

Cloudy Wednesday, probably rain by night.

WILMINGTON THE MORNING STAR

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ITALIANS AFTER WEEKS OF HAMMERING TAKE AUSTRIAN POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE

Capture Mountainous Region of Callo and Are Now Almost in Striking Distance of Trent—Vicious Fighting in Artois Region Again, Germans Taking French Trenches. No Change on Russian Front.

The Italians, after weeks of hammering at the Austrian positions with their big guns, have captured the mountainous region of Callo (Collo) in the Sugana valley and also have occupied the towns of Roncegno and Ronchi. The Italians now are almost within striking distance of one of their chief objectives of the war—the city of Trent—which lies, protected on the north, east and south by a line of forts, 15 miles west of the captured region.

responsibility for the blockade of Germany and matters connected with the British orders in council in the hands of a single individual.

TURKS EVACUATE TREBIZOND Russian Advance Along Black Sea Approaching Port of Rizeh London, Feb. 22.—According to special dispatches from Petrograd, the Turks are said to be evacuating Trebizond, the Russian advance along the Black sea having reached to within a single day's march of the port of Rizeh.

REBELLION IN CAIRO. Reported by Overseas News Agency as Appearing in Italian Paper. Berlin, Feb. 22. (By Wireless)—Reports from Cairo of a rebellion that recently occurred among the reserves there are printed under the date of February 21 in the Italian paper L'Ordine, says the Overseas News Agency.

TURKS RETIRE FROM ERZERUM To Positions West of the Fortresses—Destroyed Former Positions. Berlin, Feb. 22. (By Wireless)—A Turkish retreat to positions west of Erzerum is announced by the Constantinople war office in today's official statement.

AIR RAIDS OVER LOMBARDY. Made by Austrian Craft, With Damage Reported at Pavia (Wireless). Berlin, Feb. 22. (By Wireless to Sayville)—Austrian air raids over Lombardy, with damage reported at Pavia, attacked by the aviators, are announced by the Italian press.

The entire crew of about 22 men of the Zeppelin airship which was shot down by the French near Brabant Le Roi, perished in the flames which enveloped the airship as it fell from a height of 6,000 feet. Berlin admits the loss of this Zeppelin.

Constantinople, in its first official statement concerning the reverse to the Turkish arms at Erzerum, says the retreat to positions west of the fortress took place after the Turks had destroyed positions to the east of Erzerum and also 50 old cannon which they could not take with them.

Again the Bulgarians and French have come in contact on the Greco-Serb frontier. The Bulgarians were forced to retire after a lively engagement, leaving a half dozen prisoners in the hands of the French.

BRANDIES OPPONENTS FAIL TO BE PRESENT

Attorneys for Boston Protestants Absent at Time Named.

Several Witnesses Are Summoned by Senate Sub-Committee to Testify Thursday and Friday—Editors of Columns Called.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Attorneys for Boston protestants against confirmation of Louis D. Brandeis as associate justice of the Supreme Court failed to appear today when the Senate subcommittee met to continue its investigation of the nomination, and the hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

CHURCHES OF ENGLAND DENOUNCE LIQUOR EVIL

Twelve Denominations Join in Resolution Adopted

Resolution Moved by Archbishop of Canterbury Adopted by Temperance Council of Christian Churches, in London.

London, Feb. 22.—This conference including the representatives of 12 Christian denominations in England and Wales, places on record the solemn conviction that the evils resulting from strong drink are so grave and so hurtful to the moral and spiritual welfare as to demand unremitting and united endeavor on the part of the Christian churches to remove them.

MEMPHIS HAS FOUR MAYORS IN 4 HOURS

Incident to Reorganization of Municipal Commission. OUSTER PROCEEDINGS

Thomas C. Ashcroft, Capitalist and Former Newspaper Man, Finally Elected to Fill Unexpired Term of Mayor Crump.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 22.—Reorganization of the Memphis municipal commission today gave the city four mayors within a matter of hours and resulted finally in the election of Thomas C. Ashcroft, capitalist and former newspaper man, as the head of the city government to serve the unexpired term of Edward H. Crump, which will end in 1920.

Crump, ousted from office last November on his technical admission of failure to enforce the prohibition and other state laws and prevented from assuming office for a new term, was elected January 1 pending a supreme court decision, was installed in office as mayor at the morning session of the commission, relieving W. T. McLain.

Under questioning by Representative Kelly, Admiral Badger said the construction of three dreadnaughts, draughts and eight battle cruisers would place the navy on a par with the capital of the United States.

THE DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE Met at noon.

Senator Johnson, of Maine, read General Washington's farewell address.

HOUSE Met at noon.

Representative Baker, of California, read General Washington's farewell address.

Admiral Badger testified before the Naval Affairs committee.

GENERAL BOARD'S AIM WAS TO KEEP AHEAD OF GERMANY

Object of Navy Building Policy Formulated in 1903, Says Admiral Badger.

HEARD BY COMMITTEE

Present American Navy, Ranking Third, Efficient But Inadequate in Size.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The object of the building policy formulated in 1903 by the Navy General Board, it was disclosed today before the House naval committee, was to keep the United States ahead of Germany in the race for naval supremacy.

The statement did not go in the record of the hearing and Admiral Badger did not attempt to show why the board thought such a course necessary.

