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SHOOTING OF PREMIER WAS MERELY THE ACT OF ISOLATED LUNATIC.

Paris, Feb. 22.—There is still no definite indication that the shooting of Premier Clemenceau was anything but the act of an isolated lunatic, but the police are anxious to ascertain to what sort of propaganda Emile Cotton was exposed to. Vast quantities of papers have been seized and one arrest has been made to which the police evidently attach some importance. The man arrested is Henry Contant, secretary of the communist federation, but there is no suggestion that he was directly concerned in Cotton's crime.

The police have for some time been investigating Bolshevik literature circulating in Paris and in industrial towns in the provinces. Today they evidently have taken the opportunity of searching for any trace of a plot to carry on a parallel in Russian circles which are suspected of Bolshevik propaganda. In one printing establishment which they raided they are reported to have discovered Bolshevik government proclamations in type. While most of the individuals who have received the attention of the police are anarchists of Russian origin, there was one member, and a prominent member of the socialist party, whose house was searched and the socialist press is highly indignant over the whole proceeding. It accepts philosophically that Russian anarchists should be worried by domiciliary visits to which indeed they must be fairly well accustomed. "But," says Raminie "Never hitherto has a member of the socialist party been disturbed. It is a scandal against which we protest with all our might."

It is inevitable that a crime such as that of Cotton should be followed by police measures which may not always be effective but which nevertheless are very necessary. It is very improbable in the course of these operations to avoid hurting the susceptibilities of people who sincerely regret it as an insult that they should be deemed to have any part in such a business. Nevertheless, excitements have not been lacking in the socialist press. M. Clemenceau has been contrasted with President Wilson as the man who stands in the way of a great democratic rebirth of the world. He has been held up to the workmen's execration as the leader of all reactionary thought, and it is not surprising that this doctrine so violently preached should have succeeded in finding an apostle.

M. Clemenceau still shows no sign of fever, and, always provided the wound is clean, it is not improbable that M. Clemenceau will again resume his political activities next week. There appears at present at any rate to be no thought of operating for the removal of the bullet.

Good medical news, however, does not entirely do away with apprehensions felt throughout the country as to the effect such an experience will have upon M. Clemenceau's usefulness at the peace conference if not upon the actual duration of his life. Even a man with M. Clemenceau's iron constitution might well be forgiven if at the age of 72 he might have some after effects, even were they only nervousness over the experience he went through on Wednesday morning. There are few men of his age who would be able to receive and permanently lodge a bullet in the lungs and continue the formidable amount of work his position places on his shoulders.

Nevertheless, M. Clemenceau seems to be entirely ready to do it. As his great friend, Dr. Gossett, in his first consultation, yesterday remarked, "really, the man is like one of the oak trees of his vendee. Nothing can uproot him."

The premier joked with M. Cichon whom he asked to tell the peace conference he would be at work at least by Sunday. M. Pichon pointed out that the conference observes a day of rest and M. Clemenceau said, "Well then, on Monday."

This energy of spirit is no doubt admirable but M. Clemenceau's millions of friends are beseeching him by letters and by telegrams and through the press to take good care of himself and do nothing rash. The nature of his wound demands a certain amount of rest and M. Clemenceau is not the man who likes repose overmuch, especially when there is work for France to be done.

ALLIES DISTRIBUTING MUCH FOOD IN POLAND.

Paris, Feb. 22.—In spite of annoying efforts by the Germans to hinder the provisioning of Poland, the supreme food and relief council has landed three shiploads of food in Danzig and sent the food by railway to Warsaw, where it is now being distributed under allied control.

According to Dr. Vernon Kellogg, an American member of the supreme relief council, who has just returned to Paris from Poland, the Germans did not dare to offer serious opposition to the shipments through German territory and over German railways to Poland, but minor officials complained bitterly and objected that Germany should be fed before Poland. However, the American navy provided the food ships and manned them with naval officers, so the Germans were afraid to interfere, as it would have been a violation of the terms of the armistice.

Dr. Kellogg says that food conditions are worse in Cracow and the mining districts of South Poland, to which five cars of milk and four carloads of mixed foodstuffs are being rushed from Switzerland to afford immediate relief. The avenues for the sending of food into Poland are now clear and seven additional shiploads are on the way from the United States.

