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FRENCH RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA END

ORDERS HER AMBASSADOR TO RETURN AND AUSTRIAN LEAVES PARIS.

FRENCH POSSESS ALSACE

Censorship Prevents Publication of Casualties of the Tri-Color—Status of Affairs Pleasing to Belgium

Paris.—via London.—It was officially announced that France had broken off diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary. The French Ambassador at Vienna has left the Austrian Capital and the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Paris has asked for his passports.

In announcing the breaking off of relations with Austria the French Foreign Office made the following statement:

"Contrary to assurance given by Austria to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs that no Austrian troops were taking part in the Franco-German War, the French Government has ascertained beyond any possible doubt that certain Austrian troops are present in Germany, outside the Austrian frontier. These troops which have set free certain German troops destined to be employed in fighting the French, ought indubitably de facto and de jure, to be considered as acting against France. In these circumstances the French Ambassador was ordered to leave Vienna.

"The Austrian Ambassador at Paris, on being informed of France's decision asked for his passports."

NO STARTLING BATTLES YET.

War of Seven Nations Are Devoid of Big Battle.

London.—No great battle has yet been fought on land or sea in the war of seven Nations, unless the German assaults upon the fortresses at Liege eventually assume the proportions of a battle in history. Both combatants claim victory, there, with the Belgians still holding the forts and the Germans occupying the city.

The situation is unique. There is no confirmation of The Daily Mail's report that the French have engaged the Germans and cut off their retreat, inflicting a loss of 8,000 men. The Belgians claim that they have taken 8,000 prisoners on Belgian soil, but military men regard all the estimates of the belligerents as great exaggerations.

Apart from Liege the fighting of the first week, when resolved to the proper perspective eventually doubtless will be considered insignificant.

One of the most important developments in the eyes of experts is the general testimony that the German infantry formation is obsolete and ineffective against the weapons of today and means an enormous slaughter if retained.

France and Austria finally are officially at war, the Ambassadors having left the respective Capitals. The French Government broke off diplomatic relations with Austria on the grounds that Austrian troops were reinforcing the Germans.

Austria appears to have abandoned the advance on Serbia for a time and apparently is co-operating with Germany in the supposed strategy of attempting to crush France before Russia can mobilize.

Financial conditions in England are returning to normal. Although there is a great disorder in many trades the prices of foodstuffs have risen only slightly.

France is Happy.

Paris.—The invasion of lower Alsace by a French army under Gen. Joseph Joffre, the French commander-in-chief, has awakened great enthusiasm throughout France.

French military authorities, while recognizing the occupation of Altkirch and Muelhausen by French troops is not of strategic importance, assert that the successful advance of the French army far across the German frontier will have considerable moral effect.

Caring For Tourists.

London.—The London resident committee paid out \$10,000 to tourists on cable orders from their home banks. In needy cases hotel bills were paid. The various committees formed to help Americans, having found they were being victimized, established a common investigation headquarters to eliminate imposters. A society of college women has been formed by Mrs. Walter H. Page, Mrs. David Starr Jordan and others to guard the interests of stranded American school teachers.

SERVIAN INFANTRY MARCHING TO THE FRONTIER



AMERICAN VESSELS WILL BE ADMITTED

RELIEF FELT OVER FACT THAT SHIPS MAY ENTER FOREIGN PORTS.

WAR NEWS IS ONLY PARTIAL

German Side Not Received on Account of Cables Being Cut. Look Toward Mediation.

Washington.—Observation of strict neutrality by the United States in the European war, especially as to the movements of foreign ships in American waters, gave the Washington government concern.

The department of commerce issued special instructions which may have an important effect on the movement of reservists from the United States. What amounts to military expedition from American soil will be prohibited in accordance with President Wilson's neutrality proclamation. State, treasury and commerce department officials were absorbed in deciding the numerous technicalities which have arisen in connection with foreign-owned ships such as the Olympic and Vaterland, so that it may be established definitely whether they are being "converted for war purposes."

Relief measures for Americans in Europe are working smoothly. The state department cabled \$100,000 to Paris and \$25,000 to Rome for immediate use of the American embassies pending the arrival of the Tennessee's gold consignment.

