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UPHEAVAL IN GERMAN AFFAIRS

Political Turmoil Which Has Been Convulsing Empire Caused Retirement of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, Which Is Probably Only First of Far-Reaching Developments Which Are Bound to Affect Fabric of Whole Empire and Have Momentous Consequences on Progress of the War.

London, July 14.—The political turmoil which has been convulsing Germany ever since Russia's first startling success on the resumption of her offensive, has culminated for the present in the resignation of the imperial chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, but all indications serve to show that his resignation, far from being the last act of far-reaching developments which are bound to affect the fabric of the German empire and have momentous consequences on the progress of the European struggle.

The resignation of the chancellor came in the end quite unexpectedly, for Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, in the prolonged party discussions and heated debates of the main committee of the reichstag, which have been proceeding all through the week, seemed to have triumphed over his opponents, who have been clamoring for his head, by making concessions which were tantamount to the formation of a kind of imperial coalition ministry.

At the same time, the chancellor, by the declaration that Germany was defensively fighting for the freedom of her territorial possessions, evolved a formula that seemed satisfactory to both those who clamored for peace by agreement, and those who demanded repudiation of the formula, "no annexations and no indemnities."

Supported by Kaiser. In all this, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg was strongly backed by the emperor. The advent of the crown prince upon the scene, summoned by his imperial father to share the deliberations affecting the future of the dynasty, seems to have changed entirely the position with regard to the imperial chancellor. The crown prince at once took a leading part in the discussions with the party leaders, and his ancient hostility toward Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, coupled with his notorious dislike for political reform, undoubtedly precipitated the chancellor's resignation.

The fact that Field Marshal von Hindenburg, chief of staff, and General von Ludendorff, first quartermaster general, have been most prominent throughout these discussions, and that a section of the press has been clamoring for a joint-dictatorship by them, hardly augurs well for the realization of the Prussian franchise reform, which the emperor has just decreed, or for the movement toward a diminution of Germany's war aims, and therefore toward peace, on which the Austrian emperor has been doing his utmost to persuade the German emperor to embark.

The Bavarian ministers have been among the most active in Berlin confabulations, and the fact that the Centre Catholic party has rallied to the peace gospel preached by Mathias Erzberger directly on his return from Vienna, where he saw Emperor Charles, shows that the Austrian emperor is backed in his determination to secure peace by at least one, and that the most powerful of the States in the German empire. Whether other southern German States will join in what appears to be a movement toward the renunciation of Prussian hegemony, events in no distant future probably will show.

The New Chancellor. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's successor, Dr. George Michaelis, is a bureaucrat of the old type, whose appointment can scarcely be regarded as promising much in the direction of the parliamentarization of Germany. Entering the Prussian civil service in 1879 at the age of twenty-two, he followed the customary placid career of Prussian officials, holding various minor posts at different provincial places until he was appointed under-secretary in the finance ministry in 1909. In February, 1917, he received the additional appointment of Prussian food commissioner, a special post authorized by the Prussian cabinet.

The only break in this monotonous routine up to 1909 was a period of four years, which he spent at Tokio as lecturer in the German law school there.—Charlotte Observer.

PARIS PRESS ON THE CHANGE.

Hollweg's Retirement Hailed With Varying Satisfaction. Some of the Journals Trace Downfall Back to Famous "Scrap of Paper" Utterance.

The Paris press hails the retirement of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg from the German chancellorship with varying degrees of satisfaction, says an Associated Press dispatch, dated at Paris, July 15. Some of the comment is in a jubilant tone, while others treat the event soberly. All are agreed that it indicates a crisis in Germany of unprecedented importance. The phrase "scrap of paper" frequently crops out in the comment, and some of the journals trace the chancellor's downfall back to that early-in-the-war utterance. The Petit Parisien is one of the newspapers that is not optimistic over the development. It says:

"Though the chancellor changes, the German masters remain the same. It is they and not the retiring functionary who desired the war, to satisfy their appetite for universal domination. In what measure may they have changed their minds, and are they capable of speaking up now for peace? Just in such measure as they realize that victory has escaped them and that defeat is approaching; in such measure as the intolerable sufferings of their hungry peoples are growing.

"Bethmann-Hollweg is being dismissed because of his declarations and mistakes at the beginning of the war, but his successor will be no less bound by his acts and words than was this docile functionary who never dared to take the initiative. Bethmann-Hollweg would never have been disavowed had the hopes of his masters been realized by victory."

Le Journal says: "The chancellor was so accustomed to let things be that he seems to be surprised to find himself at the bottom of the abyss. His famous exclamation 'a scrap of paper,' which many thought to be only a cynical utterance, now echoes like a cry of distress. It seems now as if Bethmann-Hollweg had foreseen the catastrophe."