Mr. Taft Wants the People to "Work on" Congressmen.

Bitter Creek, Wyo., Feb. 23.—Bitter appeal to the people of the United States to express their opinion on the proposed league of nations, "so clear and strong that our representatives in Congress may know that the people of the United States are determined to assume their part in this crisis of human history." was made in a statement issued here tonight to the Associated Press by William Howard Taft and other members of the party touring the country in the interest of the proposed league.

Asserting that the alternative to a league of nations is "the heavy burden and the constant temptation of universal armament" and that without a league a new war of even greater dimensions is threatened, the statement points to the disorganized state of Europe and possibilities of German autocracy again getting the upper hand.

FLOOR TAXES ON TOBACCO.

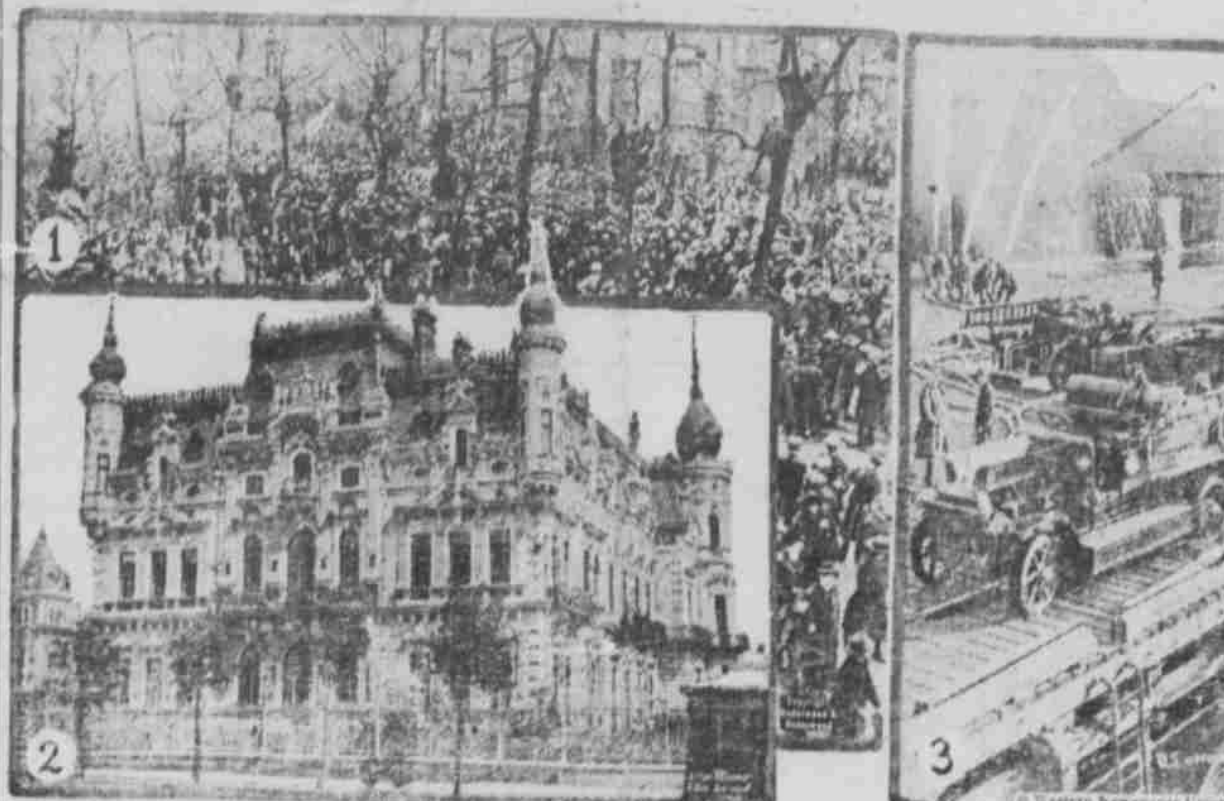
Collector Watts has mailed to all dealers in tobacco, snuff, cigars and cigarettes, whose names and addresses he has, blanks for inventories of the amount of stock in these articles they will have on hand on the day after the new Revenue Act becomes law, which of course will not be until the Act is signed by the President. It is the duty of these dealers to ascertain the day the Act is finally signed, which will be published in all the papers and doubtless telegraphed to important points in the district.

