

AUSTRIA UNDER PRESSURE OF GERMANY MAKES BREAK

Brazil Expected to Take Step to Join United States by This Morning

GREAT SPRING OFFENSIVE OF THE ALLIES IS LAUNCHED

AUSTRIA HAD GIVEN NOTICE THAT SHE WOULD TAKE STEP

Had Declared That War With Germany Meant Rupture With Dual Monarchy—Action Generally Expected to Lead to War, But President Wilson Does Not Propose to Declare Until an Overt Act is Committed—Charge Calls for Passports.

ALL AUSTRIAN SHIPS IN U. S. HARBORS SEIZED

This May be Interpreted by Vienna Government as an Act of War. State Department Reviews Negotiations Conducted in an Effort to Avert Break With Austria-Hungary, Prior to April 1st, When Final Notice Was Served on America.

Washington, April 9.—Austria-Hungary, ranging herself unreservedly with Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States, precipitating a situation which generally is expected here to lead to war.

Baron Erich Zwiędinek, the Austrian charge, asked the State Department today for passports for himself, his staff and the Austrian consular force in this country, and simultaneously American Minister Stovall reported from Bern that Austria had announced the break in relations to the American embassy in Vienna yesterday.

Immediately the Treasury Department ordered the seizure of all Austrian merchant ships in American harbors. The Austrian crews were taken off and sent to immigration stations and American guards put on board.

Whether Bulgaria and Turkey are preparing to follow suit still is unknown, but officials generally believe that sooner or later they will do so. Bulgarian Minister Zanareff called on Secretary Lansing late today to ask if this government had any information from Sofia, but was told none had been received. Both Bulgaria and Turkey are believed here to be weary of the war, but German domination of the Central European alliance is expected to drive them, as it drove Austria, to a break with Germany's new enemy.

Telegrams prepared a week ago in anticipation of today's developments have been sent to American diplomatic and consular officials abroad instructing them to wind up their conduct of Entente interests in Austria, and in Austria interests in Entente countries. Spain will take over American interests in Austria, and Sweden will take Austrian interests here. Safe conduct of the Austrian officials on their trip home will be sought at the hands of the British and French governments. With them will go Count Tarnowski, the newly appointed Austrian ambassador, who arrived in New York on the day Germany announced her campaign of ruthlessness, but whose credentials President Wilson has refused to accept while negotiations proceeded to develop how fully the Vienna government endorsed the submarine policy of her ally.

Munition Board Created To Supply Fighting Equipment

Twenty Army and Navy Officers and Industrial Leaders Charged With Task of Seeing That Land and Sea Forces Are Supplied, With Least Possible Interruption of Industry.

Washington, April 9.—Creation of a general munitions board was announced today by the Council of National Defense. It will be headed by Frank A. Scott, a Cleveland manufacturer, and will be charged with supplying the army and navy with munitions and equipment. One of its chief functions will be to decide between the country's military and industrial needs. The board's establishment puts into the hands of a group of army and navy officers and industrial leaders virtually the same task given the British minister of munitions. It creates machinery for a government department of munitions, with its head a cabinet minister, if conduct of the war brings the need. Twenty men, fifteen of them army and navy officers, make up the board. Besides Mr. Scott, its civilian members are Bernard M. Baruch, Howard E.

SAFETY OF NATION DEPENDS ON DRAFT SYSTEM HE THINKS

President Throws Personal Influence Into Scales Against Opposition in Congress

SENATE AIRS CONSCRIPTION

Compromise for the Administration Army Plan May be Offered by Its Opponents

Washington, April 9.—President Wilson threw the weight of his personal influence into the scales today in an effort to overcome opposition in Congress to the administration army plans based on the draft system. Summoning chairman Dent, of the House Military committee, now considering the bill, to the White House, the President made it clear that he believes the safety of the Nation hangs on the action of Congress in this regard.

He will make a similar exposition of the military situation tomorrow to Representative Anthony, of Kansas, who has led opposition to the draft plan among Republican members of the Military committee. In his action today the President recognized the fact that there may develop a strong feeling in Congress in favor of adhering to the old volunteer system, and sought to bring hope to Mr. Dent, one of those who holds that view, the lessons to be drawn from the great war into which the United States now has been plunged and which all point military advisers of the government declare to be the absolute necessity of facing the issue squarely and summoning men to the colors by draft. A compromise plan may be offered by the opponents of compulsory service. A sentiment for such a move was voiced in Mr. Dent's committee before chief Secretary Baker and the military chiefs of the War Department assembled during the day to support the administration's policy. There was no indication, however, that a compromise would be accepted by the President.

Senate Debates Conscription. In the Senate, debate on conscription occupied much time during discussion of the regular army appropriation bills left over from last session. The question is not dealt with in the bill, but during the debate Senator Kirby, one of the six senators who voted against a war resolution, offered an amendment which would authorize the President to call volunteers in lots of half a million each. The amendment is subject to a point of order and probably will be disposed of that way without debate. As a result of Chairman Dent's attitude, it is possible that some other member of the House committee will

U. S. SUPREME COURT FILES OPINIONS IN MANY NOTED CASES

New and Important Rulings Defining Public and Private Rights Are Announced

FUNDAMENTALS INVOLVED

Some Regarded as Marked Departures Along Progressive Lines Wages and Hours.

