

ACTION OF ITALY STILL HANGS IN THE BALANCE AND TIME IS VERY SHORT

Efforts Making at Paris and Rome To Get Italian Signatures To Treaty

COUNCIL OF THREE FIRM ON ADRIATIC PROBLEM

Another Meeting With German Plenipotentiaries Will Be Held Today at Versailles On Matter of Credentials; German-Austria To Be Prevented From Joining Germany; Czecho-Slovak and Rumanian Armies Decline Offer of Armistice and Continue To March On Budapest

A STRAW SHOWING WHICH WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING.

Paris, May 3 (By The Associated Press).—Count Macebi Di Cellere, the Italian ambassador to the United States, had a conference late today with President Wilson. This is regarded as an indication that Italy is considering a resumption of her place at the peace conference.

Neither President Wilson nor the Italian ambassador made any statement regarding the subject under discussion. The interview was sought by Count Macebi Di Cellere, and took place after the regular conference between President Wilson and Premier Clemenceau and Lloyd George.

(By The Associated Press.)

The Italian question again has come to the fore in Peace Conference circles as the time approaches for the peace treaty to be handed to the German plenipotentiaries at Versailles. Signs are increasing in Paris that strong efforts are being made there and in Rome to bring the Italian delegation back to the French capital in time for the signing of the German treaty if possible, or at least in time for the handing of a treaty to the Austrian delegates who are expected in Paris shortly.

Indications are that progress is being made to adjust the situation, although the other powers apparently still are unwilling to give France to Italy. The attitude of the council of three regarding France is expressed by the cable delegation in its statement with the reported solution of the Shantung problem by which Japan is to get the former German rights there and later in a hand over the territory to China. The Chinese statement says it is intimated that the decision favorable to Japan is in order to save the League of Nations. It is also pointed out in the statement that there was a secret agreement between the Allies to support Japan's claims which China had no knowledge. China claims that Germany's rights in Shantung were abrogated when China declared war against Germany.

Another meeting with the Germans will be held Sunday at Versailles when the conference credentials committee will discuss the question of credentials with the Germans. The council of three is reported to have reached an agreement on German frontiers, giving Alsace and Lorraine to France and prohibiting German-Austria from joining Germany.

Saturday the council continued consideration of the German cables question and also consulted with the foreign ministers and secretaries of state.

On their eastern front the Bolsheviks are retiring in disorder, it is reported, after being defeated by Siberian forces. There have been no details of reported capture of Petrograd by the Finns.

Whipping Ruman Communists. The Rumanian and Czecho-Slovak governments have refused the offer of the Hungarian communists to make territorial concessions in return for an armistice. Their armies continue to march on Budapest.

South of the Vienna the Italians are reported to have occupied a bridge over the river Drava in an advance northward. In the me region the Jugoslavs who have been fighting the Austrians in Carinthia are said to be continuing their attack toward the Vienna railway line which is held by the Italians.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIANS TO BE SUMMONED TO PARIS

Paris, May 3.—(Havas).—The Council of Three has decided to summon the Austro-Hungarian plenipotentiaries to a meeting by the end of May, the Paris newspapers assert today.

In an effort to hasten the remaining details of the peace treaty, the Council of Three met an hour earlier than usual today and resumed consideration of the question of the German cables. It was announced that the council of foreign ministers and foreign secretaries would join the Council of Three later in the day.

FIGHTING BETWEEN JUGO-SLAVS AND AUSTRIANS GOES ON

Vienna, Friday, May 2.—(By The Associated Press).—Italian troops stationed in Carinthia are advancing northward and eastward and have occupied a bridge over the River Drava. Jugo-Slav forces, it is added, have at-

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STATUS OF GERMANY IS FIXED SO AS TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF EUROPE

Paris, May 3.—The territorial status of Germany, as definitely settled by the council of three yesterday, says Marcel Hutin in the Echo De Paris, will, in view of the council, protect the general security of Europe. The chapter in which these decisions are incorporated, he adds, puts an effectual veto on the "drang nach osten" movement, which the Germans desire to pursue, prevents an alliance with the Russian Bolsheviks and forbids the incorporation in Germany of German Austria.

As regards German Austria, M. Hutin says that its peace delegates will certainly be called to Paris and Austria will be made a neutral republic under the aegis of the League of Nations with the prohibition that she shall not ally or incorporate herself with Germany.

The council of three, M. Hutin declares, also adopted a chapter in the peace treaty defining the status of Alsace and Lorraine which are given absolutely to France.

