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GERMANS HAVE NO CONFIDENCE NOW IN THEIR PRESS

BACK SUMMER?

Dec. 7.—Eight of divisions, comprising the American third army, now approaching the Rhine, either are national guard or national army troops, and there is every reason to believe that they will be on American soil again by mid-summer.

General March, chief of staff, announced today he anticipated no difficulty in getting these units home within four months after peace has been established formally by proclamation. President Wilson, in his recent address to Congress, said the sessions of the conference probably would be concluded by spring and based on this estimate of the time, General March's statement was accepted to mean that these forces would return during the summer.

Two national guard divisions, the 32nd and 42nd, and two of the national army, the 89th and 90th, now are in the front line of Major General Dickman's army of occupation which was within 20 miles of the Rhine last night, according to General Pershing's report. The 23rd and 33rd national guard and the 79th national army are in the second line, constituting the reserve which is occupying Luxembourg and various rail centers in France, including Montmedy, Longuyon, Etain and St. Mihiel. The First, Third, Fourth and Fifth regulars comprise the remainder of the advancing army, while the second and seventh divisions are with the reserve.

All Back by Midsummer
The estimate as to the possibility that all except regular divisions will have been withdrawn from France by midsummer is based on General March's reply to a question as to steps necessary to obtain an extension of the enlistment period for men in army of occupation.

The law about the men who are raised in the national army that they must be discharged four months after the declaration of peace," he said. "That, I think, also was extended to include men who made voluntary enlistments in the regular army. I won't have any difficulty in bringing back from France the so-called national army divisions in four months after the declaration of peace. It is entirely possible that we will have to ask Congress for some modifications of the law to provide a longer period for the units which will remain in Europe."

Largest Unit Yet
The 346th infantry is numerically the largest unit yet ordered home, showing 77 officers and 3,182 men.

Discussing demobilization of the forces at home, General March said college men other than those in officers' schools which were being abandoned would receive no preference as to the time of their discharge. The order of demobilization providing that combat divisions be disbanded last, he said, has not been altered.

"The system is working at a very much greater speed," General March said, referring to demobilization, "and I have initiated a system by which I get a daily record as to officers and a weekly record as to enlisted men. The actual number of officers discharged at the time of the last announcement was 113; the number discharged last week, up to yesterday, was 7,658. The number of men discharged in the United States last week was over 200,000."

The Hague, Dec. 8.—Many Dutchmen who have come from Germany are disgusted with their own press, which consistently lied to them throughout the war, as a result of which they are unable to feel confidence any longer. At present, if one were to take German newspaper statements at their face value, one might believe that everything was going swimmingly for the government; that the national assembly was held in almost universal approval; that the extremists were discomfited, and that complete harmony existed between the soldiers and workmen's council and the government. The very unanimity of these representations makes them suspicious.

Sometimes a little light breaks through. For instance, Herr Glebel, a member of the majority socialist party, speaking at Ems to representatives of the soldiers' councils of the field army, prudently evaded, says The Frankfurter Zeitung, a question definitely asked as to which socialist party had a majority in the Berlin executive council. When asked "Where are the arms in Berlin?" he said few Berlin workers had arms, but that 95 percent thereof were probably in the hands of the Spartacus group.

Later at the same meeting Herr Barth firmly denied the existence of bolshevism in Berlin.

It is impossible to say how far the menace of bolshevism in Germany rests on a basis of facts; how far it is a mere lever to extort concessions or to extend them. Judging from reports from various places in Germany, I am inclined to believe it is increasing and will continue to increase as winter proceeds. One report is that there will be a general strike within a fortnight and that anarchy then will reign supreme. Naturally, I am unable to guarantee the accuracy of such a forecast, but I am convinced the situation is growing more critical than the German press will admit.

Persons who come from Germany tell me the real revolution has not yet begun and when it does half of Berlin will ascend to heaven in flames. This may be alarmist talk, but if the bolsheviks get their way, they certainly will not stick at trifles.