Washington, April 9.—New and important rulings defining public and private rights, some regarded as marked departures along progressive lines and involving fundamental questions, were announced today by the Supreme Court in a series of opinions. The principal decisions were: The Oregon law establishing a minimum wage for women in any occupation was upheld as constitutional by a vote of 4 to 4. Justice Brandeis not participating because disqualified. Oregon's law fixing a ten-hour day for workmen in manufacturing establishments was sustained as constitutional by a vote of 5 to 3. Chief Justice White and Justices Vandevanter and McReynolds dissenting, with Justice Brandeis not participating.

Price fixing restrictions by means of "licenses" for public use of patented articles of the Victor Talking Machine and many other corporations were declared illegal and void, the court dividing, 6 to 3. Justices McKenna, Holmes and Vandevanter dissenting. Patent Monopoly Limited. Patent "monopoly" was further circumscribed for public benefit by a ruling that the Motion Picture Patents Company (the so-called movie picture trust) and others similarly circumvented, cannot restrict use of their patent machines to materials "licensed" for such use.

The law against fraudulent use of the mails, the court also decided, extends to those "causing" mail matter to be illegally deposited even though such persons do not themselves physically post the matter. Oregon Statutes Upheld. Women's minimum wage and men's hours of service laws of many other states are affected by the decisions upholding the two Oregon statutes.

In the "patent monopoly" cases the plan by which such appliances have been given to the public upon royalties with a license merely for their use, not an outright sale, was declared void as a "poorly concealed purpose for maintaining and fixing prices to agents and purchasers."

Reversing its ruling in the "Dick Mimeo-graph" case, the court held in dismissing an infringement suit of the Motion Picture Patents Company, that patentees of machines can not prescribe what other materials shall be used with their products. A contrary practice, it was declared, would be gravely injurious to the public interest, which is more a favorite of the law than is promotion of private fortunes. Patents of machines, the court declared, are limited to the mechanism itself.

Mexico and Germany Are Communicating Secretly By Wireless

Laredo, Texas, April 9.—Communication between Mexico and Germany is being carried on secretly through a wireless plant located in Salyador, which was recently sent to that country from Mexico, according to Americans who have arrived here from Mexico. It is said that the plant was set up and is manned by Germans and that it is of sufficient strength to communicate direct with Berlin.

The wireless plants in Mexico, it is asserted, are not strong enough to communicate with Germany, but are sufficient so far as the receipt and delivery of messages to and from Salyador is concerned.

Many Thousands of Prisoners Captured By British In Drive On Front 12 Miles In Length

Starvation Conditions Prevail Among Fighting Forces of the Germans, Say the Prisoners, and Their Condition Indicates as Much. New Activities Had Been Foreshadowed and Allies Hope It Will Prove the Beginning of the End.

(By DONALD MacGREGOR) London, April 9.—The great spring offensive by the Allies is on. On a line twelve miles long the British have driven the enemy back two and three miles, establishing a new line from Givenchy-En-Gobelle, which is south of Lens, to Henin-Sur-Cojeul, twelve kilometers southeast of Arras. By a heroic charge the Canadian troops have taken the Vimy Ridge, of vast military importance, and now the heavy British guns are being placed on the ridge to dominate the region beyond.

Many thousands of prisoners have been taken. A report filed at Field Marshal Haig's headquarters at 2 o'clock this afternoon stated that 5,816 prisoners, including 119 Prussian officers, had been counted as they proceeded on their way under guard to the rear of the British lines. Thousands of other prisoners were then being concentrated at other points for transfer to the rear.

German Troops Face Starvation. Starvation conditions prevail among the fighting forces of the enemy, according to the prisoners. Their physical appearance and condition indicates lack of proper food. The prisoners said that firing line troops were fed on sausage, while those in the rear obtained carrot soup. The fact that the German advanced troops have been without adequate food and have complained to their captives indicates to military observers here that conditions are worse in the German army than was supposed. The British attack, which began before daylight this morning, was foreshadowed by the brilliant offensive of the British flying corps the latter part of last week and the attack on Zeebrugge Saturday night.

The new activities of the French in Belgium also led to the expectation that Easter week would see the beginning of the end. (Continued on Page Three.)

The Great Drive as Seen by an A. P. Correspondent With British Armies

(Associated Press Correspondence) With the British armies in France, via London, April 9.—The war on the western front, which has been moving more rapidly in the last few weeks, broke into full swing today. Widening the attacks that they have been directed against the retreating Germans in the sector of the Somme, the British struck still farther north and in a series of assaults on a broad front, with Arras more or less the pivotal point they drove the Germans from scores of important positions, penetrated far into the German lines and inflicted heavy casualties.

