

TEUTONS MAY GIVE UP LAND THAT ITALY AND FRANCE WANT

Papal Delegate Supposed to Have Amplified Views of Vatican as to This BUT NEGOTIATIONS MUST COME FIRST

Entente Diplomats View This With Distrust—Declare No Negotiations Until Fate of Small Nations Has Been Settled.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The fate of small nations, especially Belgium and Serbia, must be determined fully before the Allies will consent to any peace table gathering.

That answer came tonight from one of the foremost diplomats here, at the close of a week which still found peace talks and peace thought running in parallel channels, with war work and war talk.

His comment was elicited by a United Press interview today with Papal Delegate Bonzano, who expressed the belief that if there were an armistice, the allies could wrest the rich prizes, Alsace, Trent and Trieste from the Teutons by negotiation.

This statement was answered by American government heads with the single suggestion that it might perhaps be fruitful if the belief were really inspired by actual knowledge of Teuton willingness to make such concessions.

But allied diplomats here did not find the hint so consoling. They said that something must be done about little Serbia, Montenegro and Belgium—the unfortunate storm centers at the start of the war—before even the thought of sitting about a peace table could be entertained.

The diplomat authoritatively pointed out that the Pope had scrupulously avoided any reference to Serbia in his message to the warring nations.

On the other hand, men who have followed developments here closely for months agreed that if Germany and Austria are actually ready now to surrender Alsace, Trent and Trieste, then indeed, is the world close to the aim of safety for democracy.

In the first place, the surrender of Alsace-Lorraine would automatically shut off Germany's base of supply for much of its industrial success. Without this rich iron and coal region, Germany's dream of a Berlin-Bagdad route or of a German supremacy in world trade would be impotent.

The safety of democracy would be assured, for Germany's wings would be clipped.

French officials here labeled Bonzano's interview as "entirely too subtle." If the Vatican really has a bona fide offer from Germany and Austria to relinquish territory, the Pope should say as much without reservation, they said.

High Italian officials believed Bonzano's remarks were authorized by the Vatican, "but," they said, "Austria and Germany are not ready to give any land."

The President showed every sign of taking his own time about answering the Pope's note. It has been a matter for only cursory consideration in cabinet circles, and perhaps the delay is studied, observers suggest.

Russian diplomats here dismiss lightly the Pope's suggestion for an international fund for restoring devastated territories, saying that it was a sop for certain minor emmas in Russia. These diplomats suggest that the Russian slogan of no indemnities did not exclude payment of compensation for the ruthless ruin of Belgium and Serbia.

Denial of Vatican's Assertions. New York, Aug. 25.—Stephen Lausanne, spokesman for France in America, today hadly denied the assertion from the Vatican, that statements of different belligerents had suggested mutual indemnification of war damages and restoration of occupied territories. The Vatican's declaration, amplifying the Pope's peace appeal, was made in a communication from the Papal Secretary of State through the United Press.

"The Germans have made such suggestions," declared Lausanne, "but the British or French or any allied statesman who advocated mutual indemnification of damages and restoration of territories. If you steal my watch and I steal your watch there can be mutual restoration and you do not steal mine—how can there be mutual restoration? Absurdly impossible."

"I note there is an exception made with regard to Belgium, concerning indemnification of war damages. There can be no mutual restoration in which Belgium is involved. No German man."

HARD STRUGGLE IN PROGRESS TO FIX PRICE WHEAT

Various Interests Bucking Government on Vital Position

THREE SIDED IS THE HOT FIGHT

Farmers and Consumers Differ as to Fair Price—Organized Movement to Make it Over Three Dollars.

Washington, Aug. 25.—With H. A. Garfield, wheat dictator, planning to announce the price for the 1917 crop next Friday, a three-cornered fight is raging. Consumers, farmers and Congressmen are insisting variously that the price shall not exceed \$1.85 a bushel; that it must exceed \$3; and that a fair price would be about \$4 a bushel.

The latter figure is that of Representative J. M. Baser, non-partisan Congressman from North Dakota. President Wilson and Herbert Hoover, he charges, will be guilty of a breach of faith if anything but "the highest market price" is set.

Meanwhile, Congress is stepping in. Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, insisted today from the floor that \$3 is an insufficient price.

If the farmers received less than that, he said, the government need not expect a big acreage next year.

The first appearance of the ordinary consumer came today with a statement from the American Home Economics Association that \$1.85 a bushel must not be exceeded, if the five cent loaf is to remain. The majority of organized forces in the capitol are working for more than \$3 a bushel.