The outline of the new frontiers of Germany were presented to the council in a report by the special commission composed of Captain Andre Tardieu, representing France; Professor Charles H. Hopkins, on behalf of the United States, and Viscount Morley, for Great Britain.

VICTORY LOAN NOT HALF RAISED YET

Two-Thirds of Time Expires With But \$1,657,879,000 Subscribed

PERCENTAGE OF 36.84 IS NOT ALARMING HOWEVER

In Last Bond Campaign The Percentage Was Only 37.85 At End of Second Week; Ruling of Revenue Bureau Expected To Have Stimulating Effect

Washington, May 3.—With two weeks of the Victory Liberty Loan campaign gone and only one week remaining, only \$1,657,879,000, has been subscribed, the treasury reported tonight. This is 36.84 per cent of the \$4,500,000,000 desired.

Table with columns: District, Subscription, Per Cent. Includes St. Louis, Minneapolis, Chicago, Boston, Kansas City, Richmond, Cleveland, Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York, San Francisco, Dallas.

At the end of the second week of the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign when the total sought was one third greater than now, the nation had subscribed \$2,900,876,000, or 37.83 per cent.

In response to pressing inquiries today as to the Treasury's attitude concerning the progress of the loan, officials explained that subscriptions were not piling up as fast as they had hoped when they arranged a loan of comparatively small size. They said they were "a bit concerned" over the record of the past two weeks, but not to an extent that they were ready at this time to sound a note of positive alarm.

Victory Notes as Assets. A ruling by the Internal Revenue bureau today is expected to have a stimulating effect upon corporation subscriptions. This ruling was to the effect that Victory notes are admissible assets for invested capital in computing war profits and excess profits taxes.

Cleveland campaign managers today reported that the riots of radicals there on May Day had stimulated Victory note sales on the part of many citizens as a protest against the rioters.

Record by Districts. New England's total, including only eleven days of selling, reached \$170,000,000, of which \$100,000,000 had been taken in Massachusetts alone.

The Atlanta district reports the campaign in momentum. Sixty-one counties in the district are over a short time after his arrival. Oscar Bailey, colored porter on the train, and L. C. Mimms, express messenger, who were also in express messenger, who were also in R. E. Hill lost his life, were reported tonight as getting along all right and they are expected to recover. Two others hurt slightly in the wreck were taken to the hospital in Wadesboro.

The engine of the train was turned over and all of the remainder of the train except the Pullman left the track. Traffic was delayed for several hours. The colored fireman said that Engineer Hill saw some obstacle on the track ahead and threw on the emergency brakes. It is supposed the sudden stopping of the train caused the rails to spread.

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WOULD SINK FLEET OF GERMAN SHIPS

Secretary Daniels in Statement Favors That Disposition of Hun Vessels

WOULD BE GREATEST MORAL LESSON OF WAR

Says It Should Be Done With Unforgettable Ceremonies, With Flags Flying and Bands Playing; Nothing Definite Yet On International Naval Police Force

(By The Associated Press.)

London, May 3.—The greatest moral lesson of the war would be to sink the entire German fleet with proper ceremonies, Josephus Daniels, American Secretary of the Navy, who recently visited the captured German vessels at Scapa Flow, declared in a statement today to The Associated Press.

"The German fleet should be sunk in the opinion of American and British technical experts in Paris," the Secretary said. "Those who are not technical and who view the situation entirely from the moral side have the same idea and believe that the ships should be sunk with bands playing and flags flying to keep company with the merchantmen the German navy destroyed."

"I think the greatest moral lesson of the war would be the sinking of the whole fleet with an unforgettable ceremony. These ships which I recently viewed were magnificent craft but virtually useless as a part of the American navy. In the first place, you would never induce an American sailor to live in the cramped and unhealthy quarters even of the latest types, and none has bunker space sufficient for our needs. The ships undoubtedly were built for fighting in the North Sea and not for long cruises, as is necessary in our navy. Their armor, however, is better than the American or British."

International Naval Police. The Secretary said there is nothing approaching a concert of opinion as to the size of the international naval police force or as to what responsibility each ally is willing to accept. He added: "That all must be worked out when the League of Nations begins to function. With so many problems to face, the nations are willing to leave that one until later."

WILLARD-DEMPSEY FIGHT IN TOLEDO?

Nobody Knows Yet and Promoter Rickard Will Wait Till Monday

Toledo, Ohio, May 3.—Selection of a location for holding the proposed heavyweight title bout between Jess Willard and Jack Dempsey was deferred by Tex Rickard, the promoter, when at the conclusion of a meeting of the Municipal Boxing Commission this afternoon Rickard announced that he had not yet arrived at a decision.