The Bremerhaven has published a report which says the workers on the great ship construction docks have gone over to the bolshevik camp. The paper says if the workers' demands are insisted on, the builders cannot accept more orders and the docks will lie idle.

Meanwhile dangers also threatens Germany from another quarter, it being reported in circles frequented by active officers of the army that ex-Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria is drawing together the threats for a counter-revolution and is trying to secure the participation by high officers and the leading men in the former regime. There is nothing improbable in this report, since The Vorwaertz says the counter-revolutionary excess of officers of all ranks is notably increasing.

A Munich telegram says Kurt Eisner has sent a telegram to Herr Ebert and Haase in Berlin saying the ministry of the people's state of Bavaria is unanimously of the opinion that a conference of representatives of the German governments should be summoned immediately in Vienna or in some centrally situated place where unity shall be attained on a program of foreign and domestic policy.

EUROPEAN RULERS TO VISIT UNITED STATES

New York.—The United States government will have as its guests in the near future, President Poincare, of France; King George, of England; King Albert of Belgium; King Victor Emmanuel, of Italy, and the heads



1—British mine sweepers clearing the North sea of German mines. 2—American soldiers who were wounded in the St. Mihiel salient photographed on their arrival in New York. 3—Dr. Joseph Pernikoff, representative of the all-Russian government, who has just come to the United States.



TO LOOK OUT FOR AMERICAN SIDE

Paris, Saturday, Dec. 7.—The plan of organization of the United States peace mission which is now tentative, but which in its essentials undoubtedly will stand unchanged shows the body which will look out for America's interests when the world's delegates gather at Versailles as complete in every detail.

The chart of the organization which has been prepared here shows the large American organization headed by the members of the peace commission itself, with the chart lines running from this group to that of the first secretary, John C. Grew, to the second, or liaison and diplomatic intelligence group, and the third, the group or advisers, principally technical, with large staffs of assistants.

Under the liaison and diplomatic intelligence group are military naval officers, including the commander of the American expeditionary forces, naval and military attaches and foreign representatives. Under some of these heads are officers dealing with the peace commission, delegates of organizations, diplomats and ceremonial officers, whose duties will be along such lines as the making of formal calls and attending to similar matters.

One of the two assistant secretaries will have within his secretarial duties the printing of communications, the distribution of press information, filing of reports, coding matter for transmission to the signal corps and wire terminals, etc.

Under the liaison and diplomatic intelligence officers is a bureau in which American civilian activities will be represented such as those of Herbert C. Hoover, the food administrator, the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of Pythias, the Salvation Army and the war trade board.

There are vast staffs of coding clerks, stenographers, translators, confidential secretaries, cartographers, paraphrasers, message transmitters and receivers. These are special cartographers for western Europe, southeast Africa, Africa in general, Poland and Turkey, which go to show the scope of American interest in the coming discussions.

of any other nations President Wilson may visit during his visit to Europe, Stephan E. Lauzanne, editor of The Paris Matin, declared just before sailing for France. M. Lauzanne has been in the United States several months on an official mission.

"It has been a diplomatic custom from time immemorial," M. Lauzanne said, "that the head of one government who entertains the head of another, invariably repays the visit." While no official announcement of plans has been made, M. Lauzanne declared it was certain President Poincare would come to the United States with in the next year.

NEWSPAPER FIRE IN SPARTANBURG SOUTH CAROLINA

Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 7.—The Spartanburg Herald and Journal plant was totally destroyed by fire tonight, with an estimated loss of \$50,000 to the plant and \$25,000 to the building. The loss is total. The fire which began at 7:15 tonight in the basement spread rapidly to the first and second floors, and in a few minutes the plant was filled with smoke.

The flames soon enveloped the entire building and it was impossible to save anything, the salvage is estimated at 65 per cent of the loss.

The entire apparatus of the city fire department worked on the fire and the Camp Wadsworth fire department worked heroically at an attempt to extinguish the flames. No one was injured.