Blanks for the sworn return will be sent as soon as the Act becomes law.

It may be that the Collector has failed to secure the names and postoffices of all dealers in these articles. If any such dealer has not and does not receive within the next few days these blanks he should immediately write to A. D. Watts, Collector, Statesville, N. C., when his name will be placed on the lists and blanks will be promptly sent him.

If any person, firm or corporation, who does not deal in these articles, has received blanks the Collector will very greatly appreciate a letter or a card to that effect, when the name will be stricken from the list.

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1—Soldiers in trench during battle in Berlin, as viewed through the returning troops as unarmored warriors. 2—Palace of the Ministry of Finance in Bucharest which was reported destroyed by the Roumanian republican revolutionists. 3—An American fire company fighting a blaze on the docks at Bas-les, a suburb of Bordeaux.

SPANISH BRANCH I. W. W. MEMBERS UNDER ARREST

New York, Feb. 23.—Fourteen members of the Spanish branch of the I. W. W. were arrested by secret service men and members of the police bomb squad in two raids here late today. While they are charged formally with having seditious literature in their possession government agents claimed to have evidence they were hatching a terrorist plot.

The grave nature of the alleged plot and the imminence of the attempt to carry it into execution, it was declared, made it essential the men be imprisoned at once.

After being questioned at police headquarters, where their fingerprints were taken, the prisoners were locked up without bail pending arraignment before a United States commissioner tomorrow.

Meanwhile mechanical experts have been assigned to assemble a complicated machine found dismantled in one of the rooms raided. The secret service agents said they were at a loss to explain its purpose. Translators were put to work on a mass of papers and pamphlets seized.

One of the houses raided had been under police surveillance for several days as a result of meetings held there, it was said.

Frank Francisco and Edward J. Dowd, of the secret service, as well as New York detectives who assisted them in the raids, declared they had obtained evidence which would be used in an attempt to prove the prisoners had planned to assassinate President Wilson in Boston tomorrow but this assertion was discredited by Captain Peter Rubin, of the secret service, who directed the raids.

According to police the two Philadelphia men who frankly admitted they were anarchists, stopped here on their way to Boston and intended to go on to that city tonight.

It was explained that the Spanish branch of the I. W. W. in this country had been watched closely for months by the secret service as most of the members are avowed anarchists. So far as could be learned, however, there was no general round up of the members today. It was intimated the raids here were the result of information indicating a carefully framed terrorist plot was about to be carried into effect.

The prisoners were questioned for several hours at police headquarters but for the most part maintained a sullen silence. The police declined to divulge what information, if any, had been obtained from them. While they have not definitely determined the purpose of the machine in the raid, the bomb squad as to be used in the plot.

PRESIDENT'S SHIP RAN CLOSE TO THE BEACH.

On board the U. S. S. George Washington, Feb. 23.—The President's ship and its destroyer escort, the Harding, lost their bearing in the heavy fog and ran off the Massachusetts coast this afternoon while running for Boston light and came within perhaps 1,000 yards of grounding off the beach at Thatcher's Island Capt Ann.

The two vessels were proceeding on dead reckoning, about 3 o'clock, with the Harding as a guard ship ahead. Suddenly the Harding's lookout discovered land and the destroyer gave five quick blasts on her whistle and made a quick turn across the Washington's bow. The wind was landward and the sound was carried away from the George Washington instead of toward her. The Washington's deck officer, however, saw the five jets of steam from the Hardings' whistle and giving three short blasts or the big liner's whistles signalled the engine room for full speed astern. The big ship trembled and quivered with the throbbing of the mighty engines, as they churned the water, and that was the first intimation any of the passengers and most of the crew had of what was going on.

President Wilson noticed the motion at once and with Admiral Grayson went on deck. He was quite unconcerned, however, and his attitude was more one of curiosity and interest. Troops and passengers piled on deck at the same time and saw the rollers on the sandy beach and the summer cottages. A motion picture show going on in the main dining saloon, however, continued to hold the attention of many of the passengers.

