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EXECUTION OF MISS CAVELL

GERMANS TOOK HER LIFE FOR ASSISTING SOLDIERS TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE.

The full report of the circumstances of the condemnation and execution of Miss Edith Cavell, an English woman and head of a training school in Brussels, for helping English, French and Belgian soldiers to escape from Belgium, made by Brand Whitlock, the American minister at Brussels, to Walter H. Page, the American ambassador at London, has been issued by the British government.

How the secretary of the American legation, Hugh S. Gibson, sought the German governor, von Der Lancken, late at night before the execution and, with the Spanish minister, pleaded with the governor and the German officers for the English woman's life is graphically related in a memorandum from Mr. Gibson. This document refers to the German authorities' apparent lack of good faith in failing to keep their promises to inform the American minister fully of the trial and sentence.

Minister Whitlock telegraphed to Ambassador Page on the twelfth: "Miss Cavell sentenced yesterday and executed at 2 o'clock this morning, despite our best efforts continued until the last moment."

Mr. Whitlock's final appeal was in the form of a note sent by a messenger late on the night of the eleventh to Governor von Der Lancken, the translation of which reads as follows:

"My Dear Baron: I am too sick to present my request myself, but I appeal to your generosity of heart to support it and save from death this unhappy woman. Have pity on her.

"Yours truly,
"BRAND WHITLOCK."

Mr. Whitlock also stated that Miss Cavell had nursed German soldiers.

Mr. Deval, counselor of the American legation, reported to Minister Whitlock: "This morning Mr. Gahan, an English clergyman, told me that he had seen Miss Cavell in her cell yesterday night at 10 o'clock and that he had given her holy communion and had found her admirably strong and calm.

"I asked Mr. Gahan whether she had made any remarks about anything concerning the legal side of her case, and whether the confession which she made before trial and in court was in his opinion perfectly free and sincere. Mr. Gahan told me she was perfectly well and knew what she had done; that, according to the law, of course she was guilty and admitted her guilt, but that she was happy to die for her country."

Secretary Gibson's report says that Conrad, an official of the German civil branch, gave positive assurances that the American legation would be fully informed of the developments in the case and continues:

"Despite these assurances, we made repeated inquiries in the course of the day, the last one being at 6.20 P. M. Mr. Conrad then stated that sentence had not been pronounced and specifically renewed his previous assurances that he would not fail to inform us as soon as there was any news.

"At 8.30 it was learned from an outside source that sentence had been passed in the course of the afternoon, before the last conversation with Mr. Conrad, and that execution would take place during the night."

Secretary Gibson thereupon sought the Spanish minister and, with Mr. Deval, went to von Der Lancken's quarters. Finding the governor and his staff absent, they telephoned to them, and the governor with his staff returned shortly after 10 o'clock.

Secretary Gibson's report to Minister Whitlock continues:

"The circumstances of the case were explained to him and your note was presented. He read it aloud in our presence. He expressed disbelief in the report that sentence had actually been passed and manifested some surprise that we should give credence to any report not emanating from official sources. He was quite insistent on knowing the exact source of our information, but this I did not feel at liberty to communicate to him.

"Baron von Der Lancken stated that it was quite improbable that sentence had been pronounced, and even if so it would not be executed in so short a time, and that, in any event, it would be quite impossible to take any action before morning.

"It was, of course, pointed out to him that even if the facts were as we believed them to be, action would be useless unless taken at once. We urged him to ascertain the facts immediately. This, after some hesitancy, he agreed to do. He telephoned to the presiding judge of the court martial, and returned to say that the facts were as we had presented them and that it was intended to carry out the sentence before morning.

"We then presented as earnestly as possible our plea for delay. We emphasized the horror of executing a woman, no matter what her offense, and pointed out that the death sentence had heretofore been imposed only in actual cases of espionage, and that Miss Cavell was not even accused by the German authorities of anything so serious.

"I further called attention to the failure to comply with Mr. Conrad's promise to inform the legation of sentence. I urged that, inasmuch as the offenses charged against Miss Cavell were long since accomplished, delay in carrying out the sentence could entail no danger to the German cause. I even went so far as to point out the fearful effect of a summary execution of this sort upon public opinion both here and abroad, and, although I had no authority for doing so, called attention to the possibility that it might bring about reprisals.