Assurances that the Tennessee and North Carolina as well as vessels to bring Americans out of Europe would be admitted to ports of the countries at war, brought relief to the officials. The two warships are bound, it is understood, for Falmouth, England. One of the vessels then will go to Northern Continental ports and the other to Mediterranean shores.

Diplomatic dispatches contained little information about fighting in Europe beyond what had been published. The French and Russian governments acknowledged receipt of "the tender of good offices" looking toward mediation, but gave no hint as to their attitude. It is not known whether President Wilson's message to Emperor William reached him.

25,000 GERMANS KILLED.

Official Statement.—First Story From Berlin.

London.—The siege of Liege is the outstanding feature of the European war. Latest advices, received by way of London in official dispatches, say Liege still holds out against the attacks of the German Army of the Meuse.

On the authority of the Belgian War Ministry the German casualties in the battle around Liege number 25,000, according to their own admission. An official statement issued from Berlin described the attempt on the Liege fortress as unsuccessful and the assault of the Germans as "a unique act of heroism" and added that it will not have the slightest influence on the larger operations of the German Army.

German diplomats have been using their utmost efforts to win Italy to the German side, by negotiations and a direct appeal to King Victor Emmanuel, but without success. The Italian Ambassador at London, thanking a great assembly, including several peers and members of Parliament, which gathered in front of the Embassy, said Italy had declared her neutrality and would adhere to it.

ENGLAND CALLS HALF-MILLION MEN

REALIZING FIGHT IS TO DEATH BRITAIN ISSUES CALL TO SERVICE.

KITCHENER WAR MINISTER

\$500,000,000 Appropriated By Parliament.—British Fleet Has Engaged Germans.—Sank British Cruiser.

London.—The passage of a war budget for \$500,000,000 in the House of Commons without a dissenting voice and the granting of an Army increase of 500,000 men in accordance with plans of Lord Kitchener, the new War Minister, shows that Great Britain is in deadly earnest.

Call to arms issued by the War Office says an addition of 100,000 men to the regular Army is needed immediately and that Lord Kitchener is confident this appeal will at once be responded to "by all who have the safety of our Empire at heart."

The term of service for the new men is to be three years, or until the war is ended. The age of enlistment will be between 19 and 30.

The naval estimates provided for 67,000 additional officers and men, which will make the navy's strength 218,000 men.

There are no illusions in England that the war is certain to be a swift and decisive one. The people are steeled for a long and exhaustive struggle.

The Admiralty notified the public that the first news from the Navy might not be good news. Swift upon the heels of this intimation came the tidings that the cruiser Amphion had been sunk by a mine with the loss of an officer and 130 men—Great Britain's first sacrifice to the war.

It is considered that British ships in the North Sea are running greater risks during the first days of the war than the Germans. The Royal family shares with the homes of its many subjects the suspense of waiting for news of the fate of the different units of the fleet. Prince Albert, the second son of the King, aboard the battleship Collingwood, is one of the many boy midshipmen afloat sharing the perils of their elders.

There was a dramatic incident in the House of Commons when the feud between Lord Charles Beresford and Winston S. Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, was buried. Admiral Beresford shook hands with the First Lord and said:

"Well done."
The torpedo-boat destroyer Lance, which sank the Hamburg-American Line steamer Koening Luise to the bottom with four shots, only come out of the shipyards only a few days before hardly dry.

French Capture German Steamer.

Paris.—A French mine ship captured and towed into Cherbourg a 5,000-ton German steamer.

China is Neutral.

Peking, China.—China proclaimed her neutrality in connection with the European conflict. The work of fortifying the German possession of Taing Tau continued and the authorities there added to their accumulation of provisions. Foreign enterprise in China being paralyzed, many Chinese have been affected already and are withdrawing their money from the banks controlled by financiers representing Russia, France, England, Germany and Japan which hitherto had commanded every confidence.

OFFER MEDIATION WARRING NATIONS

UNITED STATES WILL USE ALL MEANS POSSIBLE TO HASTEN WORLD PEACE.

IS ONLY NEUTRAL POWER

Secretary Bryan Informs Ambassadors of Attitude of the Government of This Country.