Although going full speed the Washington stopped quickly and easily and began backing away, while the destroyers turned to wallowing about the big liner. The lead was now going quickly and deep water immediately was reached. Passengers, crew and troops did not seem to regard the incident as a possibility of danger, many of them thinking it rather a good joke played by the fog on the navigators.

After backing a short distance Captain McCauley dropped anchor to make observations and get bearings, while the destroyers formed a semi-circle about the President's ship. The wind whipped up a bit and a snow flurry swept down on the port quarter, making observations even more difficult. The destroyer Paulding came up close alongside. Then from over the starboard bow came the doleful steady wail of a fog horn, doling out its warning. Officers recorded the blasts by stop watch, hoping to identify the station by its manner of blowing, meanwhile Captain McCauley flashed a heliograph message to proceed cautiously and attempt to identify the signal. In a moment the destroyer got under way, spitting long trails of black smoke from her funnels, but she had hardly started when the wind shifted to the north, the fog lifted and one of the officers perch-

PVT. CAUSEY TALKS INTERESTINGLY OF SOLDIER LIFE.

An interesting story of army life in the camps, on the transports and in France, is told by Private T. K. Causey of Greensboro. Private Causey was sent to Camp Jackson last summer, his first few months being in the camp personnel office, but he found his real soldiering when assigned to Battery F, 117th Artillery, of the Dixie Division, made up of guard units from the States of Florida, Georgia and Alabama. After six weeks of strenuous work on the artillery range at Camp Jackson, the artillery went to New York where it embarked with the remainder of the division arrived in France in September and the artillery was moved about 150 miles to the old artillery training camp used by Napoleon a century ago. The men were comfortably quartered in old-time stone barracks. Private Causey is an admirer of the Y. M. C. A., saying that it was the best thing for the boys in France. The large hut at the training center was always crowded with men. Five nights a week there were movies or entertainments. Wednesday evening and on Sunday religious services were held which were always well attended. Facilities for writing and reading were always provided and women Y. workers lived with men in making life easier and better for the men. When the armistice was signed the boys were made glad by the news that they would be among the first to come home. They returned to Brest and soon shipped on the Manchurian, one of the larger army transports, being among the first combatant troops to be returned to the States. The regiment was sent to Camp Gordon where they were honorably discharged from service the first weeks in January.

Mr. Aaron Whitaker died at his home at Siloam last Saturday, aged 67 years. He had been in poor health for the past two years and his death was not unexpected. He was a successful farmer and merchant and had accumulated a large fortune. His wife, four daughters and three sons survive him. The funeral exercises were held in the church at Siloam Sunday at 12 o'clock, after which interment was made in the town cemetery.

Hurley Hopes to See American Flag Carried Into All World.

Chicago, Feb. 22.—An American merchant marine carrying the American flag into every port of the world is the accomplishment Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the shipping board, hopes to see realized through the combined efforts of all lines of business, he told the members of the Illinois Manufacturers' association today. A thoroughly democratic exchange of views was Mr. Hurley's scheme for laying the basis of the necessary legislation.

"Ships of the world are one of the most vital problems before the world today," Mr. Hurley said. "It is the duty of every nation to see that its ships are not only afloat but are also carrying the American flag into every port of the world."

M. CLEMENCEAU WANTED TO TAKE DRIVE SUNDAY

Paris, Feb. 23.—News of the improvement in the condition of M. Clemenceau was received with joy in Paris which had been worried over the tone of the official bulletin issued Saturday morning. The premier partook of a hearty breakfast and then was examined by the doctors, but did not joke with the doctors as much as usual. The official bulletin issued this morning said that the premier showed continual improvement.

M. Clemenceau asked his doctors for permission to take a drive in the Bois de Boulogne this afternoon. His request was not granted.

A correspondent of the Associated Press caught a glimpse of the "tiger" today standing near an open window. He was looking out over a little garden and apparently enjoying the bright sunshine of a balmy spring day.

The premier appeared to be somewhat more drawn and paler than usual and his eyes seemingly were deeper under the bushy eyebrows. However, the inevitable little skull cap was worn at a jaunty angle, as ever over his left ear. Perhaps, it was a several days growth of beard which might have given him a more tired appearance.