A visit to corps headquarters this afternoon indicated that the number of prisoners taken in the last 12 hours will exceed 5,000. The heaviest fighting today developed along a line a few miles southeast of Arras in a northerly direction to the neighborhood of Lens but the actions extended far in the direction of St. Quentin. In the territory captured today was the famous Vimy Ridge, which had been fought over time and time again, ever since the war was ten months old. Back of the northern end of Vimy Ridge lie the principal coal fields of France which are still in German hands.

The fighting on Vimy Ridge was carried out by the Canadians, who had retained a footing on the ridge all winter, but always higher up was the enemy. On each side of the Canadians were English and Scottish battalions and in today's battle there was glory enough for all. The irrepressible "Colonel" also shared in the honors of the successful assault. One position captured to the northeast of Arras was a sort of labyrinth of trenches enmeshed in multiple banks of wire called "the harp," because of its shape. Prisoners had proclaimed this strong point practically unassailable, but, sweeping over it today, the British took within it nearly a thousand prisoners and they captured also during the day three German battalion commanders who compare in rank with a colonel in the British. The Canadians took 2,000 prisoners.

AMERICAN STEAMER SEWARD SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN

Washington, April 9.—The American steamer Seward was reported torpedoed and sunk without warning in the Mediterranean by a German submarine, in a despatch to the State Department today from Consul Gaulin at Marseilles. All of crew of 31 was said to have been saved.

Naval Co-Operation With The Allies Subject Of Discussion

After Conference Between Wilson and Daniels, It Becomes Known That Steps Are Under Way for Fullest Measure of Joint Activity—Part to be Played by Warships Not Revealed

Washington, April 9.—Naval co-operation with the Entente allies was the subject of a long conference late today between President Wilson and Secretary Daniels. It became known afterwards that the government is already taking steps to assure the fullest measure of cooperative operation. The part to be played by American warships was not revealed. One element of the plans undoubtedly deals with the question of supplies for the Entente governments. Officials of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and other steel ordinance companies were in conference with Secretary Daniels during the day in this regard. An agreement for the apportionment of the facilities of the plants between the American army and navy orders and the furnishing of war supplies to the Entente nations was reached. Mr. Daniels was also able to outline to the President the steps that have been taken to establish submarine-tight coast patrol in the shortest possible time. Some part of the patrol fleet is already in operation. Numerous private yachts have been donated to the government and are being armed and equipped for war; others have been purchased and a large number of smaller power boats have been taken over. The crews are now being assembled. Later, when the new coast patrol boats recently ordered are delivered, it will be possible to again extend the scope of the patrol, insuring merchant craft the most thorough protection possible as they arrive in or depart from American ports.

Coast Towns Ask Protection. The Navy Department has been shown with requests from coast towns and cities for the stationing of war craft in these localities to protect

BRAZIL READY TO BREAK OFF WITH TEUTONS

Awaiting Only Official Report From Paris on Sinking of the Parana by U-Boat.

SHIPS WOULD BE SEIZED?

Dr. Muller Refuses to See German Minister and Orders Ship Made Ready for Trip.

Rio Janeiro, April 9.—An early rupture of relations between Brazil and Germany is expected—by tomorrow morning at the latest. The break depends solely on the formality of the reception of the official report from Paris on the sinking of the Brazilian steamer Parana by a German submarine. The break probably will be followed by the seizure of German ships in Brazil.

Refuses to See German Minister

Dr. Lauro Muller, foreign minister, has refused to receive the German minister. Dr. Muller then gave urgent orders that a steamer in Rio Janeiro be made ready at once for a mission abroad.

Dr. Muller conferred with the war minister and the chief of staff. He also urgently requested a report from the Brazilian legation in Paris.

UNDoubtedly MEANS BRAZIL HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED. Washington April 9.—In Latin-American diplomatic quarters here it was stated late today that Dr. Muller's refusal to receive the German minister to Brazil undoubtedly meant that the government definitely had decided to sever diplomatic relations with Germany.

SHIPS SEIZED AT GALVESTON FOUND DISABLED 'ON ORDERS'

Galveston, Texas, April 9.—Duty United States marshals late this afternoon seized the Austrian steamer Morowitz and Campana. The captains and crews of the seized ships were to be taken to immigration headquarters on Pelican Island, Galveston.

Captain Rakos, of the Morowitz, some time ago took out his first citizenship papers. No resistance was offered. The Morowitz is a vessel of 4,795 tons and the Campana of 3,551 tons gross. Investigation by government authorities showed that the boilers of both ships had been disabled, rendering the ships unfit for service without considerable repairs. Under oath the two Teutonic captains, Rakos, of the Morowitz, and Lupis, of the Campana, said they had crippled the machinery on orders but would not say from whom the orders had been received.

GERMAN TORPEDO BOAT SUNK BY AN ENEMY SUBMARINE

Amsterdam, April 9, via London, April 10.—The German torpedo boat G-88 was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine off the Flemish coast on the night of April 7, according to an official statement issued at Berlin. Most of the crew were saved.

Earthquake Shock in Missouri. St. Louis, Mo., April 9.—A distinct earthquake shock was felt for several seconds this afternoon through this section. A number of windows were broken and several chimneys were knocked down. The after-vibrations continued for eight minutes.