Washington.—President Wilson formally offered the services of the United States government to the warring nations of Europe should they desire to discuss terms of peace. He tendered what technically is phrased as "good offices", which, if accepted in principle, would be followed by a conference of representatives of the powers of Europe, in which the United States would play the role of mediator.

Under the Hague convention to which all European nations except Serbia are signatories, a neutral nation is urged in time of international conflict to tender her good office to contending powers. Acting under the terms of the Hague convention the president cabled Emperor William of Germany, Emperor Nicholas of Russia, Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, King George of Great Britain and President Poincare of France as follows:

"As official head of one of the powers signatory to the Hague convention, I feel it to be my privilege and my duty under Article 3 of that convention to say to you in a spirit of most earnest friendship that I should welcome an opportunity to act in the interest of European peace either now or at any other time that might be thought more suitable, as occasion to serve you and all concerned in a way that would afford me lasting cause for gratitude and happiness.

(Signed) "Woodrow Wilson."

The proffer of good offices was forwarded by Secretary Bryan to the American embassies in the nations involved and through them transmitted to the government.

It was said at the White House no intimations had been received that such an offer would be favorably received. President Wilson took the position that the European war was so stupendous and that its effect on the entire world was liable to be so lasting that the United States as one of the few large neutral powers, could not do otherwise than at least offer to be the means for bringing about peace.

Secretary Bryan summoned all European diplomats in the city and gave them a copy of the telegram in the hope that they would transmit it to their governments and urge acceptance of the tender. The Austrian ambassador, representatives of the British, Russian, German and French embassies and Belgian legation called at the department.

Villa Lined Up.

El Paso, Texas.—Americans who arrived from Chihuahua City asserted General Villa has reached a satisfactory agreement with the peace envoys from President Carranza. This news tended to confirm the report that Villa would treat with President Carranza, regardless of General Carranza's attitude. A decree issued recently by Villa's military governor stated that unless all industries now closed in the state or reopened within one month, double taxes will be charged against the companies.

FRENCH ARMY HAS INVADDED ALSACE

AVENGE DISGRACE OF HALF CENTURY AGO.—FRENCH ARE WELCOME.

MARTIAL LAW ESTABLISHED

French Losses "Not Excessive" But German Loss Said to Be "Very Serious."

Paris.—The invasion of lower Alsace by a French army under General Joseph Joffre, the French commander-in-chief, has awakened great enthusiasm throughout France.

French military authorities, while recognizing the occupation of Altkirch and Muelhausen, by French troops is not of high strategic importance, believe the successful advance of the French army far across the German frontier will have considerable moral effect. It is reported unofficially that Kolber, farther to the north, has fallen into the hands of the French. None of these three places was strongly fortified and all lie outside the line of real German defense, being guarded as outposts of the strong fortified cities. Their German garrisons numerically were fairly strong but it was understood that in case of attack they merely would endeavor to hinder the French advance before falling back.

Neu Briesack, where they are said to have retired is east of Kolmar and is strongly fortified, while Strassburg, some distance to the north, the center of a great aggregation of German troops, is strongly fortified and supposed to be prepared for a long siege.

Official reports of fighting between the French and German troops state that the French losses were "not excessive," while those of the Germans are declared by the French to have been "very serious." The Alsatian inhabitants are said to have been so overjoyed at the appearance of the French Army that they tore up the frontier posts.

Reports of the arrival of an Austrian Army corps on the Swiss frontier near Basel were the object of close attention by French military authorities. It was said that several more Austrian Army corps were being organized in the Tyrol whence they later would be sent toward the French frontier. In view of this the French Government asked the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to France, who remains at his post, to explain the intentions of Austria-Hungary in regard to France.

Before retiring from Mulhausen German troops are said to have set fire to numerous buildings, especially warehouses where food and forage were stored. The forest of Hard, near Kolmar, is said to have been razed.

Martial law has been established in Alsace, where it is said the Germans announced that any person suspected of sympathizing with the French would be executed.

WIRE SERVICE TO BERLIN.

Washington Inquiries About Americans Taken As Spies.

Washington.—Secretary Bryan announced that the American government was in communication with all its European embassies and legations and that every effort was being made to care for Americans on the continent. Communications with Ambassador Gerard at Berlin was established through Copenhagen. Mr. Bryan immediately telegraphed inquiring about Archer M. Huntington, president of the American Geographical Society, and other Americans reported arrested as spies.

