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FACING UNDER-SEA PERILS

LAST DAYS OF APRIL SAW VALUABLE CARGOES OF FOOD IRRETRIEVABLY LOST.

That Germany's submarine arm, not her military arm, is the menace which for the moment is greatest for the future welfare of the United States and the entente allies is recognized by the chancelleries of all the powers which are at war with Germany.

The last days of April saw the underwater boats send to the bottom hundreds of thousands of tons of shipping which means that huge quantities of ammunition and food-stuffs have been irretrievably lost to the allies and made the pinch of want to those countries, their soldiers and their people more acute.

These unseen monsters of the undersea from April 20 to April 27 had their share with mines in the seabed beneath the waves, some of them unwarned and with tolls of death. 38 British vessels of over 1,600 tons and 13 others of less than 1,600 tons—the aggregate in each category being only two vessels less than the British admiralty reported the previous week, when the high point in the sinking of British merchantmen since the reports have been issued was reached.

Impetus is being given to the plans to combat the menace by all the countries at war with Germany and hopes are expressed that shortly a check may be put to the inroads of the submarines into commerce.

The military activities on all fronts in France and Belgium are still in a stage of apparent deadlock. On none of the other fronts have there been engagements of great importance, although the British in Mesopotamia have driven forward their lines against the Turks and made captures of men, guns and stores, while the Turks have forced out the Russians from Mush, in Turkish Armenia.

The anticipated proffer of peace by the imperial German chancellor will not be given to the Reichstag Thursday, but will be withheld for a "more fitting occasion," according to advices reaching Copenhagen.

That peace is not uppermost in the minds of all German officials apparently is indicated by the address before the Reichstag at its reopening session of Dr. Johannes Kaempf, president of the chamber, who asserted that the German people adhered "to the firm belief in Germany's star and in a peace which will secure for all time the fatherland's happy development."

Disaster Threatened.

Washington, May 2.—The enormous inroads on the world's shipping made by German submarines within the last few weeks has brought to American government officials a full realization of the disaster that faces the United States and the allies if the undersea warfare is not checked.

Governors and state representatives, here today for a national defense conference, will take home to their people a message from the government emphasizing the menace to America and urging that there must be the fullest co-ordination by the states in war preparation if Germany is to be defeated.

Secretary Lane told the conference that the great destruction of ships was threatening the existence of Great Britain and France and menacing the United States. No one, he said, knew the exact number of ships lost recently, but estimates put last week's submarine toll at 400,000 tons. Later he explained that this estimate probably was too high. Secretary Lansing in a statement during the day declared the seriousness of the submarine situation could not be exaggerated. Reports to the state department give a total of eighty vessels lost in one week.

The British mission announced that the rate of destruction in recent weeks had continued unchanged and that it showed no alarming increases. All its members agree the situation is critical.

Announcing the government's program for exercising a more direct control over the country's shipping and ship building facilities Chairman Denman, of the shipping board, said estimates had reached the board of 300,000 tons of shipping sunk in one week.

A bureau of navigation report prepared recently estimated the world's ship construction in 1915 at slightly

CONTROL OF RETAIL PRICES

TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS WANTED FOR FOOD DICTATORSHIP.

Washington, May 1.—As a war measure President Wilson has authorized the secretary of agriculture to ask full powers for food dictatorship and an appropriation of \$25,000,000 to carry out the project.

The control of retail prices of food is regarded by Secretary of Agriculture Houston as no less important in his plan than the power to fix the minimum price for staples raised by the farmer.

The reason for the government's interest in retail prices is easily illustrated by a comparison just tabulated between prices of ordinary groceries and market necessities as they sold in April, 1914, and as they are quoted today.

For instance, granulated sugar in this city was then 4 cents, now 9; an increase of 125 per cent. Flour was then \$7.25 a barrel; now it is \$14; an increase of 93 per cent. Tomatoes, canned, were 7 cents, now 17 cents; an increase of 142 per cent. Potatoes were 23 cents a peck; are now 90 cents; an increase of 291 per cent.

Cabbages were 3 cents a head; are now 15 cents; an increase of 400 per cent. Sweet potatoes were 35 cents a peck; are now 75 cents; an increase of 114 per cent. Lettuce was 5 cents; is now 10 cents; an increase of 100 per cent.

Onions were 4 cents; are now 13 cents a pound; increase of 250 per cent. Split peas were 6 cents a pound, are now 12 cents; an increase of 100 per cent.

Dried lima beans were 7 cents a pound, and are now 20 cents; an increase of 185 per cent. Navy beans were 7 1-2 cents; are now 18 cents. Spaghetti was 8 cents, is now 13 cents; an increase of 65 per cent.