Following receipt of a telegram from Congressman George M. Young, of North Dakota, to a gathering of Fargo, North Dakota, business men, (Continued on Page Eight.)

DEPENDENT FAMILY OF PERSON DRAFTED LEGALLY DEFINED

Ruling on the Subject by Provost Marshal General Crowder Settles Question

Washington, Aug. 25.—Married men, with actually dependent wives and children will not be drafted into the national army, Provost Marshal General Crowder ruled tonight.

Acting upon suggestion of President Wilson for ameliorating the lot of certain families, General Crowder held that a man ought to be exempted in case his wife and children were really dependent upon his labor; in other words, the boards ought not to force a wife to go to work for herself and children where the soldier's pay or his pay plus relative's contributions did not suffice to meet the family needs.

President Wilson wrote that such hardships ought to be avoided as far as possible. General Crowder concurred, but reiterated that there ought not to be exemption in cases, for instance, where the wife is wealthy or where her relatives are willing to take over the task of supporting her.

General Crowder's opinion on the President's letter follows: "I—A feeling has been expressed that, in passing on claims for discharge on the ground of dependents, local boards ought, in no case, to refuse a discharge to a married man or to the head of a family. The law (Continued on Page Seven.)

JEALOUS OVER HIS WIFE YOUNG HUSBAND SHOOT

Tragedy Enacted in Mill at Henderson Yesterday Morning.

SHOT ANOTHER MAN SIX TIMES

Went About Act in Cool and Deliberate Manner and Then Surrendered to the Sheriff.

Durham, N. C., Aug. 25.—Jealous because of alleged attention to his wife, Vernon Hook, 30 years of age, entered the card-room of the Harriet Mills, in Henderson, early this morning, stood with his eyes calmly fixed on George Grissom, aged 24, for a short time, and then, whipping out a revolver, emptied each of the six chambers towards Grissom. Each shot took effect, the first penetrating his chest and passing close to his heart.

Leaving the card-room Hook started home. He met sheriff J. E. C. Bell, a short distance away, and stopped him. "I reckon you want me," he told the sheriff. Hook and Ed Lester, a brother-in-law, were arrested and jailed without bail. The preliminary hearing will be held Monday. All parties are well known in Henderson, and the shooting caused quite a sensation. Many mill employes witnessed the tragedy.

SOUTHERN DENIES PLACING EMBARGO

Washington, Aug. 25.—The railroad war board tonight received advices from Southern Railway officials, denying reports of a freight embargo on the system.

AMERICANS WILL SOON SEE ACTION

That is Idea of Congressman Olney—New Englanders to Lead the Van.

Boston, Aug. 25.—American troops will soon see action in France and there is a larger American army in that country than the public has any idea of, according to Congressman Olney, of Massachusetts, member of House Military Affairs committee.

The New England division, the Congressman soon expects to see doing foreign duty.

There was a lengthy debate in the War Department, Olney declares, as to whether New York, Pennsylvania or New England troops would lead the van and it was decided that as the New England soldiers were more seasoned and more fully equipped than the others they should be selected.

KILLED HERSELF IN THE BATHTUB

Eric, Pa., Aug. 25.—"I can't stand this trouble any longer." After writing a note with these words contained on it, Miss Eleanor Link, a public school teacher of this city, committed suicide by drowning herself in a bathtub at her apartments Thursday night. Her body was only discovered about noon today floating in the tub when a relative called. Ill health was the cause.

FINDS SPY WAS CAUSE OF BLAST AT MARE ISLAND

Investigation Board Makes Report on Incident That Became Notable.

PARTLY SUPPORTS THE NAVY LEAGUE

Member of Cabinet Rises to Defense of Secretary Daniels and Denounces The Navy League.

Washington, Aug. 25.—A spy caused the fatal explosion in the Mare Island, California, power magazine recently, the investigation board concluded.

To that extent the report backed the recent charges of the Navy League that a conspiracy was responsible for the blast, but otherwise the board's report made public today denied there had been any suppression of facts as the league claimed.

Neil C. Damstedt, "a trusted employee of 21 years' continuous service," was the last man seen entering the magazine, but the board exonerated him and all ammunition depot and guard employes.

It said: "The explosion was not an accident, but was due to the deliberate act of some person or persons unknown."

Any evidence of the means employed to cause the blast was destroyed by that explosion, the board held, failing to support the league's claim that evidence before the navy showed a time-fuse was used.

