

SEA FIGHT REPORTED; BATTERED WARSHIP IN HONG KONG

ALLIED EUROPEAN POWERS WILL USE PRESSURE ON TERRIBLE TURK

EFFECT OF WAR ON OUR COTTON

Secretary Houston Discusses Situation in Statement Outlining Opinion of the Administration.

URGES ENACTMENT OF STAPLE STANDARD BILL

Fear of Market Disturbances Evident—Advises Planters to Begin Raising Other Commodities.

Washington, Aug. 14.—What the administration thinks of the cotton situation was outlined in a statement today by Secretary Houston, who discussed generally the effects of the European war on the crop. He said he had no final views on the dispatch of the huge cotton crop and he was seeking all possible information. He urged speedy enactment of the pending cotton standards bill.

"Our people estimate," he said, "that if conditions were normal there would go abroad this year between 3,500,000 and 4,000,000 bales. In the fiscal year just ended we exported 9,750,000 bales. Of these 2,875,000 bales went to Germany; 1,100,000 to Austria; 3,315,000 bales to England; 1,091,000 bales to France; 517,000 bales to Italy; 285,000 bales to Spain and 94,000 bales to Russia. An aggregate of 2,886,000 bales went to Germany and Austria and 4,600,000 bales to France, Russia and England.

"There is an opportunity for the manufacturers of this country to make more cloth to supply in a measure the people that the European countries have hitherto supplied. Still, even if the American manufacturers and the neutral countries find it possible to consume more cotton and market a larger output than before, there still would be a large quantity to consider. The cotton manufacturers in Austria and Germany, to which about 3,000,000 bales go, will necessarily be seriously disturbed. England, France and Russia take from 4,000,000 to 4,500,000 bales. Many of the factories in France are in the war zone; Russia will be affected. If England can get the cotton and can market it there is no special reason, so far as I can see, why she should not continue her marketing on a larger scale.

"I do not see how any great disturbance will come to the English manufacturers so far as labor is concerned. Thus far only 67,000 volunteers have been called for the navy and 200,000 for the army.

The neutral powers, Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States, will clearly make every effort to keep their mills going, to increase their output and to find larger markets. But making every allowance, it seems likely that there will be difficulty in disposing of at least of from three to four million bales of cotton.

"Many planters think it wise that those who can should hold much of their cotton in the seed in safe places where it will not deteriorate or burn. Bankers and merchants have promised to give and will give all accommodations to producers of cotton. Probably considerable local relief can be furnished in this way. The banking world will do what it can.

"Another thing might well be borne in mind; if cotton is carried over for a time and another crop is in sight, the price which the producers could expect might for a time be lower than prices have been in recent years. Southern farmers would do well to seriously consider turning their attention actively to the production of other commodities, such as corn, oats, hogs, poultry, etc., so that they may more largely live at home and may even develop a surplus of these things and if necessary reduce their labor and expenditure in the production of cotton."

MEXICAN OUTLOOK STILL THREATENS

Rumors of Combination to Oust Carranza to Elevate General Villa.

El Paso, Aug. 14.—Carranza officials here today denied emphatically reports from Washington that Carranza authorities in Tampico recently had stopped a cargo of ammunition from reaching Villa, the northern divisional commander. Villa representatives in Juarez also declared that Villa had received the ammunition landed recently by the steamer Hatteras, at Tampico.

Today saw no change in the threatening outlook in Mexico City. Rumors that Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, Sonora and Sonora states would combine their armies and give General Villa the leadership in case of an open breach were in circulation here.

General Carranza left La Tula Hidalgo yesterday, according to advices received here today by Constitutional Consul Rafael Muzquiz.

It was the belief among constitutionalists that the first chief has already joined General Alvaro Obregon, whose advance guard is within twelve miles of Mexico City.

A formal peace pact between the constitutional army and the federal government was signed late yesterday by General Obregon, representing the constitutionalists and Eduardo Iturbide, governor of the federal district.

The document forms the basis under which the constitutionalists will enter the capital. It sets forth guarantees of the life and property of citizens of the capital and promises a peaceful occupation.

THOUSANDS CAME HERE YESTERDAY

Afternoon Trains from Florida Brought Many Additional Summer Visitors.

Three trains, the regular and a special which was divided into two sections, were required to bring hundreds of Florida excursionists to Asheville and other points in the Land of the Sky yesterday afternoon.

