

1500 PEOPLE DROWNED

ONLY 658 SAVED WHEN LUSITANIA IS SENT TO BOTTOM BY SUBMARINE

London, May 8--Fifteen hundred people perished yesterday when the Cunard Liner Lusitania was sent to the bottom off the Irish coast by a German submarine. The British admiralty estimates the number of survivors at 658, and there were 2160 people aboard, including the crew.

SCORES OF BODIES BROUGHT TO SHORE

Loss of life caused by explosions must have been very terrible.

LAUNCHING OF LIFE BOATS DIFFICULT

No evidence of panic among crew; although captain and two officers were saved.

London, May 8.—Fifteen hundred people lost their lives, the British admiralty estimates, when the Cunard liner Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk yesterday off old Head, Kinsale Ireland. The known survivors number only 658, while 2160 souls were aboard the liner when she was attacked. Of those saved 595 have been landed at Queenstown, 11 at Kinsale, and 52 are reported to be aboard steamers. All the boats but one of the rescue fleet of torpedo boats, tugs and trawlers sent out from Queenstown have reported. There is a slender hope that fishing vessels may have rescued a few more.

In addition to the living brought ashore the bodies of 45 dead have been landed at Queenstown. Five more bodies are at Kinsale. It is reported that an armed trawler accompanied by two fishing boats, have picked up 100 others. The work of compiling the list of saved is progressing slowly owing to the indescribable confusion, at Queenstown, but apparently few of the first cabin passengers were among the survivors.

The United States consul at Queenstown can only account for 51 Americans saved out of 188 aboard the liner. Of the Americans 106 were first cabin passengers, 62 second and 17 steerage.

The heavy loss of life among the first cabin passengers is believed to have been due to their calmness and self-possession in the face of danger. Most of them were at luncheon when the liner received her death blow. They declined to join in the rush for the life boats and life belts, believing that the steamer would remain afloat until assistance arrived. A considerable proportion of those landed at Queenstown are members of the Lusitania's crew, including Captain Turner, with the first and second officers. All the other officers are believed to have perished.

There is no evidence that the time-honored rule at sea of "women and children first," was violated. At least one survivor, a Toronto newspaper man, declares there was no panic among the members of the crew, who acted promptly to get the passengers into the boats.

It appears that every precaution had been taken by the officers of the liner against surprise attack. Look-outs

TEDDY WOULD ACT.

Syracuse, N. Y., May 8.—Theodore Roosevelt, former president of the United States, after learning details of the sinking of the Lusitania, made this statement: "This represents not merely piracy, but piracy on a vast scale of murder than any old time pirate ever practiced. This is the warfare which destroyed Louvain and Dinant and hundreds of men, women and children in Belgium. It is warfare against innocent men, women and children, traveling on the ocean, and to our fellow country women, who are among the sufferers. "It seems inconceivable that we can refrain from taking action in this matter, for we owe it not only to humanity, but to our own national self-respect."

Investigation fails to reveal that the Lusitania was given any warning by the submarine. Look-outs sighted the periscope of the hostile craft 1000 yards away and the next moment they saw the trail of the torpedo as it flashed on its course. The liner's course was turned toward the shore. Four torpedoes apparently were fired at the steamer but only two hit.

The loss of life from the torpedoes themselves and the explosions they caused must have been terribly heavy. Many of those brought ashore are terribly injured and more than a score have died since landing.

Probably no event of the war has caused such intense excitement in London as the sinking of the Lusitania. Enormous crowds surrounded the offices of the Cunard company, scanning anxiously the bulletins from Queenstown.

TEN PEOPLE KILLED IN POWDER EXPLOSION

Rome, May 7.—(Via Paris)—Ten people were killed "last night in an explosion which wrecked a powder factory at Fontana Liri.

LITTLE OF INTEREST IN LIBEL CASE TODAY

Syracuse, May 7.—More testimony concerning public printing and public money was given today at the trial of the libel suit of William Barnes against Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

ATLANTIC FLEET ON WAY TO NAVAL PARADE

Newport News, May 7.—The Atlantic fleet sailed from Hampton Roads at 4 o'clock this morning for New York, to take part in the great naval parade to be held there.

WILSON AWAITS INFORMATION OF SHIP DISASTER

No Step Will Be Taken Until All Available Information About Lusitania Has Been Received.

Washington, May 8.—"We are informing ourselves as rapidly as possible in regard to the Lusitania matter," said Secretary Bryan today; and we are doing all we can for the injured and are getting all the information we can."

There was everything indicating at the white house that while President Wilson was deeply shocked at the loss of American lives in the Lusitania disaster, he was determined to have a thorough investigation made before determining the course of action to be taken by the United States. Officials reiterated the statement that no step would be taken until all the available information had been gained.

ONE OF WALKER BANKS PROPOSED FOR MURPHY

Special to Gazette-News. Murphy, May 8.—H. Tabor, representing the Walker Banks, Sparta, Ga., was in the city Tuesday, looking over the field here with a view of organizing and establishing another bank in Murphy.

The capital stock of the proposed bank will be \$25,000, either state or national as may be decided by the stockholders.

Mr. Tabor states that during the 25 years banking experience of this chain of banks, there has not been a single failure among them. The Walker Banks consists of some 80 banks in Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Mr. Tabor states that he had met with a hearty response from the leading business men of Murphy and some one would return within the next 30 days and perfect the organization of the new bank, and be ready for business as early as possible.