In the view of L'Homme Enchaîné, the chancellor's retirement marks the beginning of a tragic era for Germany.

The Action Française says that the chancellor's departure indicates the depth to which the Germans have descended in their spirit of violence and ambition.

Libre Parole says: "The 'scrap of paper' has finished by strangling Bethmann-Hollweg." The Gaulois concludes its rather biographical articles with the words: "And there is the war machine; long oiled and burnished, no longer running as it had been expected it would; and there in the reichstag itself, tactless men demanding that the promises of the government be not treated by him (Bethmann-Hollweg) like scraps of paper. There was terrible fatefulness in these words, and finally the day approaches when his simple little 'scrap of paper' tossed on the one side of the scale is beginning to weigh all by itself more than the entire credit of Germany."

PRESIDENT URGES FOOD BILL.

Sends Letter Recommending Original Control Measure. Against Gore Draft.

President Wilson Friday came to the support of the administration food bill as originally submitted to congress.

In response to a request from senate leaders for assistance in solving the difficulties standing in the way of action there, the President sent Democratic Leader Martin a personal letter recommending the general purposes of the original bill for government control of foods, feeds and fuel only. He wrote that he believed unnecessary the extension of government control as proposed in amendments attached in congress to steel, iron, copper, cotton, wool, leather and other products.

The substitute bill drawn by Senator Gore was opposed by the president as an amassment of the administration legislation.

When a man has nothing to lose he delights in making other people take chances.

TWO MEET HORRIBLE DEATH.

At Six O'clock This Morning J. G. Greenleaf and His Son Dewey, Aged Seventeen, Were Killed Instantly. Ray Crump, Son of Mr. E. F. Crump, Was Fatally Injured. Car They Were Riding In Stopped on Track in Front of Oncoming Train.

At the Smithfield Cotton Mills just south of the town there occurred this morning about 6 o'clock a horrible and awful accident, when the Florida Special, Train No. 83, southbound, ran into a Ford automobile driven by Mr. J. G. Greenleaf, the Superintendent of the cotton mill. Mr. Greenleaf and his son, Dewey, who was about seventeen years old were killed instantly, and Ray Crump, about seventeen years old, and a son of Mr. E. F. Crump, was fatally injured.

The Greenleafs boarded up town at the hotel and Ray Crump had been to the hotel for them to go to the mill. They saw that the train was near them and made a rush to cross the track ahead of it, but in changing the gears of the engine the car was stopped just over the track on which the train was coming. They made an effort to leave the car but not in time. When the locomotive struck the car it demolished and carried it about the distance of two car lengths. One of the automobile seats was carried to where the train stopped about two hundred yards from the crossing. The front part of the engine's pilot is broken. The three persons were taken up on the pilot and remained there until the train stopped. Both the Greenleafs were instantly killed and there is said to be no hope for the Crump boy. It is said that Mr. Greenleaf had owned a car for only about a month. His home and the remainder of his family are in Fayetteville. He had been here about ten months.

When the three men were taken from the pilot of the engine, Mr. Greenleaf was dead. His son died as he was placed on the ground nearby. Ray Crump was taken to his home near by where he was given medical attention.

The train remained where it stopped until the arrival of the coroner who viewed the bodies. It left about 7:30.

The bodies of the dead men were removed to the Cotter-Underwood Company's undertaking parlors where they were embalmed and prepared for burial.

As we go to press Ray Crump is still living and may live for a few hours, but is badly hurt internally and there is no hope for his recovery, though he may live through the day. He has been unconscious since the accident.

FAVORS TRAINING IN SOUTH.

Gorgas Considers Health Advantages of This Section Superior to Those Elsewhere.

Washington, July 15.—In a statement tonight commending the war department's policy of locating most of the troop training camps in the South, Maj. General Gorgas, surgeon general of the army, declared such an arrangement would have great influence for good health and hence for military efficiency.

"I am strongly in favor of sites in the South for training camps because of health advantages to the men," said Gen. Gorgas. "The outstanding fact is that men trained in the South will have weather conditions permitting their being out of doors practically all of every day. In certain regions, wisely chosen for our National Guard camps, rain is scarce in the winter—when the heaviest training will be done—and at night soldiers here will sleep in quarters where there is free air circulation.

"There is, of course, a military advantage involved beyond the fundamental gain of having soldiers physically fit for their work. It is obvious that men in training should have the maximum hours per day and days per week for drill and exercise. The few weeks of summer weather which soldiers in the South may encounter will be more than offset by the long autumn and mild winter during which the troops will undergo the larger part of their training."

During the last two years and a half approximately thirty million men have been withdrawn from their usual occupations in Europe.

JUDGE COX IS MADE COLONEL.

Resigns From Superior Court Bench to Accept. Calvert to Succeed Him. Appointments Made by Governor Bickett Thursday.