Under questioning by Representative Kelly, Admiral Badger said the construction of three dreadnaughts, draughts and eight battle cruisers would place the navy on a par with the capital of the United States.

JAPANESE FLEET NOW IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Copenhagen, via London, Feb. 22. German newspapers print dispatches from Italy stating that a Japanese fleet has arrived safely in the Mediterranean sea, together with a number of aircraft.

Two Japanese steamers have been torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean, the liner Tanaka Maru and the freighter Kenkoku Maru.

On January 3 announcement was made at Tokyo by the Jiji Shimpo that a squadron of Japanese warships was to be dispatched to the Suez canal, presumably for the purpose of protecting Japanese shipping.

DASHED INTO REAR OF STALLED FLYER

Local Train, at 40-Mile Speed, Crashes Into Express. WRECK ON NEW HAVEN

Nine Persons Killed, 15 Injured, as Result Probably of Disregard of Cautionary Signal—Investigation is Under Way.

Milford, Conn., Feb. 22.—Disregard of a cautionary signal probably was responsible for the rear-end collision of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, near here, today, in which nine persons lost their lives and fully 15 were injured, according to Charles C. Elwell, of the Connecticut public utilities commission.

Two passengers, a man and a woman, were killed instantly, when a local train running at forty miles an hour crashed into the rear of the Greenfield express, which had been stalled because of a broken air hose.

One of the heroes of the wreck was George L. Tourtelotte, flagman, sent back from the stalled train, who stood in the path of the approaching local, frantically waving his red flag until escape was impossible, and he was killed under the engine wheels.

Both trains were well filled with passengers. Among the injured were many Yale graduates returning to New York after attending alumni day at New Haven, several of them being prominent as athletes.

DENIES THAT SWEDEN HAS ASKED AMERICA TO PROTEST

Statement Issued in Stockholm Denies Recent Washington Report.

London, Feb. 22.—A dispatch to Reuters from Stockholm says the following semi-official statement has been issued in the Swedish capital:

Swedish newspapers print dispatches from Italy stating that a Japanese fleet has arrived safely in the Mediterranean sea, together with a number of aircraft.

TO TURN OVER TO ONE MAN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO BLOCKADE OF GERMANY

New Member of British Cabinet to be Known as Blockade Minister—War Heretofore Conducted by 21 Amateurs, Who Know Nothing About It, Declares Baron Beresford in Maiden Speech—Lansdowne Replies.

London, Feb. 22.—The government, through the Marquis of Lansdowne, announced in the House of Lords tonight that it had decided to turn over all matters connected with the blockade of Germany to one man who would rank as a full fledged cabinet minister.

The new minister will be charged with the administration of the order in council regulating the blockade as well as responsibility for the general policy and practice of the government with respect to trade passing into or from neutral countries.

Baron Beresford, a maiden speech in the house of lords and his plea was spirited and epigrammatic, contrasting with the usual sombre, ultra-dignified debates of the upper chamber.

Lord Charles Beresford, who created a baron by King George V, in recent New Year's honors, made a speech in the house of lords today.

Baron Sydenham spoke briefly. He was followed by Baron Beresford, who said:

600 FLOOD SUFFERERS PETITION FOR RELIEF

Appeal is Forwarded to Governor Hall of Louisiana

Threatened Break in Mississippi Levee May be Prevented if Believed—Better Conditions in Northern Louisiana.

New Orleans, Feb. 22.—A petition signed by 600 Oak Grove and West Carroll parishes was forwarded to Governor Hall tonight from Baton Rouge, asking for immediate relief for flood sufferers in the way of food, clothing and shelter.

A desperate fight is being made to keep the water out of the business section of Rayville, in Richland parish. A break in the levee from the pressure of high water in the Bout river levee has inundated the residence section and threatened the business district.

These orders in council may be statesmanship, but they are not war and they are not likely to win the war. I would allow nothing whatever to go into Germany, not even luxuries.

Lord Robert Cecil is a lawyer of wide experience and a young man, as members of the British cabinet go in the foreign office he has been intimately concerned with the blockade operations particularly in the relations in matters touching belligerent and neutral rights.

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AMERICANS IN FRANCE REMEMBER WASHINGTON

More Than 100 Dine With Distinguished Frenchmen.

Paris, Feb. 22.—Upward of 100 Americans dined tonight with a number of distinguished Frenchmen and their guests on the occasion of Washington's birthday.

Speeches at Banquet Emphasize Friendship Relations Existing Between the American and French Republics.

Among the others in attendance were General Pierre Cherif, Paul Leboy, Bessemer, member of the institute; Joseph Reinach, member of the chamber of deputies; Jean Cruppi, M. Bonet-Maury and M. Henri-Roberts, jurists; Jean Finot, director of La Revue, and Frantz Jourdain, the architect.

Laurence V. Bannet, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris, who presided, referred to the love and sympathy of the American people for the people of France as not a mere hazy tradition, but as real, ardent and pronounced.

"ELECTRIC CENTRE" Tomorrow night, when all of the windows are dressed, be sure to go down town in your brightest mood and look for "Electric Centre." Stand in the most brilliant spot in the South and see if you cast a shadow. If you do, cast it just as far away as you can. If you don't, go off and never try to cast another.