

The Roanoke Beacon

1915 a Year, in Advance.

"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR TRUTH."

Single Copy, 5 Cents.

VOL. XXV.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

NO. 49.

GERMAN REPLY DOES NOT EXPRESS FINAL DECISION

Note in Reply to American Demands Evades Direct Answer to Main Questions. Await Washington's Answer.

ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE

Reasons For Sinking Lusitania And Other Ships--Tone of Reply is Friendly

Berlin.—Germany withholds its final decision on the demands advanced by the United States Government in connection with the sinking of the Lusitania, until the receipt of an answer from the United States, to the note which Herr von Jagow, the Foreign Minister, has delivered to Ambassador Gerard in reply to the American note received by the German Government on May 15.

In its reply the German Government declares that it is not its intention to submit neutral ships in the war zone, which are guilty of no hostile acts, to attacks by submarine or aeroplane, that it is investigating the circumstances in connection with the attacks on the American steamers Cushing and Guilflight and that in all cases where neutral vessels, through no fault of their own have been damaged, Germany will pay indemnification.

The reply urges that in the case of the Lusitania, which Germany alleges, was armed and carried large stores of war munitions "it acted in justified self-defense in seeking with all the means of warfare at its disposition to protect the lives of its soldiers by destroying ammunition intended for the enemy."

The German Government recalls the proposals submitted by the United States Government to Berlin and London, designed to end the submarine warfare and the shutting out of food supplies from Germany which, it declares, failed of their purpose because of the refusal of the British Government to agree to them.

Text of Note.

The following is the text of the German note:

"The undersigned has the honor to submit to Ambassador Gerard, the following answer to the communication of May 15, regarding the injury to American interests through German submarine warfare.

"The Imperial Government has subjected the communication of the American Government to a thorough investigation. It entertains also a keen wish to co-operate in a frank and friendly way in clearing up a possible misunderstanding which may have arisen in the relations between the two Governments through the events mentioned by the American Government.

"Regarding, firstly, the case of the American steamers Cushing and Guilflight. The American Embassy has already been informed that the German Government has no intention of submitting neutral ships in the war zone, which are guilty of no hostile acts, to attack by a submarine or submarines or aviators. On the contrary, the German forces have repeatedly been instructed most specifically to avoid attacks on such ships.

Isolated Cases.

"If neutral ships in recent months have suffered through the German submarine warfare, owing to mistakes in identification, it is a question only of quite isolated and exceptional cases, which can be attributed to the British Government's abuse of flags, together with the suspicious or culpable behavior of the masters of the ships.

"The German Government in all cases in which it has been shown by its investigations that a neutral ship, not itself at fault, was damaged by German submarines or aviators, has expressed regret over the unfortunate accident and, if justified by conditions, has offered indemnification.

Cushing and Guilflight.

"The cases of the Cushing and Guilflight will be treated on the same principles. An investigation of both cases is in progress, the result of which will presently be communicated to the Embassy. The investigation can, if necessary, be supplemented by an international call on the international commission of investigation.

Sinking of Falaba.

"When sinking the British steamer Falaba the commander of the German submarine had the intention of allowing the passengers and crew a full opportunity to escape. Only when the master did not obey the order to heave-to, but fled and summoned help by rocket signals, did the German commander order the crew and passengers by signals and megaphone to leave the ship within 10 minutes. He actually allowed them 23 minutes time and fired the torpedo only when suspicious craft were hastening to the assistance of the Falaba.

Lusitania Disaster.

"Regarding the loss of life by the sinking of the British passenger steamer Lusitania, the German Government has already expressed to the neutral Governments concerned its keen regret that citizens of their states lost their lives.

"On this occasion the Imperial Government, however, cannot escape the impression that certain important facts having a direct bearing on the sinking of the Lusitania may have escaped the attention of the American Government.

An Auxiliary Cruiser.

"In the interest of a clear and complete understanding which is the aim of both Governments, the Imperial Government considers it first, necessary to convince itself that the information accessible to both Governments about the facts of the case is complete and in accord. The Government of the United States proceeds on the assumption that the Lusitania could be regarded as an ordinary unarmed merchantman. The Imperial Government allows itself in this connection to point out that the Lusitania was one of the largest and fastest British merchant ships, built with Government funds as an auxiliary cruiser and carried expressly as such in the 'Navy list' issued by the British Admiralty.

"It is further known to the Imperial Government, from trustworthy reports from its agents and neutral passengers, that for a considerable time practically all the more valuable British merchantmen have been equipped with cannon and ammunition and other weapons and manned with persons who have been specially trained in serving guns. The Lusitania, too, according to information received here had cannon aboard which were mounted and concealed below decks."

Prizes for Ramming.

