

# OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM NATIONS AT WAR

## FRANCE.

Paris.—The official communication issued by the French War Department says:

"In the bend of the Yser the Belgian Army has consolidated and increased the results obtained by it.

"The British troops continue to progress. They crossed the brook of Laves, which runs parallel to the road from Neuve Chapelle to Pleuval. Between this road and Aubers they captured several trenches. At the end of the day they reached a road known as the 'Highway to Hell,' which runs from the northwest to the southeast toward Aubers and to the suburbs of that place. To the southwest of Elters they carried several groups of houses, which are being strongly prepared for defensive purposes. The total number of prisoners captured during the day was 1,000. The Germans lost several machine guns.

"To the left and to the right of the British army French troops supported them with many heavy artillery and machine guns and infantry fire.

"In the Champagne our progress continues. At the end of the day on the northern slopes of the ridge to the northeast of Mesnil we captured 150 prisoners, including 8 officers.

"In the Vosges, on Reich Ackerkopf, the enemy after a violent bombardment attempted an assault, which was, however, brought to a halt by our fire."

## GERMANY.

Berlin.—The German official report on the progress of the war reads as follows:

"To the south of Ypres isolated British attacks were easily repulsed. Our movement for the recapture of the village of Neuve Chapelle began successfully, but thereafter encountered a superior British force, and for this reason it was not continued.

"The British in this locality have been showing great aerial activity. Two British aviators were brought down by German fire.

"In the Champagne district there has been a renewal of fighting at isolated places. All the attacks made by the French have been repulsed, the enemy losing heavily. Two hundred French soldiers were taken prisoners. Fog and snow have hampered the operations in the Vosges.

"The Russians have retreated from the Augustow district and the country to the northeast until how they are beyond the River Bobr and under the guns of Grodno. At a point northeast of Przasnysz, near Orzyz river, a Russian attack has been repulsed."

## RUSSIA.

Petrograd, via London.—The following official statement was issued:

"There have been no important collisions anywhere along the front. On the left bank of the Niemen and on the roads leading to Grodno only engagements of local character have occurred. North of Simno we routed a small German detachment with our cavalry and took some prisoners and two guns.

"In the vicinity of Kopoliewe hostile columns suddenly found themselves under the fire of our artillery and suffered serious losses. After having repulsed the enemy in the sectors of the wood nearest Augustow our troops concentrated in the region of Lepsk.

"On the right bank of the Narw and Bobr rivers there has been no change. The artillery at Ossowetz has continued to operate successfully against the siege batteries. An attempt by the Germans to assume the offensive along the River Orzyz resulted in no gain of ground. In fact, the enemy was compelled to cede us some villages and small sections of the forest.

"North of Przasnysz the Germans approached to within 1,500 paces of our trenches, but did not succeed in their offensive, which was checked by our fire, and they had to withdraw their front. In the trenches evacuated by the Germans we captured many rifles and much ammunition.

"In the Carpathians and Galicia a fierce snowstorm and deep drifts have hindered the operations, but nevertheless we have forced the Austrians to retire from their positions in the Smolnik district. The enemy has attacked us again in the Kozlowka region, but without success."

## AUSTRIA.

Vienna, via London.—The following official Austrian statement was issued here:

"Fighting in the Carpathians on the road from Cisma to Baligrod continues. A height for which we had been fighting for some days came into our possession. Our troops blew up parts of the enemy's position and took more than 1,200 officers and men

## AVIATOR FIRED GERMAN COAL.

Four Thousand Tons Destroyed, 20,000 Menaced.

Geneva, via Paris.—The largest coal depot on the Rhine, located at Strassburg, which was set afire by a bomb dropped by a French aviator during a raid of 15 days ago, is still burning. Four thousand tons of coal have been destroyed and 20,000 tons more are menaced. Some fear is felt that the fire may endanger Strassburg.

prisoners. A Russian counter-attack against this position and adjacent heights was repulsed with severe losses."

## VIENNA NEAR FAMINE, REPORT.

Poor Reported To Be Suffering Acutely, Venice Hears.

Venice, Italy, via London.—Private letters received here from Vienna say that the poorer classes in that city are suffering acutely on account of the scarcity of food. Meat has long since disappeared from their tables. Bread is scarce and high in price, it being almost impossible to buy flour.