McAdoo Defends Daniels. Washington, Aug. 25.—Reinforcements from President Wilson's official family plunged into the Daniels-Navy League battle today, when Secretary McAdoo rallied to the support of the Secretary of the Navy, denouncing the Navy League officers for their activities in the Mare Island explosion squabble. Mr. McAdoo denied emphatically that he had "recognized" the Navy League in any way.

"This is wholly unfounded and unjustifiable," he said.

"On the contrary, I have always felt that the attitude of the officers of the league toward the Secretary of the Navy was grossly unfair and unjust. In the present instances I requested the Navy League, one day before the Secretary of the Navy's letter to Mr. Thompson, to distribute information about the pending bill of the insurance on the lives of our sailors and soldiers in the water. The request had no relation whatever to any controversy between the league and the Navy Department."

SHELL EXPLODED AND U. S. SOLDIERS DIE.

Fort Sill, Okla., Aug. 25.—James Kelly and Frank Nelson, soldiers in battery A, Second Missouri field artillery, were killed ed tonight when a shrapnel shell exploded on a cantonment range. The shell, partly buried in the ground, exploded near the mess house as a result of heat from a fire nearby. Privates Oakley, Bloomer, McGrew and Ross were injured.

ITALIAN TROOPS GAIN OPEN GROUND

Pursuing Teutons Across Plateau—Allies Capturing German Positions

London, Aug. 25.—"Second" wind stage was reached in the allied offensive tonight.

Italy has not ceased her great drive now for seven days, but both France and England, fighting against supposedly impregnable German positions and forced to consolidate and literally rebuild every inch of ground wrested from the enemy, had to take a breathing space. Reports tonight indicated the French were still driving a localized assault forward north of Verdun and that Canadian troops were slowly tightening up on Lens.

The whole battlefront assault of the week, however, starting with a Flanders offensive by the British, the Lens encircling drive, the French offensive on the Chemin-des-Dames, the Mornavillers campaign and the Verdun smash, had simmered down to the Lens and Verdun battles.

Italian troops have now swept beyond Monte Santo into the plateau, according to latest despatches tonight. Military experts predicted with the smoother ground of the plateau attained, General Codornia's advance would become even more amazingly fast. The Austrian line into the Monte Santo sector has been cut at several places by capture of the mountain and adjacent works. Rome reported her troops vigorously pursuing the retreating enemy.

NEGRO SOLDIERS MAY FACE FIRING SQUAD FOR ACTS

Clash Over Who Will Try Members of 24th Infantry.

CRIME SERIOUS SAYS GENERAL BELL

Mass Meeting In Houston Demands Return of the Negroes—Will Be Court Martialed.

Houston, Texas, Aug. 25.—Members of the 24th negro infantry, who spread death and terror in the riots of Thursday night, may soon face a firing squad.

This was indicated in a statement to the United Press tonight by Major-General George Bell, Jr., who came here today to take command of the situation.

"The rioters will be court-martialed," he declared. "This is the quickest and easiest way to dispose of men guilty of such crimes."

Mutiny in time of war is punished by death, and murder at all times involves the death penalty, General Bell explained. He would not indicate, however, that the troops have mutinied.

A clash between the military and civil authorities over jurisdiction in the cases of the negro slayers developed tonight. A mass meeting of citizens was in progress tonight to consider making formal demand for the immediate return for trial and punishment of the 34 alleged rioters, who were taken from the county jail and sent to Columbus, N. M., today, together with the other 600 disarmed members of the 24th infantry.

The people of Houston were promised by a captain of the "civilian patrol" the negroes would be promptly and effectively dealt with, according to reports. Except for these promises, citizens declared tonight, a mob of 10,000 men would have been formed "at the drop of the hat," to punish the blacks.

Civil authorities contend that because the 17 murders were committed before the city was placed under martial law, that they have the jurisdiction to exercise indictments returned by the Harris county grand jury, charging the rioters with murder.

"I assume the local authorities will make an effort to try the accused men," Major General Bell explained, "but disposition of the rioters is in the hands of the military."

General Bell would not discuss the cause of the rioting other than to say:

"It is to be assumed that the negroes thought some one had slighted them. The 24th had a fine army record. None of the members was implicated in the Brownsville trouble and at Columbus they behaved themselves."

Following a citizens' mass meeting tonight in protest of the removal to Columbus, N. M., of negro soldiers (Continued on Page Eight.)