Corn meal was 2 1-2 cents; is now 5 cents; an increase of 100 per cent. Other articles which show an increase all the way from 23 per cent to 80 per cent include prunes, salmon, canned soups, rib roasts, chuck, porterhouse, hamburger, hams, pork chops, loins and smoked meats. Lard has increased 100 per cent, butter has increased 83 per cent, eggs have increased from 21 to 38 cents a dozen, or 80 per cent. Milk evaporated, tall can, was 7 1-2 cents, is now 12 cents; an increase of 65 per cent. Baked beans were 8 cents, are now 13 cents, an increase of 65 per cent.

These prices will not be decreased except by governmental action. That is why the secretary of agriculture has asked the senate for power to go into the market and buy and sell all products, and also to license and regulate packing houses, storage warehouses.

ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP MORGAN'S OFFICE.

New York, May 1.—Confession was made in court today by Wolf Hirsch, arrested last night with George Meyriner, both Germans, that they were on their way to blow up the offices of Morgan & Co. with a bomb when intercepted by police.

Hirsch told the court that the explosion of a bomb was a part of a scheme to create a stock market reversal from which they could profit. He told the court he had made the bomb under the direction of Meyriner and another man in a laboratory at the Roosevelt hospital. He said Meyriner had induced him to speculate in Wall street and had suggested as a quicker way of getting profits a scheme to frighten the market. The plan included blowing up the Morgan offices and the sending out over tapped wires of false news that President Wilson had been assassinated.

The men were held in \$10,000 bail each.

"Keep the Cars Moving."

New York, May 1.—The railroads have been asked in the interest of the nation "in all cases" to "keep the cars moving and settle differences of opinion afterwards," it was announced here by the special committee on national defense of the American Railway Association.

less than 2,000,000 tons. If the Germans keep up their present rate of destruction officials admit without hesitation that their campaign threatens to sweep clean the seas.

EXPECT PEACE OFFER SOON

GERMANY WILL MAKE A MORE LIBERAL OFFER THIS TIME, IT IS SAID.

The Hague, May 1.—(Via London) —Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, will make another peace offer in the Reichstag on Thursday of this week, according to an announcement made today by the Berliner Tageblatt.

"The world will be astonished by the moderation of the German peace terms," said the General Anzeiger, of Dusseldorf, Germany, quoting in a recent dispatch from Berlin a statement given out to foreign correspondents in Berlin. For several weeks it has been intimated that Germany might soon make another peace offer and recent information from Berlin showed that Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg was expected soon to make an announcement in regard to interlational questions, although heretofore no statement has come from a responsible quarter that a peace offer actually would be made.

For several months a controversy has been in progress in Germany as to the aims of the war. The Socialists, vigorously opposed by the Pan-Germans, are urging a clear statement of Germany's peace terms, on the basis of no annexations or indemnities. The chancellor was recently reported to have decided to defer definite formation of peace proposals.

The announcement of the chancellor's plan to make a peace offer on Thursday is given added weight by the fact that it appears in the Tageblatt, one of the most widely circulated German newspapers.

Military Operations Shadowed.

The possibility of peace terms being advanced by Germany, the internal political situation in that country arising from dissatisfaction of the workmen over present conditions and a recrudescence of rioting in Petrograd, in which bombs were thrown and the disturbers were fired upon are features in the news of the world war which for the moment take precedence over the military operations on the fighting fronts.

Thursday may prove an eventful day for Germany and the entire world. Announcement is made by a prominent Berlin newspaper that the German imperial chancellor on that day will make another offer for peace in an address to the Reichstag.

May day passed in Germany with little news coming out to show the exact situation with regard to the unrest of the workmen, as a result of which it had been predicted that great strikes might result. A brief Berlin dispatch said the efforts of the radical socialists to bring about a cessation of work in munitions factories had failed and that no disturbances had occurred in Berlin. Unofficial advices, however, were to the effect that strikes had been declared by munition workers in the Rhine provinces.

Petrograd has again been the scene of disorder, tormented by opponents of the present government, in which bombs were thrown and the troops were compelled to fire on the rioters.

Germany's intensified submarine campaign apparently is causing considerable uneasiness in England. King George, it is announced, shortly will issue a proclamation asking the people to cut down their consumption of foodstuffs by 25 per cent owing to the gravity of the situation. In parliament various members are harassing the admiralty by demanding that it make public the exact number of boats sunk by submarines.

Crisis Impending.

Amsterdam, via London, May 1.—The Weser Zeitung, of Bremen, reports that Berlin is filled with rumors of a crisis in high government quarters. The newspaper says that demands are being made that a strong man be placed at the helm of the state.