Lard costs more than butter. Although eggs, milk and butter have risen greatly in price, it probably will become still more difficult to obtain them in the near future, as farmers are unable to procure fodder, and are killing their cows and chickens.

## MORE TROOPS TO CHINA.

Second Jap Squadron Sails With 30,000, Making 60,000.

Peking.—The Chinese Government has official information to the effect that the second Japanese squadron, conveying two divisions of approximately 30,000 soldiers, has sailed for China. The forwarding of these troops will increase the number of Japanese soldiers in the garrisons in China to nearly 60,000. The new troops will be distributed in Manchuria, Shantung, Tientsin and Hankow, where the present forces at the Japanese garrisons number nearly 30,000.

## AMERICAN OFFICERS GO EAST.

Six Army Men Complete Tour Of Western Lines.

Berlin, via London.—A party of six American army officers left Berlin for the eastern battle front under the guidance of Captain Maltzahn. They recently returned from a tour of inspection of the western lines. The group is composed of Lieut.-Col. Joseph E. Kuhn, of the engineers; Major Clarence C. Williams, of the Ordnance Department; Major Dwight E. Aultman, of the field artillery; Capt. Samuel D. Roekenbach, of the cavalry; Capt. Wilson B. Burt, of the infantry; and Capt. Samuel G. Shurtle, of the coast artillery.

## GRAND OLD MAN OF RUSSIA DEAD.

Count Sergius Julowich Witte's Life Has Ended.

London.—Count Sergius Julowich Witte, Russia's first prime minister, died Saturday night, says a Petrograd dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company.

Count Witte, who was born June 29, 1849, at Tiflis, was one of the Russian plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in the negotiations for peace with Japan in 1905. He afterwards was made a count and appointed president of the new ministry, but retired in 1906 and held no important post after that time.

## CRUISER NOW IN U. S. PORT.

United States Government Will Probably Seek Honorable Amends Under International Law, Also Reparation for Owners.

Washington.—Arrival of the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich at Newport News with the announcement that during her four months' scouring of the seas as a commerce raider she had sent to the bottom one vessel which was American owned and flew the flag of the United States, profoundly stirred official Washington. In the absence of a detailed story of the sinking of the American ship William P. Frye off the coast of South America judgment was withheld, but there was no attempt to deny the seriousness of the incident, and it was conceded that on its face it bore the appearance of an unfriendly act upon the part of a German ship of war, which must result in diplomatic negotiations with the German government.

Information from Newport News was in substance that the Frye was blown up because the commander of the Eitel held her cargo of wheat to be contraband. It was pointed out that wheat is not contraband unless consigned to a belligerent government or some agent of such government.

Every effort will be made by the State and Treasury Departments to get to the bottom of the case at once. If necessary, the State Department will conduct an inquiry of its own and will not undertake negotiations with Germany until its case is clear.

## URGES GREECE TO ENTER WAR.

Former Premier Declares Nation Has Great Opportunity.

Athens.—Former Premier Venizelos publishes a statement in the Ethnos in which he appeals to the new government to abandon neutrality. The article urges that the present moment offers Greece a chance to quadruple itself. It adds that if the new ministry will embrace the opportunity, M. Venizelos will guarantee it the support of the majority in Parliament.

# TORPEDO SINKS BRITISH PATROL

Cruiser Sunk Off Scotch Coast and 200 Lives Lost.

## MILLION MEN IN BIG BATTLE

The British in Flanders Attacking the Germans To Relieve the Pressure On Russians—The Battle Of La Bassee.

London.—Just as the French attacked the Germans in the western campaign, when Field Marshal von Hindenburg made his big rush from East Prussia last month, so the British army operating in Flanders has undertaken the task of relieving the pressure on its Russian ally, now that the Russians again are being attacked in North Poland.

This is part of the general plan of the allied generals. When one is attacked the other attacks, so as to compel the Germans and Austrians to keep strong forces at every point, and endeavor to prevent them from sending new troops where they could do the most good.

At present the Germans are occupied in an attempt to crush the Russians. For this purpose they are reported to have an army estimated at nearly a half million men marching along the roads toward Przasnysz.

To prevent this army from being further strengthened the British are thrusting at the German line north of La Bassee, and besides reporting the capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle, it is asserted that they have advanced beyond that town.

The battle taking place on the eastern front, experts say, is the biggest pitched battle of the war, no less than a million men being engaged in it.