The Spartanburg Herald is being issued tomorrow from the plant of Band and White, printers. When the fire was first discovered, those on the first floor rushed out, and the alarm was sounded for those on the second floor to leave the building. Those in the reportorial, telegraph, composing and stereotyping departments at once did so. By the time they had escaped the entire building was a mass of smoke and flames. Several of the employees managed to leave the building just in time to be overcome by the dense columns of smoke which were pouring from every opening in the building.

Everyone in the building escaped, although a young child, the son of A. F. Perkins, of the composing room, who was asleep in the basement, had some difficulty in leaving the building. He was however rescued before he was overcome by smoke.

The flames swept through the entire plant in an exceedingly short time, and it was impossible to save anything from the building. The dense smoke which poured through the building precluded the possibility of removing any of the machines or fixtures. The records of the company were all in the safes of The Herald and Journal and it is believed that no records of the company were lost.

The building which was burned was owned by Giles L. Wilson. The building to the right, also owned by Mr. Wilson, and occupied by T. O. Monk, harness dealer, and J. Q. Hannon, attorney, was damaged to a considerable extent by water. The stock of Mr. Monk was seriously damaged, though the extent cannot be yet ascertained. The books and furniture were removed from Mr. Hannon's office and were slightly damaged in removal.

The screams of the Perkins boy from the basement arrested the attention of those on the first floor of the building, and in this way the fire was discovered.

PLAYS BILLARDS WITH THE DUTCH

The Hague, Dec. 8.—The Telegraaf publishes an article by Henri Habert, who has been in the island of Wieringen. The German crown prince, he says, has already made a great number of friends, especially among members of the local peasant population, with whom he plays billiards. He exhibits much politeness towards his new friends, whom he frequently treats to beer and offers cigarettes.

He speaks a little broken Dutch mixed with German words. His favorite word is "dag," meaning good day, which he pronounces "tag," whereas the Dutch draw out the word thus, "daag." The peasants try to get him to talk, but the prince prudently never speaks of German political affairs.

Young William Hohenzollern, continues Habert, has above all an extraordinary dread of everything connected with sickness and death and therefore takes the strictest precautions against influenza. He is afraid of everything and everybody and his anxiety betrays itself in his slightest gesture. If you make a sudden movement with your hand or put your hand in your pocket, the prince's eye follows it and he never loses sight of you. He is suffering from severe depression from which he occasionally endeavors to obtain relief by lying down and letting his friend Goebeltz read aloud to him. According to an eye witness, he frequently dons his full uniform with all his orders and parades in front of the mirror in his room, after which he again dresses in ordinary wooten things with checked trousers.

He appears already to have reconciled himself to his fate. He seems to think he will remain here always and often tells the Dutch servant he expects shortly a visit from his wife and children, who then will again leave him. "For they couldn't endure this island long." He deplores the lack of saddle horses and carriages, which would "fill up the day so well." Not to find this lack too trying he writes and reads much.

WILSON ATTENDS SUNDAY SERVICE ON BOARD SHIP

On Board U. S. S. George Washington, Dec. 8. (By Wireless to the Associated Press.)—President Wilson attended religious services this morning with the enlisted men of the American forces on board the George Washington. The services were held in the quarters of the men some distance below decks. The President joined in the singing and the prayers and in the recital of a service.

L. E. the President took his usual walk on deck and then rested. He did not work during the day.

The George Washington is running through smoother seas and encountering warmer weather.

KING GEORGE IS THANKFUL TO U. S. PEOPLE

New York, Dec. 8.—A message from King George, expressing the hope that Britons and Americans may be as united in peace as they were in war, was read today at a meeting in the Hippodrome, arranged as the climax of New York's celebration of Britain day.

The king's message, read by Alton B. Parker, who presided, stated that "the people of the British empire join with me in thanking you and those associated with you for your efforts in promoting this celebration, which will be welcomed as a proof of the true and lasting friendship of the United States."

"It will be a particular satisfaction to my navy and army to feel that they have won the esteem of the nation which has sent so many gallant men to suffer with them the trail of this great war and to share in the glories of final victory," continued the message. "In the name of the British empire, I thank the people of the United States of America, and I pray that the coming era of peace may find our two nations always united as they are today."