Official dispatches revealed that many Americans had been arrested or temporarily detained in Germany and that the first outbreak of hostilities and during mobilization persons who talked English were under espionage.

The state department announced that an additional \$50,000 had been cabled to Minister Stovall of Switzerland and that it was estimated 8,000 Americans were in that country.

Confiscate Money.

Berlin.—Three motor cars carrying large sums of money were captured by German people and troops as they were trying to cross the Russian frontier.

The empress and princess of the imperial family personally are participating in supplying food for German reservists passing through Berlin. They were enthusiastically cheered by the troops.

Among those who have entered the German barracks at Doberitz are a superior Russian official.

31 PER CENT FIRES ARE PREVENTABLE

DEFECTIVE FLUES, SHINGLE ROOFS AND TRASH PILES ARE THE CAUSES.

REPORT OF STATISTICIAN

Campaign Inaugurated by Commissioner Young to Educate People on Fire Prevention.

Raleigh.—Thirteen per cent of the fires in North Carolina during the past year resulted from preventable causes purely and eighteen per cent grew out of conditions which were largely of a preventable nature. This is the general conclusion from the figures presented by the report of the statistician of the North Carolina Firemen's Association just published. This makes a possible total of 31 per cent of fires which might have been prevented if proper precaution had been taken.

The figures were presented in way of emphasis on the campaign which has been inaugurated by Insurance Commissioner J. R. Young for the education of the state as to the proper methods of fire prevention. To this Mr. Sherwood Brockwell former chief of the fire department of Raleigh and one of the best known and most successful fire fighters in the state as well as an authority on the subject of fire prevention has been retained as chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention. The duty of Mr. Brockwell will be to reduce the fire hazards in the state, as well as to train the existing companies along the lines of greatest efficiency.

The statistician's report shows that 738 fires were reported for the year. Eighty-four of this number occurred from defective flues and twelve from defective wiring, making a total of ninety-six or thirteen per cent from strictly preventable causes. One hundred and thirty-five fires were caused from sparks from chimneys or from locomotives. If shingle roofs and trash piles could have been eliminated few of these fires would have occurred.

The total value of property risk reported was \$8,712,942. The total damage by fire was \$588,648, leaving the value of property saved from destruction \$8,124,294.

There are 936 volunteer firemen in the state, and 136 paid firemen. Three cities reported fully paid firemen. The fire equipment includes thirteen auto trucks.

NEW HOMES FOR BANKS.

Four Structures Being Erected for Financial Institution of Bull City.

Durham.—The contract for the erection of the Merchants Bank building was let to contractor Norman Underwood and work will start at once. A part of the foundation for this building has been laid for sometime past, but the work was held up until some minor changes could be made in the plans of the building in order that another eight feet of space would be used behind the site that was first bought.

This makes the fourth of the Durham banks who have homes now in the progress of construction. The concrete foundations for the big Geer building which will house the Fidelity bank are being laid. The excavation is being made for the new home of the First National bank, which will be an eight-story building, the bank, and the upper stories to office rooms. The Citizens National Bank is having the marble placed on the ground for the construction of their new home on the corner of Main and Mangum streets.

All of these buildings will be of the latest designs in architecture for banking concerns. They will be fire-proof structures.

Raleigh Sets Bonds.

Raleigh.—The Raleigh city commission sold to the Security Trust Company of Spartanburg, S. C., \$75,000 bonds for additional water plant extension the bid having been \$19 above par.

Tar Heels in Washington.

Washington.—A. M. Dunry, F. S. Worthy, F. J. Berry, B. G. Moss, Johnson Havens, George Hackney of Washington; J. B. Blades, James A. Bryan, A. W. Ward, of Newbern; M. O. Blount, of Bethel; C. S. Carr of Greenville; T. C. Turage, of Farmville; Hugh Murray, of Wilson; Frank Page, of Aberdeen, and W. B. Drake, of Raleigh, were here to confer with Secretary McAdoo about getting funds to move the crop. Senator Simmons and Representatives Small and Page presented them.