The Germans in their official report claim to have made some advance, while Petrograd considers it likely that the Russians will have to fall back beyond Przasnysz, as they did last month, before making their stand.

It probably will be days before a definite result is attained in this battle, as with the frozen roads the Russians can push forward reinforcements and choose their battleground.

## CRUISER SUNK BY SUBMARINE.

The Bayano, British Auxiliary Vessel, Destroyed By Germans.

London.—The Admiralty announces the loss of the auxiliary cruiser Bayano while the vessel was engaged in patrol duty. The Bayano was built in 1913 at Glasgow and was 416 feet long and 2,500 tons displacement.

In its statement of the disaster the Admiralty says:

"On the 11th of March wreckage of the Bayano and bodies were discovered, and circumstances point to her having been sunk by an enemy torpedo.

"Eight officers and 18 men were rescued, but it is feared that the remainder of the crew were lost.

"The captain of the Belfast steamer Castlereagh reports passing Thursday morning a quantity of wreckage and dead bodies floating in life belts. He attempted to search for possible survivors, but was prevented by the appearance of an enemy submarine, which gave chase for 20 minutes.

The Belfast correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the Bayano was torpedoed Thursday morning at 9 o'clock off Corsewall Point, Wigtownshire, Scotland, and that nearly 200 lives were lost, as the cruiser sank almost immediately. The vessel had a crew of about 216 men on board.

Wigtownshire is the southwesternmost county in Scotland. It lies on the North Channel, which leads into the Irish Sea from the Atlantic.

## ITALY SEEMS NEAR WAR.

Premier's Rebuke Of Neutrality Cry So Interpreted.

Rome.—Premier Salandra, after his visit Sunday to Gatta to open a new military harbor, a journey during which a considerable degree of national feeling was manifested, had a long interview with Foreign Minister Sonnino.

The council of ministers were in session. These facts, together with other indications, lead to the widespread belief that Italy today is upon the eve of great and decisive events.

One of the Premier's remarks at Gatta is attracting considerable attention. Referring to the kind of broad bread allowed in Italy after March 22, Signor Salandra said:

"This is a noble bread. Our soldiers will be the first to be sacrificed, and Italians will see the destiny of their country accomplished."

## ITALY MAKING READY.

While Diplomats Parley, Preparations For War Go Rapidly Ahead.

Rome, via Paris.—The Italian government apparently is anxious to have it become known that the Government has not initiated or urged any negotiations for territorial compensation from Austria. Military preparations are being pushed with great vigor, the Government desiring to be ready for any contingency.

# TAKES THE JOY OUT OF SPRING



# MUST MAKE AMENDS FOR SINKING SHIP

Germany Will Do it Voluntarily or Be Asked for Reparation.

## CRUISER TO BE DOCKED

President Wilson Taking Personal Charge of a Searching Inquiry—Kiehne To Be Interrogated In Washington.

## "UNFORTUNATE ZEAL" DEPLORED.

Amsterdam.—The German Government regards the sinking of the American ship William P. Frye by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich as unwarranted, according to dispatches from Berlin.

A strong protest is expected from Washington. This protest will be met in a most conciliatory spirit and Germany will assure the Washington Government that Captain Thierichens acted solely upon his own responsibility, the Berlin dispatches asserted.

Berlin dispatches said officials united in ascribing the act to "the unfortunate zeal of an excitable captain."

Washington.—Unless the German government voluntarily offers to make restitution for the destruction of the American ship Frye, sunk by the converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich in the South Atlantic, and expresses regret for the occurrence, strong protest will be made by the United States with a request for reparation.

No announcements concerning the case probably will be made, it was said by high officials, until after an investigation of all the facts had been completed. President Wilson, at the White House, stated that a searching inquiry would be conducted.

Officials were unanimous in their opinion—and it was shared largely by diplomats, too—that the commander of the Prinz Eitel had no right to send the Frye to the bottom. It was considered probable by officials that the German government, after being apprised of the facts, would admit the error of the naval commander and agree to make the usual reparation. Some officials thought sufficient amends, after the payment of damages, would be the court-martialing of the German officer.