Raleigh, July 12.—Governor Bickett commissions Judge Albert L. Cox of the superior court bench as the colonel for the new regiment of artillery for the North Carolina national guard. Judge Cox resigns from the bench and at once launches a whirlwind campaign for recruits for the regiment of artillery, a number of the units must be recruited from the very start. Friends of Judge Cox, who regret exceedingly to have him retire from the bench where he has already made a splendid impression, predict that his action in coming into this war service voluntarily when he was exempted, especially through his judicial position, will have a fine effect in inspiring young men throughout the State to rally to the colors and offer their services in the new regiment of artillery for the formation of which there is very little time, since the national guard units are to be mustered in July 25 for federal service.

Governor Bickett has tendered the judgeship resigned by Cox to T. H. Calvert, who was assistant attorney general under Bickett. Mr. Calvert will accept after laying the matter before the code commission from which he holds a commission for codification of the laws.—Charlotte Observer.

PLANS FOR MERCHANT FLEET.

The Program of General Goethals Calls for 425 Merchant Vessels. Government to Construct Two Shipbuilding Plants.

Washington, July 13.—Major-General Goethals, manager of the Shipping Boards' emergency fleet corporation, took full charge of the government's shipbuilding program today and announced sweeping plans for constructing the great merchant fleet with which the United States hopes to defeat the German submarine campaign.

The most important steps contemplated, are these:

Immediate construction of two government-owned shipbuilding plants for building four hundred fabricated steel ships of 2,500,000 tonnage.

Commandeering of 1,500,000 tons of shipping now building for private account in American yards.

General Goethals' announcement was made in a letter to Chairman Denman, of the Shipping Board, which said the fleet corporation, under powers just granted by President Wilson, would start on its building program Monday by offering contracts for construction of the two government ship plants and by outlining to shipbuilders the plants for commandeering vessels under construction.

General Goethals' letter to Mr. Denman discloses that the fleet corporation has let contracts for 425 ships, 348 of them wood and 77 steel, with a total tonnage of 1,860,800. The cost of the wooden ships will be \$143 a ton and the steel ships \$158.

Contracts for building the government yards will be let Monday, on a basis of cost plus six per cent. Options will be given to constructors to purchase the plants on completion of the work.

Proffers that have come to the fleet corporation for building completed ships, it was said today, show that steel ships can be built faster than wood. Steel ships complete, it is said, can be turned out within five months from the time work is begun, while wooden construction will require eight months.

Interest in Revival Increasing.

Selma, July 16.—The revival at Selma Baptist Church will continue through Friday night, July 20th. A growing interest is manifested each day, and already quite a number of professions have been made, and some have been added to the church.

Had there been no services except the special services, the one for women Friday, children's service Saturday and the men's service Sunday afternoon, the revival could have been called a success.

We feel that there are still greater things in store for this week. Everybody is invited to attend these services at 10 o'clock in the morning and at 8:15 in the evening.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR DRAFT.

Summons Six Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand to Colors Under New Law. North Carolina's Quota Is 15,564.

A formal order by President Wilson drafting 687,000 men into the military service under the selective conscription law was promulgated Friday by the war department, together with an official allotment showing what part of the total must be furnished by each State and territory, says a Washington dispatch.

The only steps now remaining are distribution by the governors of State quotas among the local exemption districts, and the great lottery, which probably will be held this week to establish the order in which registrants are to present themselves for service or exemption.

The men summoned for service will be used to fill the regular army and National Guard to war strength and to organize the first 500,000 of the new National army. The total of these three forces will be 1,262,985 men. Later another 500,000 will be called out supplemented by sufficient men to make up losses and maintain reserve battalions.

North Carolina's quota is 15,564 men. The Governor of each State will apportion the men to be drawn from the several counties and districts.

SELMA'S BIG ANNUAL EVENT.

Program for the opening day of Selma's Watermelon Fair and Better Babies Contest at New Opera House. Monday, July 23, Housekeepers' Day.

Address of Welcome, 10:30—Hon. John A. Mitchener.

Response—Miss Nell Pickens, Home Demonstration Agent for Johnston County.

Demonstration in making and use of Fireless Cooker and Iceless Refrigerator, followed by a canning demonstration, conducted by Mrs. Estelle Smith, Home Demonstration Agent for Wayne County.

12:30 to 2:45—Lunch Hour and Inspection of Exhibits, old Opera House. 3 o'clock—Address by Mr. S. G. Rubinow of the Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina.

The women are requested to have their canning and cooking problems ready to present to Mrs. Smith as Mrs. Smith is an expert in the canning work and will be glad to help in every way she can.

Mr. Rubinow is an excellent talker, practical in every respect and his talk on the urgent farm problems of the day will be a treat no one can afford to miss. He will be glad for the farmers to bring their problems for discussion also.

Selma, July 16th.