"The Imperial Government further has the honor to direct the particular attention of the American Government to the fact that the British admiralty in a confidential instruction, issued in February, 1915, recommended its merchant shipping not only to seek protection under neutral flags and distinguishing marks, but also, while thus disguised to attack German submarines by ramming. As a special incitation to merchantmen to destroy submarines the British government also offered high prizes and has already paid such rewards.

"The Imperial government in view of these facts, indubitably known to it, is unable to regard British merchantmen in the zone of naval operations specified by the admiralty staff of the German navy as 'undefended.' German commanders consequently are no longer able to observe the customary regulations of the prize law, which they before always followed.

Carrier War Material.

"Finally the Imperial government must point out particularly that the Lusitania on its last trip, as on earlier occasions, carried Canadian troops and war material, including no less than 5,400 cases of ammunition intended for the destruction of the brave German soldiers who are fulfilling their duty with self-sacrifice and devotion in the fatherland's service.

"The German government believes it was acting in justified self-defense in seeking with all the means of warfare at its disposition to protect the lives of its soldiers by destroying ammunition intended for the enemy.

tempted deliberately to use the lives of American citizens as protection for the ammunition aboard and acted against the clear provisions of the American law which expressly prohibits the forwarding of passengers on ships carrying ammunition and provides a penalty therefor. The company, therefore, is wantonly guilty of the death of so many passengers.

"There can be no doubt, according to the definite report of the submarine's commander, which is further confirmed by all other information, that the quick sinking of the Lusitania is primarily attributable to the explosion of the ammunition shipment caused by a torpedo. The Lusitania passengers would otherwise, in all human probability, have been saved.

"The Imperial government considers the above-mentioned facts important enough to recommend them to the attentive consideration of the American government.

Withholds Final Decision.

"The Imperial government, while withholding its final decision on the demands advanced in connection with the sinking of the Lusitania, until receipt of an answer from the American government, is impelled in conclusion, to recall here and now, that it took cognizance with satisfaction of the mediatory proposals submitted by the United States government to Berlin and London as a basis for a modus vivendi for conducting the maritime warfare between Germany and Great Britain. The Imperial government, by its readiness to enter upon a discussion of these proposals, then demonstrated its good intentions in ample fashion. The realization of these proposals was defeated, as is well known, by the declinatory attitude of the British government.

"The undersigned takes occasion, etc.

(Signed) "JAGOW."

Mighty Battles Raging.

London.—Around the great fortress of Przemyśl a mighty battle is still raging. The Austro-German armies are making a supreme effort to cut off the stronghold and free these armies for operations against Italy and the Allies in the west.

Although great human sacrifices are being made, progress latterly has been extremely slow, as the Russians have had time to bring up large reinforcements.

North of Przemyśl the Russians appear to be more than holding their own, but to the southeast the Austrians and Germans claim further headway and now command with their artillery the railway between Przemyśl and Grodek, which runs just south of the main line between Przemyśl and Lemberg. From Lemberg the Russians draw a large portion of their reinforcements.

British Tullochmoor Sunk.

Barry, Wales.—The British steamer Tullochmoor was shelled and sunk by a German submarine. The crew escaped and has landed here. The Tullochmoor was in ballast from Genoa for South Shields.

British Casualty List.

London.—Forty-nine of the men of the British battleship Majestic were lost when the vessel was torpedoed off the Gallipoli Peninsula May 27, according to the casualty list.

Megantic Chased by Submarine.

Queenstown.—The White Star liner Megantic, carrying many passengers from Liverpool to Montreal, was chased by a submarine off the South Coast of Ireland, but escaped.

Russians Have Over 600,000 Prisoners.

Petrograd, via London.—Prisoners taken by Russian armies and interned in Russia up to the first of April according to figures made public, number 10,724 officers and 605,378 men.

Steamer Mackinaw on Fire.

San Francisco.—The steamer Mackinaw is said to be on fire off Point Reyes, 30 miles north of San Francisco. The United States Coast Guard cutter McCullough is proceeding to her assistance. The Mackinaw sailed from this port for Portland, Ore. No passengers are aboard the Mackinaw. Her crew consists of 20 men. The vessel is not carrying a cargo. Later reports said the Mackinaw was being towed into the harbor at Point Reyes by the steam schooners Speedwell and Coronado.

Presbyterian Assembly Adjourns.

Newport News, Va.—The fifty-sixth general assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the South has ended, the final session being devoted to the presentation of committee reports. The next general assembly will be held at Orlando, Fla., May 13, 1916. The assembly adopted a resolution for the creation on November 9, 1915, at the First Presbyterian Church.

IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

Happenings of This and Other Nations For Seven Days Are Given.

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in the Southland Will Be Found in Brief Paragraphs.

European War

England has suffered still another severe loss in the Dardanelles when the battleship Majestic was sunk by a Turkish or German submarine immediately following the sinking of the battleship Triumph. The entire crew of the Majestic was saved.