"The Spanish minister forcibly supported all our representations and made an earnest plea for clemency. Baron von Der Lancken stated that the military governor was the supreme authority in matters of this sort, and that an appeal from his decision would be carried only to the emperor, the governor general having no authority to intervene in such cases.

"After some discussion he agreed to call the military governor on the telephone and learn whether he had already ratified the sentence and whether there was any chance for clemency. He returned in about half an hour and stated that he had been to confer personally with the military governor, who said he acted in the case of Miss Cavell only after mature deliberation; that the circumstances in her case were of such a character that he considered the infliction of the death penalty imperative and that he must decline to accept your plea for clemency or any representation in regard to the matter."

A City Specializing in Agriculture.

The city of Memphis, Tenn., is giving the country a type of civic cooperation with a real driving force in its new farm development bureau. The scattered effort that has been directed toward garnering new manufacturing plants and new industries is now to be concentrated in a common sense campaign to get the best possible results from the greatest resource of the country—agriculture. While Memphis has been seeking new industries with doubtful economic results the rich lands of the surrounding territory were left to produce a fraction of their maximum under unintelligent cultivation and distribution. It is a typical story of the average American city. For the plans that have been outlined 2,000 business men have joined the new bureau and \$25,000 has been subscribed for the first year's expenses. An expert has been hired to superintend the work of organizing local farm development branches in 281 towns in the radius of the Memphis trading territory for 200 miles in all directions. The organization will preach method and co-ordination in production and marketing. Two hundred of the leading business men have already pledged their personal services for two weeks of the year to be spent in the country districts. The school authorities, church organizations and women's clubs have been enlisted. The 4,000 traveling salesmen with headquarters in the district will also talk better organization and marketing through the central district.

Dr. Dumba Dentes Calling For War.

The arrival at The Hague of Dr. Constantin Theodor Dumba, lately recalled as Austrian ambassador to the United States, is reported in a dispatch from the correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company. Dr. Dumba was escorted by the Austrian minister, who met him in Rotterdam. Dr. Dumba issued a brief statement to the press, saying he intended to make a short stay in Holland and would abstain from any political conversations.

He called the statement attributed to him that "Austria-Hungary should declare war on the United States" an absurd invention.

Long Known.

"Father," said the minister's son, "my teacher says that 'collect' and 'congregate' means the same thing. Do they?" "Perhaps they do, my son," said the venerable clergyman; "but you may tell your teacher that there is a vast difference between a congregation and a collection."

Tailor Says, "Most Delightful."

Most tailors suffer from constipation. G. W. Roberson, Wichita Falls, Tex., says: "I find Foley Cathartic Tablets the most delightful, cleansing cathartic I have ever taken." They keep the stomach sweet and liver active, and drive away biliousness, bloating, headache, dullness and other results of clogged bowels. Conyers & Sykes, adv.

URGENT CRY FOR HELP COMES FROM SERBIA.

An urgent cry for help comes from the Serbian war office, which says the situation is growing more and more serious and the arrival of the allied troops is awaited anxiously.

The Austro-German forces in the north are steadily pushing back the Serbians.

The Bulgarians from the east are invading the country at four principal points. In the north they are advancing on the Negotin front to meet the Teutons. In the center they are moving toward Nish, threatening to cut off the Serbian army, which is desperately opposing the Teutonic advance. Further south they have cut the railway at Veanja, between Nish and Salonica, driving a wedge between the main Serbian army and the Anglo-French forces, which landed at Salonica. A fourth drive is being made down the valley of the Bregalnica, toward Istib, to meet the advance of the allies coming up the line of the Vardar.

The desperate situation of the main Serbian army which is now facing the German army in the lower Morava valley is seen in the advance of a strong Bulgarian force by the Vician-Paraclin Railway, which advance will place the Bulgarians directly in rear of the Serbians, thus cutting off their retreat toward Nish.

Below Nish the entire stretch of the Nish-Salonica Railway embraced Vranja and Dupljane is now in Bulgarian possession. Nish is thus cut off from the allies moving up from the south unless the Bulgarian force at Vranja can be defeated.

The Bulgarian first army, constituting the main Bulgarian force, is at present advancing toward Nish, along the Pirot Railway. This last force threatens to attack Nish at a time when no assistance can be rendered that place, either by the main Serbian army in the north or allied troops from the south.

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