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ACTION BY JAPAN SEEMS IMMINENT

GERMANY'S DECISION TO OCCUPY FINLAND HASTENS ACTION BY THE JAP.

TOKIO HAS CLOSE CENSORSHIP

Japanese Expected to Move Quickly to Check Germany's Influence in Siberia.

London.—The British, French, Italian ambassadors in Tokio intended jointly to ask Japan to take the necessary steps to safeguard allied interests in Siberia, according to The Daily Mail. The newspaper adds that the American ambassador was not expected to join the request but that no disturbing conclusions are to be drawn from this fact, as no American opposition is expected.

Washington.—Military action by Japan in eastern Siberia to check German influence and protect war stores at Vladivostok is believed here to be imminent. The United States has not yet expressed its views on the proposed step, but it was said in diplomatic quarters that the Japanese probably would move quickly to meet emergency conditions, leaving to the pending diplomatic exchanges development of an understanding with America and all the allies upon the scope and purposes of the enterprise.

While it has no direct bearing upon the situation in Asiatic Russia, the news which came to the Swedish legation that Germany has given notice of her intention to occupy the whole of Finland will tend to hasten an agreement upon Japan's plans. The German explanation to the Swedish foreign office, which has protested against the proceeding, that the occupation is to restore order and without intent to take permanent possession, is regarded as a very clear indication of what the Germans may undertake in any part of Russia now that the bolsheviks have been forced to accept their hard peace terms.

Officials and diplomats here profess ignorance of what preparations have been made by Japan for the operations about to be undertaken. As a matter of course, secrecy has been observed, and a strict censorship is in force at Tokio. Possibly the next word to come out of Japan on the subject will be an announcement of something accomplished.

BELGIUM PEOPLE DEFYING THEIR GERMAN MASTERS

In Protesting Against An Effort to Separate Flanders.

Washington.—How the Belgian people are defying their German military masters in protesting against the effort to separate Flanders from the rest of Belgium and the deportation of judges who sought to interfere, is described in an official dispatch received at the Belgian legation.

General von Falkenhause, the military governor general, in a letter to the court of cassation, which suspended its sittings as a protest against the arrest of the judges of the court of appeal, has given notice that the action of the judges in instituting proceedings against the so-called activists who set up the separate Flanders government, was regarded as an act of hostility to the occupying power.

The dispatch adds: "The movement of protest by the Belgian people against the if figures of the activists has taken on larger proportions. The voluntary suspension of all judiciary activity, as a protest against the outrage committed against the court of appeals of Brussels, has caused a tremendous impression even upon the German authorities. New lists of communal councils and of important personalities who have made protests continue to reach Havre, being brought nightly by devoted patriots who have passed through the electrified frontier wires in spite of redoubled vigilance on the part of the Germans."

CALLS 5,192 NORTH CAROLINA NEGROES SOON

Washington, D. C.—The war department is preparing to call out 5,192 North Carolina negroes. This will wind up the first draft lists for the state, as the quota was 15,974, and 10,782 have already been called. North Carolina negroes will be sent to camps north of the Mason-Dixon line. The failure to call the negroes heretofore was due to the fact that camps had not been selected.

RUSSIA HAS SIGNED GERMANY'S TREATY

COUNTRY HAS LOST CONSIDERABLY BY THE DELAY IN SIGNING.

WOULD NOT SIGN AT FIRST

Turkey Is Beneficiary of Change Made in Terms—Germany Claims 65,000 Russians Recently Captured.

Russia has bowed to the Teutonic allies. The bolshevik commissioners sent to Brest-Litovsk have signed the treaty of peace presented by the Germans, according to an official statement from Berlin, which says that military movements in Great Russia have ceased.

It was reported on February 23 by the bolshevik commissioners that they were about to sign the treaty. This report was telegraphed to Lenin and Trotsky after the delegates sent to Brest-Litovsk had met the German emissaries. There is little information available as to the details of the meeting between the peace delegations, but the bolsheviks say they realized that any further delay would mean more onerous conditions and they would sign the treaty without further discussions.

Russia lost by the delay that ensued when Trotsky announced that the war so far as Russia was concerned, had ended, but refused to sign the formal treaty. In the interval between the breaking up of the first Brest-Litovsk meeting and the one held lately, the central powers added materially to the demands which were outlined when the now famous "Hoffman line" was drawn by the commander of the German forces on the eastern front.

Turkey was the beneficiary of these changes in the peace terms. The new demands included that Russia relinquish the regions of Batoum, Kars and Karabagh (Karabagh) to the Turks. These regions are in Transcaucasia and mark a considerable addition to the sultan's dominions in that section of the world. The doctrine of the right of peoples to self-determination was the pretext upon which the new terms were added to the treaty. It is probable that the bolshevik delegation acceded to the new demands.

SECURE GERMAN PLAN OF ATTACK—OTHER INFORMATION.