The first train, which in addition to the regular equipment of rolling stock, was composed of five sleeping cars and a diner, arrived at the Southern railway passenger station shortly after 3 o'clock while the two sections of the special came in shortly after 4 o'clock. Each section carried a half dozen or more sleeping cars in addition to day coaches, baggage cars and diners. The excursionists will spend several days in the mountains of western North Carolina. Many of them have been coming here for a number of years, and all are enthusiastic over the charms of this section.

F. W. R. Hinman, business manager of the Jacksonville Tides-Union is an Asheville visitor.

A. W. Barrs, president of the Jacksonville Baseball association in the city for several days.

BUYING OF GERMAN WARSHIPS SERIOUS

Turkey Must Be Brought To Realization Of Her Obligations As Neutral Power, Allies Decide.

BELGIAN POSITION STILL FAVORABLE

Germans Planning New Movement Against Belgians--Account Of German Defeats.

London, Aug. 14.—2:53 p. m.—Great Britain, France and Russia have sent a sharp demand to Turkey for the repatriation of officers and crews of the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau.

Paris, Aug. 14.—The allied governments opposed to Germany and Austria-Hungary have agreed to bring Turkey to a realization of its obligations as a neutral power in regard to her purchase from Germany of the cruisers Goeben and Breslau.

Paris, Aug. 14.—10:38 a. m.—A telegram from Brussels to the Havas agency says a fresh engagement between Germans and Belgians occurred yesterday between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening at Geet Betz, five miles south of Haelen. German troops suffered heavily.

London, Aug. 14.—A dispatch to the Chronicle from West Hartlepool says the captain of the Danish steamer Huldamerik declares he passed seven sunken German ships fifteen miles off Spurn Head at the northeast entrance of the Humber. Only the masts of the vessels were visible above the water.

London, Aug. 14.—A dispatch to the Central News from Rome says according to reliable information from St. Petersburg Russia has mobilized two million men on the German and Austrian frontiers, half a million on the Turkish and Roumanian frontiers and is holding three million in reserve.

London, Aug. 14.—3:55 p. m.—A dispatch from Brussels to the Reuters agency says the following official announcement was issued today: "The Germans are planning a new movement against us, but all dispositions have been made to repel it like the preceding ones.

"Reports show that the situation continues favorable to us and our allies, while the

news from Lorraine is highly favorable to the French. "The general staff has heard nothing of the reduction of the forts at Liege. Rumors to that effect therefore are false."

Washington, Aug. 14.—President Wilson issued a neutrality proclamation today covering the war between Great Britain and Hungary.

Rome, Italy, Aug. 14.—Considerable anxiety is felt here in connection with the reported purchase by Turkey of the German cruisers Breslau and Goeben as it is feared this will make Turkey uncompromising on the subject of disposing of the Aegean islands. Rumors that Turkey had named one of these warships Mytilene is taken as a justification for this belief.

Rome, via London, Aug. 14.—The report that Turkey had purchased the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau reached here only tonight. It was discussed in circles where it was regarded as being fraught with grave results. It was said in semi-official quarters that the vessels would become a strong weapon in the hands of Turkey if Constantinople obtained them. The belief was expressed that this was probable.

FLAGS NOT LOWERED?

London, Aug. 14.—A Reuter News agency dispatch from Paris says advices reaching there from the Dardanelles say that contrary to the statement of the Turkish government, the German flag has not been lowered on the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau nor have their crews been landed since their arrival in Turkish waters. A dispatch to the Daily News from Rome, says "Turkey's purchase of the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau has made an unpleasant impression here. Italy will probably demand an explanation as to the future use of these ships and also warn Turkey that she will not allow the equilibrium of the lower Mediterranean to be threatened, as Italy is determined to prevent complications."

A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Athens says King Constantine has called a conference of all former premiers and party leaders to determine the attitude of Greece in the face of Turkey's purchase of the two German cruisers.

BELGIAN POSITION GOOD.

Brussels, Aug. 14.—(Via Paris, 12:35 p. m.)—No movements of importance have taken place since Wednesday's serious engagement between the German and Belgian troops according to an announcement here today. The dispatch adds: "The Belgian position remains favorable."

GERMANS LOST 3,000.

The German casualties in the engagement at Haelen Wednesday were 3,000 dead and wounded. The Germans apparently sacrificed their men without scruple. During the fight

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WAR NEWS SUMMARY.

The evidences of a sharp sea fight in eastern waters was brought to Hongkong yesterday when two battered warships, either French or British, arrived there with wounded. A telegram, apparently censored, did not identify the warships, but said they were reported to have been in action with the German cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau.