EXPLOSION DESTROYS SHIP.

Of Those on Board British Battleship Only Three Survived and One of Them Died Later.

The British battleship Vanguard blew up and sank on July 9, says an official statement issued at London Friday night by the British admiralty.

An internal explosion while the ship was at anchor caused the disaster. Only three men of those on board survived and one of them has since died. Twenty-four officers and seventy-one men, however, were not on board at the time of the explosion. The official statement reads:

"H. M. S. Vanguard, Capt. James D. Dick, blew up while an anchor on the night of July 9 as the result of an internal explosion.

"The ship sank immediately, and there were only three survivors among those aboard ship at the time of the disaster, one officer and two men. The officer has since died. There were twenty-four officers and seventy-one men on board at the time, thus bringing the total number of survivors to ninety-seven."

The British battleship Vanguard displaced 19,250 tons and her complement before the war was 870 men. The Vanguard belonged to the St. Vincent class of dreadnoughts, and was launched in March, 1909. The Vanguard was 536 feet long, with a beam of eighty-four feet and a draft of twenty-seven feet. Her armament consisted of ten twelve-inch guns, eighteen four-inch and four three-pounders in addition to three torpedo tubes.

Even if some things refuse to go your way there are other things.

SUNDAY'S WAR SUMMARY.

Section of Powerful German Trench Elements North of Mont Haut Captured. 360 Prisoners Are Taken. Berlin Reports Success In Fighting Along Chemin Des Dames Saturday Night. Russian Drive Slackened. However, Further Gains Are Made Despite Bad Weather.

In Champagne, to the north of Mont Haut and northeast of the Teton, the French in a violent attack captured powerfully organized German trench elements on a front of more than 800 yards and to a depth of more than 300 yards and held and consolidated the position notwithstanding heavy counter attacks in which the Germans suffered heavy casualties and lost in addition 360 men made prisoners.

Along the Chemin des Dames, the Germans west of Cerny Saturday night, after heavy artillery preparations, threw heavy forces against the French line. The battle waged back and forth throughout the night but, although the Germans broke through the French line at several points, daylight saw them completely evicted except from front line trenches about 500 yards in length. The Berlin war office claims the capture of 350 prisoners in the fighting.

In Flanders at various points the British and Germans continue to carry out intensive artillery duels and the British to make successful raids in German positions.

Although rain and swollen streams are militating against the prosecution of the Russian offensive in Galicia the troops of General Brussiloff nevertheless have driven the Austrians from positions southwest of Kalusz and taken more than a thousand prisoners and a number of guns. Apparently the Austro-German lines are stiffening as the result of the arrival of reinforcements for Petrograd records that repulse of attacks along the Dobrovidny Novica front and says that the enemy has gone on the offensive along the Lomnica River, near Perzhinzko and is stubbornly resisting the Russians on the Slivkiensis sector.

There has been little activity on any of the other fronts although the Russians near Van, the Turkish Armenia, have driven the Turks from several positions. It is not improbable that Rumania again may soon become an important theatre in the war as the Berlin official communication announces that an increase in the artillery activity at various points is noticeable.

While the political situation in Germany still remains obscure, one of the chief Berlin newspapers is credited with the assertion that the resolution of the majority block of the reichstag, which will be introduced on the re-assembling of the reichstag, will reassert the desire of the people of Germany for peace and that the reichstag "labors for peace and a mutual understanding and lasting reconciliation among the nations."

It is unofficially reported that Count Brockdorff-Rantzau will replace Dr. Alfred Zimmermann as German imperial foreign secretary. At present he is German minister to Denmark.

Weather In the Cotton States.

New Orleans, La., July 16.—Temperatures of one hundred to one hundred and six northwestern portion of cotton region Sunday and Monday, otherwise seasonable temperatures prevailed.

Moderate to heavy rains Sunday in Tennessee and Arkansas, and light showers in North Carolina. General rains reported Monday in Oklahoma, Arkansas, northern Texas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, and light to moderate showers in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Carolinas.

Monday, heavy rains—Tennessee, Arlington 1.00; Covington 1.18. Mississippi, Hazelhurst, 1.12; Clarksdale, 1.36; Batesville, 1.34. Louisiana, Grand Cane, 1.19; Minden, 1.44. Arkansas, Prescott, 1.38; Warren, 1.04; Melvern, 1.44; Marianna, 1.40; Wynne, 1.40; Texarkana, 1.70. Texas, Paris, 2.40; Greenville, 2.00; Longview, 1.40; Sherman, 1.78.

Sunday, Heavy Rains—Tennessee, Arlington, 1.50; Brownsville, 1.22. Arkansas, Dardanelle, 1.32; Newport, 1.60; Bentonville, 3.40; Batesville, 2.36; Osceola, 1.14.

Even if some things refuse to go your way there are other things.