A message from Premier Lloyd George read:

"I am always delighted with any work which helps to make our two nations understand one another better. We shall never forget the prompt and decisive response of the American President and people of the allies call this spring, and the invaluable part played by the American navy in helping to free the sea from the German pests."

U. S. BATTALION SENT TO COBLENZ

American Army of Occupation, Dec. 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—A battalion of the Thirty-ninth infantry left Treves by train today for Coblenz, a four hours' run. The premature occupation of Coblenz is due to the request of the German authorities, who are apprehensive of the conditions that might prevail there after the withdrawal of the German forces.

This is the first time the Americans have utilized railway trains for their advance into the territory from which the Germans have withdrawn.

The main army continues its advance in the usual manner and last night had reached the general line of Geldersdorf, Mayen, Koenig and Schwarden. All reports continued to indicate that the Germans were withdrawing in an orderly manner and that the inhabitants of the villages occupied by the Americans were refraining from any antagonistic acts.

It was not expected that there would be any trouble at Coblenz and the appeal by the burgo-master to send troops was denied until it was supplemented in writing by the retiring military commanders.

MAIN GIRLS' DORMITORY CASWELL SCHOOL BURNS

Kinston, Dec. 8.—Fire gutted the main girls' dormitory at the Caswell Training School at Kinston today. The origin of the fire was not determined. The damage was between \$35,000 and \$40,000. City firemen after a run of three miles were powerless to save the building because of low pressure.

Dr. C. B. McNairy, the superintendent, and a negro laborer were slightly injured. One sick child had to be carried out of the building. Screaming girls who made a rush for the dormitory to rescue a kitten were held in restraint until the pet could be brought out.

The building contained the school chapel and sleeping quarters for many. A few matrons and children lost their clothing. Temporary quarters have been provided for the homeless girls.

FOCH RESPONDS CORDIALLY TO HYLAN'S MESSAGE

New York, Dec. 9.—That Marshal Foch, may visit the United States when his duties permit was indicated by a cablegram received here today by Mayor Hylan from the marshal in response to a recent message in which the mayor invited him to visit New York and offered him "the freedom of the city."

The mayor's invitation read: "May the people of the city of New York have the privilege and pleasure of expressing to you in person how highly they esteem you, and will you not accept an invitation to be their guest, so that they may pay tribute to the marvelous results attained by you as commander-in-chief of the allied forces?"

"We owe you a debt for your part in the triumph of democracy over autocracy. On behalf of the municipality I offer you the freedom of the city, which is but a feeble manifestation of our deep regard and admiration."

Marshal Foch's reply follows: "I am profoundly touched by the sentiment which has inspired your message and I thank you for your invitation. I appreciate highly the honor of 'the freedom of the city' which the people of the city of New York offer me. Please transmit to them, with my acceptance, expression of my warmest gratitude."

FORMER GERMAN EMPEROR HELD TO BE RESPONSIBLE

London, Dec. 8.—(British Wireless Service.)—The News Van Den Dag of Amsterdam, a copy of which has been received here, says it holds the opinion that the former German emperor is responsible for the acts of his troops in Belgium and France, for the ruthless submarine war and the aerial bombardments of open towns, and that, consequently, no Dutch government with common sense would allow Holland to be involved in war or have her food supply endangered by reason of acts of friendliness toward the former monarch.

Another reason, the newspaper says, why Holland should be relieved of William Hohenzollern's presence as soon as possible, is that many persons in Germany have not yet abandoned the hope of restoring the imperial power.

"It would not be surprising if these people entertain relations with Germans in Holland," the article concludes. "Consequently, as long as the kaiser is in Holland the germs of a political plot are existent."

SHOP EARLY

Christmas is only two weeks off. The stores are now well supplied with stocks of suitable goods for the Christmas trade. Nearly everybody expects to buy something for a Christmas gift to some friend or loved one. Why not do it now when you can get first choice? Why wait until the last moment and then find everything has been picked over? Now is the time, tomorrow may be too late.

REMEMBER

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Shopping Days Until Christmas. So

Shop Early