## Getting the Facts.

It was made clear at the State Department that whatever action would be taken as a result of the sinking of the Frye would be entirely dissociated from questions arising out of the entry into an American port of the Prinz Eitel desiring time for repairs. The vessel could, therefore, depart, leaving the questions raised by the destruction of the American ship to be settled through diplomatic channels.

Captain Boy-Ed, naval attaché of the German Embassy, conferred with the captain of the Prinz Eitel and obtained a sworn statement of the facts for the German government. Captain Kiehne, of the Frye, has been asked to keep the members of his crew together, so that all the testimony necessary for diplomatic correspondence may be gathered.

## "DRY" VERMONT REFERENDUM.

Bill Passes Both Houses And Goes To Governor.

Montpelier, Vt.—The prohibition referendum bill previously adopted by the House passed the Senate. If the bill is approved by Governor Gates the question of State prohibition will be decided at the municipal election in March, 1916. After 60 years of prohibition the State adopted a local option policy at a special election in 1903.

# GENERAL VILLA GIVES WARNING

Will Fight Any Troops Who Enter Mexico.

## AGAINST INTERVENTION

Secretary Bryan Announces That the Food Shortage Is Serious—Oregon Appears Not To Have Evacuated Mexico City.

El Paso, Tex.—General Villa in a statement received from Torreon declared that in event of intervention of foreign troops to subdue the Carranza forces he and all other Mexicans would unite against the invaders.

He denied recent interviews in American newspapers, which, he said, had just been called to his attention, in which he was quoted as saying that he would not oppose armed intervention on the part of several powers "to reduce Carranza to order," provided that he would be made commander of such a move.

"There is nothing more grotesque and absurd than such an assertion," said the message from the Northern leader, "since I, as a true Mexican, always have insisted that all our troubles be settled solely among ourselves. Should, unfortunately, some nation invade our territory, I would be ready to fight against it without measuring the danger or the number of the invaders until I would see the entire country in the possession of Mexicans only. All of us would fight united against the common enemy."

## Situation Still Serious.

Washington.—Secretary Bryan announced that the food situation in Mexico City was still very serious and that the forces of General Obregon appeared not to have evacuated the city as yet, though this was expected at any moment.

## MRS. ROCKEFELLER DEAD.

End Comes While Husband and Son Are Away.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, wife of the richest man in the world, died suddenly, in her seventy-sixth year, at the Rockefeller country home in Pocantico Hills. She had been an invalid for a year, but during the last few months her health had so improved that the rapid turn for the worse which her illness took Friday morning was not anticipated by her family.

For this reason it happened that the only relative at her bedside when she died at 10.20 A. M. was her sister, Miss Lucy M. Spelman. Her husband and her son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., were at Ormond, Fla., where they went—Mr. Rockefeller, Sr., on February 28 and his son last Friday, accompanied by his wife—believing that Mrs. Rockefeller was growing better.

## 9-YEAR-OLD BOY MOONSHINER.

Child Found Operating Still in West Virginia.

Bluefield, W. Va.—United States Deputy Marshal Hurt, with a posse, capturing the youngest bootlegger on record 20 miles from Norton in the person of William Hubbard, aged 9. The revenue officers found Hubbard, with an 18-year-old cousin, operating a still with a capacity of 30 gallons. The father of young Hubbard has been convicted twice for illicit distilling, and the boy has been taught the business from the cradle.

## ZEPPELIN L-8 DESTROYED.

Seventeen Of Crew Killed When Airship Hit Trees.

Amsterdam, via London.—The Telegraph's Tiresmont, Belgium, correspondent confirms the report of the destruction there last Thursday of Zeppelin airship L-8, which was forced to make a hurried descent owing to a derangement of its motors. The correspondent says the airship collided with some trees and smashed its cars, and that 17 of its crew of 41 men were killed.

## 7 OF 2,855 SHIPS TORPEDOED.

British Admiralty Reports On German Submarine Campaign.

London.—The British Admiralty announces that out of a total of 1,533 ships arriving at and 1,342 leaving Great Britain during the period from February 18 to March 3, only seven were torpedoed by hostile submarines.

## KATHERINE PAGE TO MARRY.

C. P. Loring, Architect, Fiance Of Ambassador's Daughter.

London.—The engagement of Miss Katherine Page, daughter of American Ambassador Walter Hines Page, to Charles P. Loring, an architect of Boston, was formally announced here.

The largest order of merit in the world is the French Legion of Honor, which has more than half a million members.