Each Machine Placement and Dugout Indicated on Map.

With American Army in France.—A plan of attack, including a map of the American positions, indicating every dugout, which was removed from the body of a Prussian captain which led to the recent assault upon the sector northwest of Toul, shows how completely the Germans prepare their raids—if, in fact, this was but a simple raid not having as its ultimate object the retention of a portion of the salient.

The map goes into such detail as to show every machine placement, every trench and every depression in the ground within the American lines. At the bottom there is simply a line drawn, labelled "our front line." Along this line are five shaded portions, each marked "nest."

Four rehearsals were held for the attack and the troops who made it were specially picked from new arrivals of fresh troops in the sector. They were told that the Americans were in front of them.

THE MEATLESS MEAL IS NOW SUSPENDED

Washington.—Temporary suspension of the meatless meal and of the special restrictions against the use of pork on Saturday was announced by the food administration as a readjustment of its food conservation program. Increased meat production and the necessity for still greater saving in wheat, it was declared, make the change advisable. The suspension is for an indefinite period, and probably will last three months or longer.

NEW RUSSIAN INVASION BY GERMANS



The dotted line shows the approximate boundary of the territory Germany was reported to have demanded in the peace proposal made to Russia at the Brest-Litovsk conference. 1—Where the northern advance was made by the Germans across the Dvina river in the occupation of Dvinsk. 2—Where the southern German advance was begun in the occupation of the Russian fortress town of Lutsk. 3—Later reports from Berlin stated that the Germans were advancing on the Russian front along the entire line from Riga to Lutsk. This front is approximately 400 miles long.

MACHINE GUNS EFFECTIVE WILL NOT FIGHT RUSSIA

BUT ARE REPULSED WITH SOME LOSSES TO THE ATTACKERS. VIOLENT MEASURES BY GERMANY WOULD BRING NO GREAT SURPRISE.

The Americans Suffered No Casualties, But Five French Soldiers Were Wounded.

With the American Army in France.—A strong German attack following a heavy barrage first against the American trenches to the Chemin-Des-Dames sector was repulsed with losses to the attackers. The well placed American machine guns sent streams of bullets into the advancing enemy and as the German barrage fire lifted down a curtain of fire, the Germans retiring without a single prisoner. There were no American casualties. Five French soldiers were wounded during the fighting.

The Americans stayed in their dugouts until the proper time, when they jumped to the guns and fought like veterans.

One officer and one man were killed and two were wounded by enemy shell fire. One American soldier was "gassed." The Germans made a gas attack also in this sector, firing 50 projectiles of high per cent gas and 20 high explosive shells.

One American soldier is dead and eight are suffering from the effects of poisonous gas, so far as reported, but it is probable that more casualties will develop, as in the Toul sector.

There was another attack, but the number of casualties to the American troops in this sector since they became engaged cannot be determined. All the killed and wounded in these operations are from the New England States.

BRYAN "HOWLED" DOWN BY CANADIAN TROOPS

"What About the Lusitania?" Shouted in Chorus.

Toronto.—William Jennings Bryan was refused a hearing when he appeared at Massey hall here to address a prohibition meeting under the auspices of the dominion alliance.

Returned soldiers caused the disturbance by shouting various epithets. "What about the Lusitania?" they also demanded in chorus.

THIRD LIBERTY LOAN APRIL 6

ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ENTRY INTO THE WAR.

FOR THREE OR FOUR WEEKS

How Large The Loan Will Be Depends Upon Fate of War Finance Bill in Congress.

Washington.—On April 6, the first anniversary of the United States' entry into the war, the third liberty loan will open. There will be a campaign of three or four weeks.

In announcing the date, Secretary McAdoo said the amount of the loan the interest rate and other features such as convertibility of bonds of previous issues, maturity and terms of payment, are yet to be determined, and that new legislation will be necessary before plans can be completed.

The fact that the amount of the loan is dependent on further legislation indicates that it will be far more than \$3,600,000,000, the remainder of authorized but unissued bonds, and the fact that certificates of indebtedness now being sold in anticipation of loan bear 4 1/2 per cent interest, affords some indication of the interest rate.

How large the loan shall be depends largely, however, on the fate of the pending war finance bill carrying an appropriation of a half-billion dollars and action on the railroad bill, with its appropriation of a similar amount.

Although Mr. McAdoo made no specific announcement, it is now taken for granted in official circles that there will be but one more loan before June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

The statement concerning the date of the campaign was made at this time. Secretary McAdoo explained to give every community time to prepare for the big bond sale, and he strongly advocated popular demonstrations of patriotism on the day of the opening of the loan and second year of war.

After starting the date of the campaign opening, the secretary continued:

"April 6 will forever be a consecrated day in American history, and it seems peculiarly appropriate that the opening of the second year of our participation in this war for the honor and rights of America and the freedom of the world should be celebrated with a nation-wide drive for another liberty loan."