Visitors at the premier's residence were fewer in number this morning and the quiet Rue de Franklin had resumed its normal aspect. He received Foreign Minister Pichon, General Morudan, the chief of his military cabinet, and M. Mandel, his chief clerk.

GROWTH OF AMERICAN ARMY.

On April 6, 1917, the day when we declared ourselves belligerents, our military resources were so largely undeveloped that it seemed absurd to believe that this country could prepare itself to take any important part in land operations under three or four years. Indeed, it may not be amiss here to recall the feeling, amounting even in some official quarters to the conviction that America's share in the war would be chiefly confined to feeding and financing the allies making their munitions and furnishing a naval patrol for the North Atlantic sea lanes. The visit of Marshal Joffre and his appeal for men changed all this; it was not until then that the country fully awoke to the necessity of creating, equipping, arming, and placing in the field a tremendous army in the shortest possible space of time. We began then with what amounted to a blank sheet of paper, upon which we could write either success or failure.

The simplest and easiest task of all was the increase of the personnel of the army from 130,000 officers and men on April 6, 1917 to 3,734,420 actually in service on the day the armistice was signed. This figure includes, however, 27,288 marines, the actual strength of the army proper was 3,707,132 officers and men. Of these, 2,092,175 had been sent overseas and another 94,248 were on ships, in Europe when hostilities ceased. Barring some completely unforeseen catastrophe, the total strength of the army by June 30, 1919, would have reached 4,805,000 officers and men.—March World's Work.

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PERSHING PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO HIS TROOPS

Paris, Feb. 22.—(By the Associated Press)—General Pershing, Herbert Hoover, Ambassador Sharp and Admiral Benson were speakers today at the annual luncheon in honor of Washington's birthday given by the American club of Paris at the Palais D'Orsay.

Responding to the toast of the American army, General Pershing expressed his thanks to the American people for the support they had given the military forces.

"Whether keeping lonely in the trenches, whether with a machine gun nest or performing the drudgery of the rear or supplying the front line, each man has done his duty," said General Pershing. "I feel he has felt that he had behind him the support of the whole country. By his courage, indomitable will, his splendid organization and his tenacity, the American soldier has turned impending defeat into overwhelming victory. I drink to the American soldier, than whom there is no better in the world today. Long live the American soldier."

Admiral Benson, replying to the toast to the navy, said in humorous vein, that the navy had also performed its duty, but desired to be modest about it. He recalled the fact that General Pershing, before joining the army, was a midshipman, saying: "It is a good thing for that he has since left the navy."

Admiral Benson said during the last months of the war, organization of the navy was along the Atlantic coast and positions of the various squadrons of dreadnaughts, cruisers and destroyers, made it impossible for the German navy to attack the allied transport. Now that the state of war was over, the navy had taken over numerous merchant ships, and at present was actually manning 37 ships engaged in the task of helping Hoover feed Europe.

"There has been few moments in the world's history more pregnant with anxiety than today," said Mr. Hoover. "The situation in Europe is so chaotic that all must unite and refrain from discussing problems with preconceived ideas. The results of four years of destruction, not alone among the allies, but also in the enemy countries, must be met.

"Before the war the supply of food in Europe was sufficient to last six months. But European production was never at such a low ebb as at present; it has practically stopped. The situation, however, is not desperate.

"Conflicting ideas, we hope will be removed, and that the good common sense which helped the father of our country to conduct the destinies of our country throughout troublous times, will enable his successor to help guide the world out of its present predicament."

Ambassador Sharp briefly reviewed his four years at Paris. The question confronting the world today, said the ambassador, was to arrive at a state of good will, friendship and international comity for which the American soldiers has been fighting.

"All jealously should disappear between nations," he continued. "We must all strive toward a better world, without envy or jealousy."

other side, but the problem will be worked out, I think, agreeably to all nations, because the shortage of tonnage and growth in manufacturing will require extra tonnage.

"I believe it will take 10 years to get this tonnage.

"There are some who are not particularly interested in ships but I believe it will take 10 years to get this tonnage."