Germany's note to the United States has been framed by Baron von Jagow, the imperial foreign minister, and handed to Ambassador Gerard for transmittal to Secretary Bryan at Washington. Germany offers to temporize with America regarding the Lusitania, asking if that vessel carried a cargo of war munitions.

Speeches bitter with invective have been uttered in the reichstag denouncing Italy as a traitor among nations. Admiral Jackson has succeeded Lord Fisher as first sea lord of the British admiralty in the new cabinet. Fisher resigned because of differences with Winston Churchill, former first lord of the admiralty.

Another British battleship, the Triumph, has been sunk in the Dardanelles by a German or Turkish submarine. All but six of the crew were saved. This makes England's fourth loss in the straits and the fifth to the Anglo-French fleet storming the Turkish forts. The other sunken warships were the British men-of-war Ocean, Irresistible and Goliath, and the French warship, Bouvet.

The Italian campaign in southwest Austria is continuing uninterrupted, according to advices from the Roman war office. The Austrians have been retreating before the advance of their new enemy.

The Nebraska, an American owned steamship recently chartered to the White Star line for several ocean voyages between New York and Liverpool, was disabled off the Irish coast by a mine. The steamer was empty and carried no cargo. The entire crew was saved and the ship towed into port at Fastnet.

England's new coalition war cabinet has been announced by Premier Asquith. Lord Kitchener retains his post as secretary of state for war, with the assistance of David Lloyd-George as minister of munitions. Winston Spencer Churchill has been succeeded by Arthur J. Balfour as first lord of the admiralty. Churchill takes the post of chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Italy has suspended the parcel post with all countries and notified the United States that all parcels sent to that country will be returned to the senders.

Dispatches from Bucharest state the Russian battleship Pantelimon, with a crew of 1,400, has been sunk in the Black sea off the Roumanian coast by a Turkish gunboat in a naval engagement near the mouth of the Danube. The entire crew is reported as lost.

Constantinople advices report a land battle at the southern extremity of the Gallipoli peninsula between the Moslem and allied troops, in which the French and English were routed, leaving 2,000 dead on the field. There is great rejoicing in Constantinople.

Germany is now busied with attempting to keep Roumania out of the war. Bulgaria has declared she will in no way interfere unless her own interests demand her entrance into the struggle.

The Vienna press denounces Italy, Austria's former ally, as treacherous. A bitter feeling against the Italians has spread throughout the dual monarchy.

Domestic

New York police in evening clothes are watching the cabaret shows in all the restaurants and cafes.

The diocesan convention of the Episcopal church of the United States adopted resolutions endorsing the administration of President Wilson and pledging its support of his peace policies.

The United States warship, South Carolina, put into port in New York carrying seventy-seven survivors picked up from the wrecked Holland-American steamer, Ryndam, which was jammed at sea by a tramp steamer of Nan-to.

Former President Taft, in a speech in New York, said that a peace treaty between the three great empires.

Domestic

The Arizona board of pardons commuted the sentence of five Mexicans sentenced to hang at the same time and recommendation was made to Governor Hunt that each hang separately.

Leo Frank, Atlanta manufacturer convicted of the murder of little Mary Phagan, and Jim Conley, the negro who confessed he was Frank's accomplice in the crime, were brought face to face to testify in the suit brought by the murdered girl's mother to recover damages from the National Pencil company for her child's loss. Conley's liberation came on the date the testimony was taken. Frank is sentenced to hang.

Mrs. Arthur H. Noyes of Cranston, R. I., was electrocuted while holding a telephone receiver in one hand and the handle of a vacuum cleaner in the other, a short circuit being completed.

Eruptions of the Lassen Peak volcano in Hat Creek valley, California, have greatly disturbed the peace of the settlers in that section in recent weeks. Large lava flows have poured down the mountain sides and destroyed the farming lands.

Washington

Following his conference with Duval West, his personal representative to Mexico, President Wilson has announced that he will serve notice on the warring factions in that republic that his patience is exhausted and that peace must come, as the fighting now is no longer for a principle, but merely a test of supremacy between leaders who wish to gain control of the Mexican government.

Secretary Bryan has expressed great gratification over the recently signed triple peace treaties between Argentina, Chile and Brazil, and says it is a step in the accomplishment of his policy for a greater unity of the western hemisphere.

President Wilson is deeply concerned over the reported disabling of the American steamer Nebraskan off the Irish coast. His course has not yet been determined until he received full details and official information.

President Wilson has shown a sign of restlessness over Germany's delay in answering the American note regarding the Lusitania incident.

"The Americas for the Americans," was the enthusiastic cry that dominated the Pan-American financial conference held in Washington between the representatives of the twenty-one American republics. The leading spirits of the conference were President Wilson and Dr. Santiago Perez Triana, the delegate from Columbia, who maintained that the western world shall be entirely independent of Europe hereafter.