KENTUCKY MAN DEAD AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Rev. Archibald Shields, aged 64, died here yesterday at 11 o'clock following an extended illness. The deceased is survived by the widow, who has been in Asheville with her husband. The body will be taken to Lexington, Ky., the former home of the deceased, where the funeral and interment will take place.

BUT 51 AMERICANS OUT OF 188 SAVED

FEW OF FIRST CABIN RESCUED

Alfred G. Vanderbilt Apparently Died When Lusitania Was Sent Down.

MANY SURVIVORS IN SERIOUS CONDITION Feared That Some Will Not Survive—Rescue Vessels Bringing Dead to Queenstown.

New York, May 8.—The Cunard line has received a cablegram from Liverpool saying that the admiralty has announced that only a few of the first cabin passengers of the Lusitania were saved and that three boats are bringing 100 bodies to Queenstown.

Queenstown, May 8.—The bodies of the victims of the Lusitania disaster are arriving on every incoming boat. The Cunard warehouses are being used for a temporary morgue and are already filled, and 60 more bodies have been taken to the town hall. Additional dead are in boarding houses and hotels, the victims of injury or exhaustion. Still others are in hospitals where those whose condition appeared to be most serious were taken.

Little children brought ashore clasped in each other's arms have not yet been identified. The women who were landed presented a pitiable appearance, some had only blankets wrapped around them. Many of the children are without parents.

The funerals of most of the British victims will be held at Queenstown Sunday.

Two stokers confirm the report that the steamer was struck by two torpedoes. The first entered stove-hole No. 1 and the other the engine room.

London, May 8.—A number of survivors of the Lusitania torpedoed yesterday by a German submarine have been landed by a fishing boat on Sovereign island, near Galleyhead. Many are in a serious condition and it is feared that some will not survive.

London, May 8.—Alfred Gwynn Vanderbilt appears to have perished when the Lusitania went down, according to a message from Ambassador Page based on information received from the American consul at Queenstown.

Only Fifteen Minutes Grace. Describing the experience of the Lusitania, the steward said: "The passengers were at lunch when the submarine came up and fired two torpedoes, which struck the Lusitania on the starboard side, one forward and the other in the engine room. They caused terrific explosions."

Majority of Lusitania's passengers from U. S. go down with ship.

WASHINGTON FEELS PROFOUND GRIEF

Is possibly most serious situation which has confronted Wilson since the war began.

Washington, May 8.—Dispatches received today by the state department from Consul Lauriat at Queenstown puts the number of rescued from the Lusitania wreck at 634: He added the names of four Americans to the list of those who had been mentioned as saved in previous dispatches, making a total of 51 Americans saved. Few others have been rescued. The four additional survivors mentioned by the consul are N. N. Allen, Patrick Slattery, Mr. Byington and Mr. Brooks.

Destruction of the British liner Lusitania with the loss of many lives shocked officials of the United States government and spread profound grief in the national capital. Although it was not known how many, if any, of those lost were Americans, the view was general that the most serious situation confronted the American government since the outbreak of the war in Europe. The warning of the United States that Germany would be held to a "strict accountability" for the loss of "American lives," irrespective of whether they were aboard belligerent or neutral vessels when attacked, focused attention on the white house, where President Wilson until late in the night read the dispatches with grave interest. The president made no comment. Secretary Bryan, Counsellor Lansing, senators and members of the house, who were in the city, waited up to a late hour for definite news of the passengers and crew of the ship. Earlier in the day they construed the positive announcement from abroad that no lives had been lost as final, but later advices dashed their hopes.

Officials said facts and circumstances would have to be obtained by careful investigation during the next few days before any announcements could be made by the American government.

The disposition among high officials was not to take hasty action, but to await the British admiralty's report and results of the investigation by Ambassador Page.

The report that the Lusitania was torpedoed without warning created a profound sensation for it was the first case in which this threatened procedure has been carried out with Americans on board a belligerent vessel. The sinking of the liner brought to light a story of repeated threats and warnings which have reached high officials for several days past of a plan by the German admiralty to sink the Lusitania for the psychological effect it would have on Great Britain and the terror it might spread among

ocean travelers generally. Information-reaching officials of the American government and diplomatic quarters confirm the belief that plans for the destruction of the Lusitania were made several weeks ago. First, the German embassy was instructed to advertise in the leading newspapers of the United States warnings passengers against traveling on belligerent ships. Anonymous warnings then were sent to individuals who proposed sailing on the Lusitania. Most significant of all were letters received here from officials in Germany by persons stating that the Lusitania surely would be destroyed.

MOTORCYCLE RACES AT HENDERSONVILLE MONDAY

Motorcycle speed contests between enthusiasts of Asheville, Hendersonville, Spartanburg and Greenville will be held at Hendersonville next Monday afternoon from 2 to 6 o'clock. The races will be held on Fifth avenue in Hendersonville and give promise of being very exciting events. The local military of Hendersonville will patrol the street where the races will be held and all precautions will be taken to prevent anyone getting hurt.

C. E. Brooks, C. A. Hobbs, Henry King, A. H. Hawkins and W. H. Bangs of Hendersonville, will act as judges of the race.

Several motorcycle enthusiasts from Asheville have stated that they will attend the races and participate in the events which have been scheduled.

REPORTED TURKS LED REBELS IN TRIPOLI

Paris, May 5.—Italian reports are current that an official statement says that the Turks encouraged the rebels which attacked Col. Liberty's Italian forces in Tripoli.