SENATOR SIMMONS' OFFICE BROKEN INTO TWICE WITHIN WEEK

Searching For Data From War and Navy Departments But Did Not Find It—Detective On Hunt For the Spies—Finance Committee is The Victim.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 25.—Twice within the past week thieves, presumably German spies, have broken into Senator F. M. Simmons' rooms at the United States capitol.

Last Tuesday night the back door of the offices of the Senate Finance committee, of which Simmons is chairman, was pried open with a jimmy. Thursday night the offices were again entered by unknown persons, who unlocked the front door with a skeleton key.

Detectives have been in search of the robbers for several days, but the matter did not become known publicly until today.

SENATORS MAKING READY WAGE WAR ON REVENUE BILL

OVER FIFTY PER CENT OF VESSELS ATTACKED SUNK

U-Boats Have Garnered Ghastly Harvest According to Board.

RECORD SINCE THE DECREE OF FEB. 24TH

Nearly Four Hundred British Merchantmen Have Been Sunk Since Then—Other Losses Noted.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The German U-boat is garnering a ghastly harvest, according to official figures of the United States Shipping Board.

Fifty-five per cent of all British ships attacked are sunk, and the great total of 388 British merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over, has been sunk since February 24, when unrestricted German submarine started in earnest. "Sixteen hundred tons or over" usually spells big cargoes or passenger ships.

As for other losses, the board figures show: One hundred and sixty-nine under 1,600 tons; 113 fishing vessels and 39 sailing fishing craft.

These figures are British losses only, as this government does not announce its own losses, except in individual cases.

The worst week of the U-boat war was between May 13 and May 20, when 75 per cent of the torpedoes found their marks, but in no week has the German scoring been below 60 per cent.

Betting Hearst Won't Be In Race. New York, Aug. 25.—Odds of 2 to 1 that W. R. Hearst would not enter the New York mayoralty race were offered today by a Broad street betting commissioner.

GERMAN SPIES AT WORK AT CAPITOL STEAL DOCUMENTS

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Group of Thirty Plan to Fight to Conscript Wealth For War.

BORAH SAYS THEY WILL FORCE INCREASE

LaFollette Not Taken Into the Council of The Opposition. Senate Finance Committee Bitter at the Action.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The big Senate battle to conscript wealth for war bills will widen its scope next week. An eighty per cent tax on war profits will be demanded by a group of Senators, who are determined upon an upward revision of this section in the war revenue bill.

Led by Borah, Johnson, of California, Kenyon and Hollis, the 30 Senators at a meeting today pledged themselves to a fight, which will be definitely ratified at another meeting Monday before the Senate meets.

Aiding the conscriptionists is a statistician, who Monday will furnish data on the swollen profits some corporations are reaping from the world struggle.

"We are determined to force a substantial increase unless the Finance committee itself alters the present rates," Senator Borah said.

Senator LaFollette, original advocate of high taxes, was left out of today's session. This indicated that the movement is intended to gather support which it lacked when LaFollette's name was attached to the proposal.

In fact, many Senators have said frankly they could not vote for a LaFollette proposition because the Wisconsin member carried the brand of "one of the wilful twelve."

The Finance committee, bitter at the conscriptionists, spent the day figuring on its own lines for next week's fight.

Increases in postal rates on papers and periodicals and the profits tax on newspapers, will start the trouble at the first of the week. After that, LaFollette's additional income tax amendments and the Hitchcock amendment to keep corporations from escaping taxation of undivided profits will be threshed out. The war profits section will require three days or more, with the final vote likely at the close of next week.

GERMANS MAKING STRONG ATTACKS

Forced British Lose Some Trenches But No Important Change In the West

London, Aug. 25.—Powerfully waged German counter attacks today forced British troops to yield a portion of trenches recently captured northeast of Gille Mont farm. Field Marshal Haig reported this misadventure in the general offensive assault in his official night statement. He added, however, that Gille Mont farm itself was held, the enemy being unable to make further progress.

Northwest of Lens the British commander in chief reported the Canadians continuing their successful battling into the coal city.

"We advanced our line slightly," he declared of the fighting in this sector.

Paris night official statements reported some artillery, but no infantry actions. The day report had indicated a partial resumption of the Verdun offensive north of Hill 304, which gained additional ground for the Poilus.

Statue of Pershing Now Ready. London, Aug. 25.—General Pershing's immortality was assured today, as a statue of the American commander, with sandwitten men advertising it on the streets.

The 165th New York at full war strength was inspected late this afternoon, with army airplanes, dipping and circling overhead. Thousands of spectators watched the inspection from a distance.