A London report says the captain of a Danish steamer declares he passed seven sunken German ships on the east coast of England. He could not identify them but believed they were warships.

The reported purchase of German cruisers, Goeben and Breslau by Turkey has been made the occasion of action by British, French, Belgian and Russian allies, which are to call Turkey's attention to her duty as a neutral.

Greece also is perturbed by the purchase of the two cruisers which she considers will upset the equilibrium of power in the Levant.

Russia is reported from St. Petersburg to have mobilized 5,000,000 men, 2,000,000 of whom are on the German and Austrian frontiers.

Today all is reported quiet along the frontier, according to official statements from France and Belgium.

Belgian accounts of yesterday's cavalry encounter, known as the battle of Haelen gave the total German casualties as 3,000 killed and wounded. No German account of the battle has come to hand.

It is believed in Belgium that the attack at Haelen was an attempt to cut through to Brussels, which is stated to be "now no longer in danger."

The Belgian government has requested France to provide places of internment for German prisoners owing to lack of room in Belgium.

Aviators are taking a very prominent part in scouting for the armies on the field and are suffering severely according to reports. Belgian authorities report the destruction of three German aeroplanes and the death of two of their pilots. The narrow escape of a French aerial scout from German flying machines which hunted him.

COMMITTEE WILL HEAR ANY APPEAL

Formal notices were mailed Wednesday afternoon by J. W. Haynes, chairman of the Buncombe county committee, to the members of the committee notifying them of the adjourned meeting of the committee which will be held in the commissioners room at the county court house next Tuesday at 11 o'clock.

The meeting is for the purpose of passing on any appeals from the rulings of the poll holders and registrars in the congressional primary to be held next Saturday.

FAR EASTERN SEA BATTLE IS FOUGHT

Two Damaged Warships Carrying Many Wounded Enter Harbor of Hong Kong—Evidently Engaged With German Ships.

Shanghai, Aug. 14.—Two warships, each having four funnels badly damaged and carrying many wounded entered the harbor at Hongkong yesterday. Their identity has not been learned but they are believed to be either the British cruisers Minotaur and Hampshire or the French armored cruisers Duplex and Montcalm. They are reported to have had an engagement with the German cruisers of the same type, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau.

A dispatch from Hongkong received by the Exchange Telegraph company in London last night said it was reported that the British fleet in the far east had cornered the German

Field Agents Instructed As To Food Price Inquiry

Washington, Aug. 14.—Agents of the department of commerce began their work today as part of the investigation ordered by President Wilson, to determine if food prices in this country are being artificially raised because of the European war. These instructions were sent to field agents in Boston, New York, Seattle, Chicago and New Orleans, Atlanta, Ga.:

"You are instructed to inquire carefully into the question of whether there has been a recent rise in the prices of foodstuffs in your vicinity, if so, on what articles and to what extent. Learn whether the advance, if it exists, is general, or confined to particular commodities and if so what ones. Find if it has been sudden or gradual; if any articles have fallen in price, state the facts concerning them.

Relieve Financial Needs Of Americans In Germany

who have co-operated with Ambassador Gerard have made it possible for the embassy in Berlin to receive almost normal conditions among Americans in Germany, according to a report received today at the state department. Co-operation of the Dresden bank, which has agreed to cash a limited number of checks of Americans, bearing the American consular stamp of identification, has greatly relieved the financial tension. From funds prescribed by the American colony in Berlin and a large personal contribution from a Mr. Ruddock, of Chicago, specie has been

Germans Underestimated Belgians; American Says

London, Aug. 14.—The German army invading Liege underestimated the fighting qualities of the Belgians and paid a terrible penalty for their daring, in the opinion of Victor H. Dureau, the American consul at Liege, as quoted by the Brussels correspondent of the Times. It is said Mr. Dureau was an eye witness of the fighting before the forts when the Germans first arrived before them. He estimated the German casualties from five

United States Will Levy More Internal Revenue

Washington, Aug. 14.—Arrangements for war taxes in the United States to supplement falling customs revenues and how they shall be levied are being held in abeyance until the situation confronting the treasury becomes more clearly defined. At a conference today between Chairman Simmons of the senate finance committee, Chairman Underwood, of the ways and

means committee and Secretary McAdoo it was declared that any deficit should be made up by additional internal revenue taxes, but it was decided to hold another conference next and meanwhile reports from all Atlantic coast customs houses will indicate what the government must meet. Meanwhile Chairman Underwood will get the ways and means committee ready to act on a plan.