to use the roads leading either northwest, west or southwest. The advance here, it is believed, has not been the result of an isolated battle, but of a series of engagements lasting over a considerable period.

Plans Possibly Upset. In the capitals of the Entente Allies the opinion is expressed that the Russian offensive has completely upset the plans of the Central Powers for an invasion of Saloniki and Egypt.

In connection with yesterday's announcement of a defeat of a German war vessel on Lake Tanganyika, in East Central Africa, a half mile above sea level, it is announced that the British ships which accomplished the surrender of the German vessel were especially constructed in England and transported to the heart of Africa. Until the arrival of these vessels, the Germans dominated Lake Tanganyika, which is the center of a large and important territory. The presence of her armed vessels on the lake will completely reverse the situation there. This is considered most opportune in view of the forthcoming campaign in East Africa.

The interest in the fate of Serbia's refugee army was shown by the question asked in the house of commons today "whether a considerable part of the Serbian army is in distress at Saloniki, after having suffered great privations in the retreat through the mountains, and whether his majesty's (Continued on Page Two.)"

BRITISH CONSCRIPTION BILL PASSES THE FIRST READING

Scenes of Wild Enthusiasm in House of Commons as Measure is Given Decisive Vote of 403 to 105—Lord Balfour Turns Tide of Adversity Among Members.

London, Jan. 6.—Amid scenes of wild enthusiasm, the House of Commons tonight passed the first reading of the government bill for compulsory military service, by the decisive vote of 403 to 105. The vote came shortly before midnight, with the galleries again packed, every seat on the floor of the house occupied, the ministerial benches filled, and an air of eager expectancy prevailing.

The events of the day had increased the tension to a high pitch, notably the action of the labor congress and the quick sequel of the retirement of three labor members of the ministry.

Throughout these developments outside of Parliament the debate in the house had forged steadily ahead. It was reserved for A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, to close the debate in behalf of the government, and turn the tide of adversity which had been running steadily against the measure through the debate and the outside events of the day.

"Let this vote tonight show that we are a united people," he said in closing appeal. "Do not let us give a false impression to the world that in the moment of the country's gravest emergency we are divided one against another. Abandon your abstract theories, and remember we are dealing with stern realities which call for great sacrifices."

Then came the votes and the announcement of the figures was received with a tremendous outburst of cheering.

PRESIDENT OUTLINES GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF PAN-AMERICANISM

MEXICO BASIS FOR DEBATE IN SENATE

Another Discussion of Government's Foreign Policy.

DIPLOMACY IS UPHELD

Senator Williams Declares President Wilson Can Handle Diplomatic Situation With Europe Better Than Congress.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Mexico furnished the vehicle today for another discussion of foreign relations on the floor of the Senate. It preceded the adoption without opposition of a resolution offered by Senator Fall, calling on President Wilson for all available information bearing upon the recognition of the Carranza government by the United States.

Senators Fall and Lodge spoke in support of the resolution, insisting that the President should inform Congress fully concerning the situation before the nomination of an American representative to Mexico was confirmed. Senator Williams diverted attention from Mexico in the course of the debate by commenting at length upon questions arising from the European war. He said an embargo on export of munitions would "hamstring" the United States more than any other first class power.

Senator Borah wanted to know whether the Mississippi Senator thought that after the war some European government would attack the United States out of pure spirit of conquest.

"I am not anticipating any attack in the first place," Senator Williams replied. "I am anticipating a bullying first and I am anticipating the fact that the American people will not consent to be bullied."

He declared there would be plenty to quarrel about, referring to repeated torpedoing of unarmed merchant ships by one nation and similar acts by the ally of that nation after questions involved apparently had been settled by arbitration.

"These are in the field of diplomacy now, and the President of the United States has very wisely attempted to keep them within the field of diplomacy," he added. "I am sorry that Congress had to meet right now. I think the management of our diplomatic affairs would have been more (Continued on Page Eight.)"