Rickard informed the commission at four o'clock that he was waiting for a telephone call from New York and that if he did not receive it in thirty minutes he could not give his answer until Monday morning. He did not divulge the nature of the expected message.

Rickard returned to his hotel and the meeting broke up with the matter as far from settlement as it has been at any time.

The boxing commission, of which Mayor Cornell Schreiber is the dictating member, is in favor of the bout being staged here. Rickard has not asked for a permit which under the city's boxing laws will have to come through A. Q. Thacher, the commission's official matchmaker. Thacher was not at today's meeting.

If the bout is held here on July 4, Bay View Park, a city plot overlooking Maumee Bay in Lake Erie will be the site upon which the arena will be erected.

COLORED FIREMAN DIES AT HAMLET HOSPITAL

Others Hurt in Wreck of Seaboard Train Near Wadesboro Are Improving

(Special to News and Observer.) Hamlet, May 3.—Ernest Hammond, colored fireman on Seaboard passenger train No. 13, which was wrecked at Lilesville at 9:30 last night, died at the hospital here within a short time after his arrival. Oscar Bailey, colored porter on the train, and L. C. Mimms, express messenger, who were also in express messenger, who were also in R. E. Hill lost his life, were reported tonight as getting along all right and they are expected to recover. Two others hurt slightly in the wreck were taken to the hospital in Wadesboro.

The engine of the train was turned over and all of the remainder of the train except the Pullman left the track. Traffic was delayed for several hours. The colored fireman said that Engineer Hill saw some obstacle on the track ahead and threw on the emergency brakes. It is supposed the sudden stopping of the train caused the rails to spread.

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ELECTRICALLY HEATED SUITS KEEP OCEAN AIRMEN WARM



How do transatlantic airmen keep warm? They press a button—at least that's the way with Wood (left) and Wylie, the two who started to fly from Britain to America and fell into the Irish Sea. They have suits with electric warming devices. They expect to fly again soon.

THREE GREAT NAVY SEAPLANES FORMALLY PUT IN COMMISSION

New York, May 3.—The Stars and Stripes and the Navy pennant were formally hoisted today on the three giant seaplanes which are tuning up at Rockaway Beach for the Navy's trans-Atlantic flight, and the flying boats were placed in commission with the same ceremonies accorded a ship of the line.

The crews of the three machines, N. C.-1, N. C.-3 and N. C.-4, eighteen men in all, lined up in front of the hangar and heard read a formal message from Franklin D. Roosevelt, Acting Secretary of the Navy, ordering Commander John H. Towers, of N. C. Seaplane Division No. 1 to receive the aircraft.

Captain Powers Symington, Chief of Staff to the commandant of the Third Naval District, expressed confidence today that the British fliers at St. John's would not win trans-Atlantic honors.

NAVY SEAPLANES START TOMORROW

Sail From Rockaway Point On First Leg of Trans-Atlantic Flight Monday

Trepassey, N. F., May 3.—The giant seaplanes of the United States Navy will start from Rockaway Point on the first leg of their trans-Atlantic flight on May 5, it was announced here tonight. They are scheduled to leave Trepassey for the Azores between May 12 and 14.

Provide for Safety of Fliers. Aboard the U. S. S. Prairie, Trepassey Bay, N. F., May 3.—Emergency procedure orders under which naval boats will operate in the event of a mishap to any of the trans-Atlantic planes, were made public tonight, showing how carefully navy officials have planned to provide the greatest possible safety for the fliers.

In addition to indicating the course to the planes and aiding five battle-ships in supplying meteorological data, the 52 destroyers stationed at fifty mile intervals across the Atlantic are ordered to render "all assistance" in the event that any of the planes is forced to alight.

The planes will fly in close formation, at an altitude of from 1,000 to 5,000 feet, and in the event one plane descends the others are directed to remain in the vicinity until the disabled craft reports its condition.

In Case of "SOS" Call. If an "SOS" call is received, the two destroyers nearest the plane's indicated position will race full speed to the scene, being replaced in the line by reserve ships.

If repairs are found to be impossible, the destroyers will take off the crew of the damaged planes and tow the plane to the nearest port. In the event the plane is too badly damaged to be towed in, its explosive equipment will be salvaged.

In case of a forced descent at night, the rescuing craft will illuminate the scene of the accident with torches and sweep the sky with searchlights.