No May Day Appearances.

Berlin, May 1 (via London).—Efforts of the radical socialists to celebrate May day by a holiday in the munition factories failed. No cessation of work is reported. No parades were held and no disturbances occurred.

In announcing the failure of the plans to create holiday strikes the Berlin authorities have offered a re-

ARE RALLYING TO THE CALL

FARMERS ARE ENERGETICALLY PUSHING FOR BIG CROPS NEXT FALL.

Raleigh, May 1.—The cities and towns of the state are being called upon to "do their bit" in the campaign for increased food and feed production being energetically pushed by the state food conservation commission. Governor Bickett's proclamation in the interest of more home gardens was effective to a marked degree, but the food commission is now going a step further and calling upon the cities and towns of the state to undertake the cultivation in food and feed crops of all vacant land in and adjoining them.

"The farmers are rallying to the call," declared Executive Secretary John Paul Lucas, of the commission, "but many of them are handicapped because of the shortage of workstock and labor. It is evident to me already that, while practically all of our farmers are going to be wise enough to raise sufficient food and feedstuffs for their own establishments, and many of them a surplus that will be available to feed our cities and towns and mill communities, we are still going to be short. It is going to require a tremendously increased acreage to produce sufficient stock to take the place of the \$80,000,000 of food and feedstuffs our state has been importing. To prevent want and hunger our cities and towns must rally to the cause.

"There is vacant and idle land in and near to every town and city in North Carolina. There is in every city and town some workstock and labor that can be temporarily diverted from other less vital activities to the more important work of tilling these lands. We are calling upon the mayors, the commercial organizations and the progressive citizens of our towns and cities to act promptly in getting all of their idle lands into food and feed crops, such as corn, soy beans, peas and potatoes." Raleigh the Rotary Club, which recently purchased garden seed for 100 poor families, has volunteered to assist in this important work.

"Our towns and cities can and must be a factor in increasing our acreage and production of food and feedstuffs. They will be the greatest sufferers if the stuff is not produced and they are in a position to render service to the nation and to themselves in the same measure as the farmer who has the workstock, the labor and the land necessary to increase his usual acreage. This work can be undertaken by individuals, syndicates, by the municipal authorities or otherwise as local conditions may determine, but our people, to get the results demanded by necessity, should act promptly."

In order to relieve the labor situation with the farmer to some extent if possible the food conservation commission is calling upon the mayor of every town and city in North Carolina to rigidly enforce the vagrancy statute and force the loafers to the farms or factories.

MEXICO HAS HER OWN MISS RANKIN.

Mexico City, May 1.—With the meeting of the congress of Mexico today, the congress of the United States loses the distinction of being the only national legislative body in the western world which numbers a woman among its official members. To Senorita Hermilda Galindo has fallen the honor of becoming the first woman member of the Mexican congress. In the general elections recently held Senorita Galindo was chosen a deputy from the fifth electoral district of the federal district of Mexico, which comprises the capital. In Mexico it is permissible to be elected to congress from another district than that in which the candidate has legal residence. Senorita Galindo is a citizen of the state of Yucatan, where women have suffrage. She is the editor of a woman's journal and has long been conspicuous in the movement to achieve political freedom for the women of Spanish-speaking American countries.

ward of 3,000 marks for the prosecution of "agitators in enemy service who are trying to start dissension, especially in the labor ranks, in Germany."

WANT ARMY SENT TO FRANCE

ARMY STAFF DISAPPROVES—A DECISION RESTS WITH PRESIDENT WILSON.

Washington, April 30.—With the judgment of the French war mission and the American army general staff seemingly in conflict as to when American troops should be sent to France, particular interest attached to a conference at the White House today between President Wilson and Rene Viviani, head of the French mission.

Decision rests with the president, through his constitutional function as commander-in-chief of the United States army. It was generally assumed that the views of the French officials disclosed in Marshal Joffre's statement yesterday advising that American forces be sent to the battle front soon, were formally presented to Mr. Wilson during the conference.

No information as to that discussion was given out, however, and no administration officials would comment upon the statement of the great French soldier.

"Upon that subject I have no comment to make," was the reply with which Secretary Baker met all interrogations.

There is no question, however, that the general staff disapproved any suggestion that American forces be sent abroad until they are fully trained and equipped for the task before them with the exception of final touches to be given behind the battle lines. This has been made evident by testimony given by many staff officers before congressional committees within the last two years and by the administration selective draft bill, under whose provisions no element of the army, regular, national guard or conscript, would be ready for service for many months.

As to Volunteers.

So far as volunteers are concerned, there has been no indication that the administration would favor the proposal that a separate provisional army be raised for early service in France.