Views Charming and Hopeful. "And lately there has been a very frank interchange of views between the authorities in Washington and those who represented the other states of this continent, and the exchange of views charming and hopeful, because based upon an increasingly sure appreciation of the spirit in which they were undertaken. These gentlemen have seen that the only way to settle their own, into her legitimate own, in a world of peace and order, she must establish the foundations of a might so that no one will hereafter doubt them. "I hope and believe that this can be accomplished. These conferences have enabled me to foresee how it will be accomplished. It will be accomplished in the first place by the states of America uniting in guaranteeing to each other absolutely political independence and territorial integrity. In the second place and as a necessary corollary to that, guaranteeing the agreement to settle all pending boundary disputes among themselves, should they unhappily arise, will be handled by pattern, impartial arbitration; and the agreement necessary to the peace of America, that no state of either continent will permit revolution against another state to be set on foot in its territory and that they will prohibit the exportation of the munitions of war for the purpose of supplying revolutionists against neighboring states."

Domestic Peace of America. "You see that our thought is, gentlemen, not only the international peace of America, but the domestic peace of America. If American states are consistently in ferment, if any of them are constantly in ferment, there will be a standing threat to their relations with one another. It is just as much to our interest to assist each other in the orderly processes within our own borders as it is to follow orderly processes in our controversies with one another. These are very practical suggestions which have (Continued on Page Two.)"

Principle is for Concerted Action for International and Domestic Peace.

ADDRESSES DELEGATES

Believes That America Will Establish Foundations of Might Not to be Doubted.

Lima, Peru, Chosen for Next Meeting of Congress.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The United States government's Pan-American policy was revealed in detail by President Wilson tonight, in an address before the second Pan-American Scientific Congress. He explained the proposals submitted to South and Central American diplomats here last week by Secretary Lansing as a basis for an effective agreement between all the republics of the Western Hemisphere "not only for international peace of America, but the domestic peace of America."

For Concerted Action. The programme as outlined by the President, proposes that all the American nations shall take concerted action as follows:

Guarantee to each other absolute political independence and territorial integrity. Agree to settle all pending boundary disputes as soon as possible, by amicable process.

Agree to handle all disputes arising among them by patient impartial investigation and to settle them by arbitration.

Agree that no revolutionary shall be admitted against, or supplied for revolutionists shipped to neighboring states.

He said the Monroe Doctrine always had been and always would be maintained by the United States on its own authority and that the doctrine did not disclose what attitude the United States would assume towards other nations of the hemisphere, and consequently the other nations had been distrustful of it. In this connection the President said:

"The Monroe Doctrine was proclaimed by the United States on her own authority and always will be maintained upon her own responsibility. But the Monroe Doctrine demanded merely that European governments should not attempt to extend their system of imperialism to the Atlantic. It did not disclose the use which the United States intended to make of her power on this side of the Atlantic. It was a hand held up to the world, not a promise in it of what America was going to do with implied impartial protectorate which she apparently was trying to set up on this side of the water, and I believe you will sustain me in the statement that it has been fears and suspicions on this score which have hitherto prevented the greater intimacy and confidence and trust between the Americas. The states of America have not been certain what the United States would do with her power. That doubt must be removed."

Views Charming and Hopeful. "And lately there has been a very frank interchange of views between the authorities in Washington and those who represented the other states of this continent, and the exchange of views charming and hopeful, because based upon an increasingly sure appreciation of the spirit in which they were undertaken. These gentlemen have seen that the only way to settle their own, into her legitimate own, in a world of peace and order, she must establish the foundations of a might so that no one will hereafter doubt them. "I hope and believe that this can be accomplished. These conferences have enabled me to foresee how it will be accomplished. It will be accomplished in the first place by the states of America uniting in guaranteeing to each other absolutely political independence and territorial integrity. In the second place and as a necessary corollary to that, guaranteeing the agreement to settle all pending boundary disputes among themselves, should they unhappily arise, will be handled by pattern, impartial arbitration; and the agreement necessary to the peace of America, that no state of either continent will permit revolution against another state to be set on foot in its territory and that they will prohibit the exportation of the munitions of war for the purpose of supplying revolutionists against neighboring states."

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THE DAY IN CONGRESS

Senate:

Met at noon. Adopted a resolution asking the War Department if it is not possible to abolish or consolidate some army posts.

House:

Met at noon. Secretary Garrison outlined the army increase to the military committee.