Planes to Signal for Aid. The planes will carry flares for aid in the event of trouble at night. Report on weather conditions will be sent here daily by the battle-ships Wyoming, Utah, Arkansas and Florida, until the start is made. The battle-ships are stationed to the north and south of the trans-Atlantic route, and their reports will cover a trans-Atlantic path 800 miles wide. When the planes start the battle-ships will relay to Washington reports on their progress.

Beloved Teacher Dies at Home in Goldsboro

(Special to the News and Observer.)—Mrs. M. O. Humphrey, teacher emerita of the Goldsboro public schools, in which she taught from her foundation 37 years ago and who taught a private school in this city for years before the public schools were established, died at her home here today, aged 81 years.

Before her marriage to the late Daniel Ambrose Humphrey, of this city, she was Miss Mary Ruth Oliver, of New Bern, whose father gave his life in the war with Mexico. She is survived by three children, Miss Rebecca Humphrey, of this city; Mrs. Geo. W. Butler, of Hartford, Conn. The funeral will be held from the home tomorrow afternoon at 5 o'clock and will be conducted by Rev. S. J. H. Gibbons and Rev. H. McIntyre. Interment will be made in Willow Dale cemetery.

GREENSBORO FIRE AFTER EXPLOSION

One Man Loses Life When Conflagration Starts at Station of Oil Company

TREMENDOUS BLAZE FOR SEVERAL HOURS

Firemen Did Heroic Work in Fighting Flames That Were Fed By Quantities of Oil Flowing From Exploded Tanks; Railroad Traffic Delayed; Origin Unknown

(Special to the News and Observer.)

Greensboro, May 3.—An explosion in the warehouse of the Texas Oil Company's sub-station here at 7 o'clock this morning caused the death of one man and a large loss to the oil concern. For several hours a tremendous fire was fed by large quantities of oil contained in two tank cars and stationary tanks of the company. The volume of smoke exceeded anything ever seen at a fire here.

The trestle over the Lithia street subway was burned and all morning south-bound passenger trains were delayed several hours. The name of the man burned to death has not been ascertained. He could not be identified because the body was so badly burned, and it is not certain that he was employed by the company.

Started With Explosion. Just as clocks were striking the hour of seven, people of the city were startled by the noise of the explosion and the rattling of doors and windows. Guesses that it was an explosion or earthquake were soon answered by the sounding of the fire alarms and the sight of a tremendous volume of smoke rising at the plant: of the Texas company, which is on the main line of the Southern Railway near the State Normal College. Thousands of people went within a short distance of the flames, but only firemen went very close, for the reason that other tanks were near and might explode.

A pipe that connected two big stationary tanks was melted, and this turned hundreds of gallons of oil upon the ground to burn. Fortunately, however, none of the other tanks exploded. The loss to the Texas company is considerable. Many dwellings are nearby, but were not seriously damaged. At one place the oil ran down the street for a block and fire covered the street for the entire block.

Windows were broken in the train from Winston-Salem, which had just passed the plant, and was only a block away when the explosion occurred. Many panes of glass in windows and doors of houses from one to five blocks away were shattered by the force of the explosion.

Firemen Did Heroic Work. Firemen did the best work they could under the circumstances, and this work was important in saving adjoining property and making it possible after two hours to get the cut off valve of the stationary tanks and shut off the flow of oil. Water was of little value in fighting this type of fire, except as it protected adjoining property.

It is believed that the man who lost his life was on his way to work and was passing the place just as the explosion occurred. Some time after the fire started his body was found lying on the railroad track, and it had evidently been thrown there by the force of the explosion, the body covered with oil and the clothing asphyxiated.

The origin of the fire will probably never be known, as no one was near enough to see its start, and if he had been, he would have been killed instantly. Speculation ventures the ideas of spontaneous origin, or a spark from a passing engine, but the former suggestion is more likely correct.

"Was Deliberately Destroyed"

Greensboro, N. C., May 3.—The finding late this afternoon of small insulated wires 75 feet long, leading from the plant of the Texas Oil Company which was destroyed by an explosion and fire this morning, across the railroad to a point some distance down the street, is strong evidence in the opinion of Deputy State Insurance Commissioner W. A. Scott, who is at work on the case, that the property was deliberately destroyed. The explosion caused the loss of but one life, Harry Shofner, a negro, employed at the State Normal College here, was killed while passing the place on his way to work.

Officials of the company here are unable to give even an estimate of the loss.

SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS NEXT MONTH

Advices at White House Indicate Return of President Before End of May

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, May 3.—Intimation that a special session of Congress will be called by President Wilson to meet about June 1, was contained in confidential dispatches received in Washington today from Paris.

It was said, in authoritative administration quarters, that it was quite possible that if the situation in Paris should develop rapidly the special session might meet even before June 1. In that case the call would be made by cable.

It was made clear in today's dispatches that the President was confident it would be possible for him to return to the United States before the end of the month.

NEWS OF TAR HEELS FROM WASHINGTON

Why Secretary Daniels Was Not Knighted By The King of England

PROPOSED HONOR "HELD IN ABEYANCE" LAST WEEK

Patriotic Employers Who Are Zealous in Favoring Returned Soldiers in Giving Out Jobs To Be Given Citations; War and Navy Departments Co-operating

By S. R. WINTERS.

Washington, May 3.—The application of W. W. Willson, of Raleigh, grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina, for a passport to London was favorably acted upon today by the Department of State. Ordinarily, four or five days are required to furnish the papers, and Mr. Willson will receive his passport next week. He will attend the Masonic peace conference, to be held in London during the week ending June 30.

Junius K. Powell, of Whiteville, Columbus county, has taken the position of paying teller in the Union Savings bank of Washington, the financial institution headed by Wade H. Cooper, a native Tarheel. Mr. Powell is the son of R. H. Powell, of Whiteville, and a brother of Walter Powell, member of the late North Carolina General Assembly, and B. F. Powell, a Whiteville banker, who is a member of the executive committee of the North Carolina Bankers' association. Mr. Powell, before assuming connections with the bank here, was assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Albemarle, Stany county.

Declined to Be a Knight.

The Washington Times carries a story this afternoon from its London correspondent, stating that Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels declined to be knighted by the King of England. The article reads:

"The only reason why Secretary Daniels refused to be knighted is because he prefers 'no.' 'King George was prepared to confer in 1920, the American naval head the Order of the Grand Cross of the Bath, and every one expected the announcement of the honor, following the luncheon in Mr. Daniels' honor at Buckingham Palace Wednesday."

"From a source in intimate touch with the secretary during his stay here, was learned the reason why his waistcoat does not bear the jeweled bath-cross and the story reveals the Daniels diplomacy. When he arrived in England he was approached by a high British official who intimated that the king was prepared to honor him."

"Secretary Daniels, not desiring to snub the king, asked if it was possible the matter could be held 'in abeyance' until such time as he was the guest of British hospitality. But he answered in such a way as to indicate his preference to avoid the decoration if nobody would be offended. The King is reported to appreciate Mr. Daniels' democratic ideals and be willing to 'hold the matter in abeyance.'"

Citations for Patriotic Employers. Patriotic employers who perform their duty in employing returning soldiers and sailors will receive a citation from their government. This citation will carry with it a special certificate which will become a more valuable asset to every patriotic employer and business concern as the years go by.

Announcement to this effect was made today by Col. Arthur Woods, assistant to the Secretary of War, who explains that his office has completed arrangements with both the War and Navy Departments for this recognition of employers who pledge themselves to take back employees who entered the service and to show preferences to soldiers and sailors in taking on new employees.

For those who join this new legion of honor among employers, a special certificate will be given, suitable for framing, signed by Secretary Baker, of the War Department, Secretary Daniels, of the Navy Department, and by Col. Arthur Woods, representing the War and Navy Departments.

This certificate, which is headed "War and Navy Departments, United States of America," reads as follows: "This certifies that John Doe has assured the War and Navy Departments that he will gladly re-employ everybody who formerly worked with him, and left to serve in the army or navy during the great war. Signed, Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, Arthur Woods, assistant to the Secretary of War."

TROPHY TRAIN VISITS WILSON FOR TWO HOURS

(Special to the News and Observer.) Wilson, May 3.—The war trophy train arrived here today at noon and remained until 2 o'clock. Thousands stood in line to take their turn in viewing the instruments of destruction that played such an important part in the world war.

Wilson superior court convenes Monday for a two weeks term with Judge W. M. Bond presiding. There are ten persons in jail and the docket is unusually large on account of the epidemic of influenza, which caused many adjournments of courts during the winter.

Several important cases are on the criminal docket among them are one against George Williams, of Elm City, who shot to death Carl Vivrette for alleged defamation of the character of his 13-year old daughter. At the time of the homicide, in the pistol duel that took place on the streets of Elm City, Mr. Williams was seriously wounded by the deceased.