After a conference with Duval West, his personal representative to Mexico, President Wilson announced there would be no immediate change in the Mexican policy.

President Wilson denied the rumor that he intends calling an extra session of congress in October. He said he was crossing no bridges until they were reached, and the rumor was premature.

Secretary Garrison has appointed Walter A. Harris of Georgia to membership on the national military board, to succeed Major Harry S. Berry of Tennessee.

President Wilson has received Sherwood Eddy, general Y. M. C. A. secretary for Asia, who reported some of the prevailing conditions in the present Jap-Chinese crisis. Mr. Eddy states that Christianity is making great gains throughout the Chinese republic and that nation is rapidly awakening to play an important part in the world's future history.

Foreign

King Constantine's condition is reported somewhat improved, though he is considered by no means out of danger. A special arrival in Athens from Berlin who feels that an operation may not be necessary.

President Arrago of Portugal has resigned. For some time grave fears have been entertained of an attempt on his life.

Two of the many treaties pending between China and Japan have at last been signed by the Chinese republic's officials at Peking. Great contention will be noted in the next treaty, called Group No. 5. The signed treaties are said to be acknowledgments of Japan's withdrawal from certain demands which excited the Japanese crowds to rage in Tokyo who called Baron Kato, the foreign minister, a traitor.

Forty persons were drowned in the shipwreck of the Chilean steamer, Maximainpo, off the coast of Santiago, Chile.

Holland has protested to Germany about the sinking of the Lusitania. A peace treaty between the three great empires.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS OF NATIONS UNITY

GREATER DAYS LIE BEFORE THIS NATION THAN IT EVER YET HAS SEEN

EULOGIES OF DEAD HEROES

President, Bryan, Daniels and Others Speak at Memorial Services Held At Arlington.

Washington.—Eulogies of America's soldier and sailor dead were voiced by President Wilson, Secretary Bryan, Secretary Daniels and Governor Willis of Ohio at Memorial Day exercises at Arlington National Cemetery.

President Wilson, cheered on his arrival and departure and during his address, carefully avoided any direct reference to problems facing the United States. He was enthusiastically applauded when he declared that "greater days lie before this Nation than it ever yet has seen, and the solemn consciousness of those who bear office in this time is that they must make their best endeavor to embody in what they do and say the best things in the United States."

Governor Willis evoked applause when he said "the President of the United States is making a successful effort to keep us out of the broils of Europe" and added, "now is the time to keep cool, think carefully and stand by the President. He and his Cabinet know vastly more of our delicate relations with European belligerents than the rest of us can possibly know; let us hold up his hand in the patriotic effort he is making in this crisis."

The President sat in the midst of veterans of two wars during the exercises and uttered an audible "amen" at the conclusion of an invocation by Bishop Earl Cranston of Washington, who prayed that the United States might be led aright in the present crisis.

VETERANS GATHER IN CAMP.

Survivors of Southern Army Throng Richmond.

Richmond, Va.—Richmond on the eve of the 25th annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans was thronged with survivors of the armies of the South. Assembled around peaceful camp fires, they paid silent tribute to their departed heroes, contrasting their contentment with the turbulent camps and seething trenches of Europe.

On scores of special trains the Southern hosts poured into Richmond throughout the day and night, the old Capital of the Confederacy was ablaze with light and her streets thronged with cheering veterans and reverent youths. Preliminary events were the memorial exercises for the Confederate dead, the dedication of a memorial to the Confederate women of Virginia and the arrival of General George P. Harrison of Alabama, who has been designated commander-in-chief of the reunion by Gen. Bennett H. Young, who is detained in Cleveland, Ohio, by illness.

Following the regular memorial exercises in which hundreds of Confederate veterans from all regions of the South participated, impressive ceremonies attended the unveiling of the bronze tablet to Virginia's Confederate women in Hollywood Cemetery. The tablet was dedicated with an address by Judge George L. Christian and unveiled by J. Taylor Elyson Crump.

For Sake of Humanity.

Washington.—President Wilson intends to shape the course of the United States in the international crisis which has arisen so as to leave no doubt abroad of the country's purpose not only to speak, but if necessary to act, for the cause of humanity.

President Asked to Intercede.

Washington.—President Wilson was asked in a telegram from the Independent Order of Sons of Israel, at Boston, to intercede with Georgia authorities for commutation of Leo M. Frank's death sentence.

Sunk by Mistake.

Washington.—Ambassador Gerard at Berlin has been formally notified that the American steamer Guilflight was sunk through a mistake of the German submarine commander.

Russians Claim Victories.

Washington.—The Russian government claims that it has captured 10,000 prisoners and 100,000 cases of ammunition from the Austrians.