"The campaign should begin with great demonstrations of patriotism in every city, town and hamlet in the country that will truly express the spirit of aroused America."

MAY LEAVE TASK TO THE JAPANESE ALONE

To Take Steps to Combat German Aggression in Siberia.

Washington.—Indications now point to an agreement between the entente powers and America to confide to Japan alone the task of taking such measures as may be necessary to combat German aggression and influence in Siberia and to protect the military stores at Vladivostok. No final conclusion has been reached, however, and it was said in high official quarters that condition were changing so rapidly and so many new factors were entering into the problem that it would be unsafe to predict overnight what the issue might be.

Exchanges are proceeding rapidly between the entente governments and Washington and the matter was considered at a cabinet meeting. It is understood that the state department is being slowly but steadily influenced to accept the view which seems to obtain in Great Britain and France and possibly in Italy. That is that a single power with an efficient army and navy within easy reach of Siberia and not otherwise employed, and acting in conformity with a general agreement might be better able to deal with the situation than any international force, such as was at first contemplated.

GENERAL BIDDLE MAY BE SENT ABROAD

Washington.—Numerous changes in the personnel of the general staff of the army are expected to follow the arrival here of Major General Peyton C. March, who landed at an Atlantic port, returning from France, to assume his duties as acting chief of staff. Officers here have no knowledge of plans General March may have laid in this regard, but it has been assumed that he will draw to his aid men in whom he has confidence.

WARREN TALKS OF STATE CAMPAIGN

IF BITTERNESS IS INJECTED THE DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE AGGRESSORS.

HAMMER IS RE-APPOINTED

Friends A. & N. C. and N. C. Railroads Pass Beneficiaries See McAdoo—Other News.

"I am in accord with the expressed view of Governor T. W. Bickett that there should be no bitter partisan campaign," declared Hon. Thomas D. Warren, chairman of the Democratic state executive committee, in an interview. "The governor has been doing splendid work through the channels of his fine patriotic speeches," said Mr. Warren.

"If any bitter partisanship is injected into North Carolina politics in 1918 the Republicans will be the aggressors," stated the Democratic state chairman. "My idea is that there should be conducted a patriotic campaign—one elevated on a high plane. The principal issues should involve the support of the president, the administration and the measures looking to the successful prosecution of the war."

"This campaign year will afford a splendid opportunity to appeal to the patriotism of the people."

President Wilson sent to the senate the name of William C. Hammer for reappointment to the office of United States attorney for western North Carolina. The batch of nominations dispatched to the senate included many names embracing a wide area of territory.

The sweeping order of Secretary William G. McAdoo, director general of railroads, to the effect of curtailing the issuance of railway passes to officers, directors and attorneys of railroads may include the North Carolina Railroad and the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroads. Samuel Brinson, president of the North Carolina and Atlantic Railroad; Col. P. M. Pearsall, attorney for the North Carolina Railroad, and Thomas D. Warren went to the office of the director general of railroads to ascertain the status of these exceptional examples.

The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad—operating from Morehead City to Goldsboro—and the North Carolina Railroad, running between Goldsboro and Charlotte, are properties of the State of North Carolina to the extent of two-thirds ownership. According to stipulation of the contracts of both roads the lessees agreed as part of the consideration to furnish transportation to the officers and twenty-four directors, of the two branch transportation lines. The laws of North Carolina furthermore authorize the issuance of passes in both instances.

Rob Home and Store.

Durham.—Breaking through a window sash, one or more burglars entered the home of I. S. Barbee, wealthy merchant of Toga, ten miles east of the city on the Durham and Southern Railway; doped Mr. Barbee with an unknown drug; used the same drug on his daughter, Miss Minnie Barbee, who occupied a bed in the same room, and then ransacked the residence. Taking a bunch of keys, some money, a watch, and a pistol, the burglars left the residence and went to the store of Mr. Barbee a short distance away. They entered the store and plundered it for a large amount of stock. Total loss in the robbery had not been estimated by Mr. Barbee. No effort to assault either Mr. Barbee or his daughter, other than administer drugs to make their sleep sound was attempted, news reaching the city said.

Erwin Increases Wages.

Durham.—Employees of the Erwin Cotton Mill Company plants in Durham and Oxford will receive benefits from a goodly wage increase. Announcement of the increase was given in an address to employees by W. A. Erwin, secretary-treasurer.

New Tobacco Factory.

Reidsville.—The Old North State smoking tobacco factory is now in full operation in their new quarters in the old sash and blind factory. All the new machinery has been installed and operated to full capacity. The plant is being run night and day in an effort to catch up with orders, which have accumulated since the Old North State factory was burned Christmas Eve. Progress has been made on the new Co.'s new cigarette factory. Sub-basement walls are now up to the fifth floor.