Stripped of all military pros and cons, the proposal made by Marshal Joffre and apparently supported by all members of the French mission is understood here as providing that a small force of American troops, possibly a division number from 18,000 to 25,000 men, be sent at the earliest possible moment to France for the sentimental effect its presence would have both upon the French and the Germans.

On the other hand stands the often repeated military precept of the general staff that no man can be considered fit for even defensive warfare until he has had more than one year of intensive training.

On one point there is complete agreement between Marshal Joffre and the American officers. Both believe that any force sent to France must be given additional training on French soil behind the battle lines before it should take its place in the trenches.

There is reason to believe that the arguments of the French commissioners have been presented directly to American officers during the conferences here.

Since it is the psychological effect that is sought, troops with no more training than the border-hardened national guard units would serve the purpose, in the French view. French officers believe that with brief additional training in sound of the guns at the front, such men could be made ready to take their places by the sides of the veteran French and British regiments.

In reaching a decision, President Wilson probably would turn first to his own military advisers, the general staff. One factor in the decision is found to be the question of the effect on the army building plans. There are possibly 40,000 fully trained regular soldiers of the mobile army, the remainder being men who have enlisted within the last few months.

No Official Information.

Washington, May 1.—This afternoon state and navy department officials said they had no official despatches on the destruction of the Tacum or the fate of the men missing. Whether the names of the naval gunners are made public will depend on what information the navy department receives.

SCENE SAMSON'S EXPLOITS

CITY IN WHICH STRONG MAN MET HIS DEATH NEAR SCENE OF WAR.

Washington, May 1.—"In advancing upon Gaza, an ancient city of Palestine, situated some three miles inland from the Mediterranean and about 50 miles in an airline southwest of Jerusalem, the British forces in the near east are fighting over territory which was the scene of the spectacular exploits of the great judge of Israel—Samson—more than a thousand years before the Christian era," says a war geography bulletin issued today by the national geographic society from its Washington headquarters.

"Gaza was one of the five great cities of the Philistines, having risen to commercial importance on account of its situation at the juncture of the trade routes between Egypt and Babylonia, Elath and Arabia. Its seaport was Majumas (re-named Constantia many centuries later by Constantine.)

"During the heyday of Gaza's prosperity the Philistines were a powerful and warlike people, their soldiers being equipped with copper helmets, coats of mail, javelins and long lances, each man thus accoutred being accompanied into battle by a shield bearer. The lightarmed soldiers were archers.

"After the Israelites conquered it, Gaza was a prey to Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians. It resisted the Greeks under Alexander the Great for several months. More than two centuries later it was destroyed by Alexander Jannaeus, the Jewish king. Subsequently a new Gaza, some distance to the south of the old city, was built and was presented by Emperor Augustus to King Herod. Upon the latter's death it became a part of the Roman province of Syria.

"Up to the days of Constantine, Gaza was one of the chief strongholds of paganism, the god Marnas being worshipped there until the beginning of the fifth century. In the seventh century came the Arabs, and the Moslems still venerate it as the place of burial of Mohammed's grandfather. The Crusaders under Baldwin II tried to revive its former glory, but without success, and twenty years after their erection of a military stronghold here Saladin plundered the town. Napoleon captured Gaza in 1799.

"One of the points of interest pointed out to tourists is the 'tomb of Samson,' but there is no evidence to show that the site is authentic. El Muntar ('the watch tower') is thought to be the eminence to which the strong man of Israel 'took the doors of the gate' of the city, and the two posts. He 'went away with them, bar and all, and carried them up to the top of a hill that is before Hebron.' It was in Gaza also that the final tragic chapter in Samson's life was enacted. 'And Samson said: Let me die with the Philistines,' so runs the Biblical account. 'And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.'

"Gaza is today a city of some 40,000 inhabitants. The chief industry of the community is the manufacture of a peculiar black pottery. Barley is raised extensively and exported to England. The bazaars and the apparel of the Moslem women are strongly suggestive of Egypt."

TEDDY BELIEVES AS DOES MARSHAL JOFFRE.

New York, May 1.—Theodore Roosevelt, upon his return here from Chicago today, declared he hoped as Marshal Joffre had urged, that the people in this country would realize the necessity for sending without delay an American force to the French front.

"To keep all our men here being trained by regular army, national guard and Plattsburg officers for a year and then try to send them over as one army would mean in the first place a discredit failure to do our duty during this year, and furthermore that the army when sent would be inefficient," said Colonel Roosevelt.

He added that those in Congress who oppose the raising immediately of some divisions of volunteers for such service "will be repudiating the advice of Marshal Joffre."