

SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN MEANS LIFE TO NATION, GERMANY INFORMS U. S.

Admiral Behneke, in Official Statement to American Attache, Declares England Must Be Starved to Save Fatherland.

Orders Issued to Naval Officers to Safeguard Neutrals. Blockade Will Be Dropped if Britain Consents to Free Transit of Food Supplies.

BERLIN, Feb. 17.—Admiral Behneke, of the Marine Department, has made a statement to Lieut. Commander Walter R. Oberdurf, Naval Attache of the American Embassy at Berlin, which is given out officially as the best exposition of the situation with respect to Germany's declaration regarding the waters around the British Isles as a war zone.

"Up to the present time Germany, in the war at sea, has followed the London declaration and the stipulations of the Paris treaty, on which the conduct of war on the sea had been based before the London declaration was issued.

"Since the shutting off of food supplies had come to a point where Germany had no longer sufficient food to feed her people, it became necessary for her to turn to England to terms by the exercise of force.

"Germany knows that by the use of the submarine England can be placed in a position where food will be lacking.

"The difficulties lying in the way of this campaign have been largely connected with the care which it is desired to give to neutral ships, and to the lives of those on board all commercial ships, whether neutral or belonging to the enemy.

"First, in arming her merchant ships with guns for self-defense, England adopted a policy against which Germany strongly protested. The United States took the British point of view. It is not possible for submarines to approach British merchant ships and make examinations without exposing themselves to gunfire.

"Second, England has advised her merchant fleet to fly neutral flags, to cover up names and change stamps, to cover up the consequences of their nationality.

"Germany does not wish in the slightest degree to harm American or other neutral ships, or their cargoes, unless carrying contraband of war. She is, however, in a position where her life depends upon her putting into effect the only means she has of saving herself. She must and will use this means.

"Safeguards for neutrals. Commanding officers of submarine boats have been given orders to make every effort to safeguard neutrals. In spite of the precautions which submarines could take—without the danger of being destroyed themselves—the possibility was noted that neutral ships might, through error or accident, be destroyed. For this reason a strong warning was issued.

"In addition, the English coast was mined by the British themselves for protective reasons, and would be mined by the Germans as an act of offensive warfare. Ships therefore were in danger from mines.

"In spite of the great effect the Admiralty Staff feels the use of the submarine will have in bringing the war to a rapid close, the Admiralty does not wish to put it into effect, to the detriment of neutral commerce and the rights of nations of the high seas.

"Therefore it is stated that if Great Britain will abide by the Declaration of London, without modifications, or by the Treaty of Paris, whereby food supplies necessary for the civil population can be brought through the sea, Germany, the whole master of a submarine blockade will be dropped by Germany.

"This proposal has been transmitted through diplomatic channels. If accepted, the matter will be no longer one provocative of trouble between the United States and Germany."

Admiral Behneke then said that Germany prepared to suggest to the United States an even freer and safer method of passage for American ships bound either through the channel or to English ports—namely, that several American warships should wait in some port on the southwest coast of Ireland, and, when communicated with by wireless by an American merchantman, one of them should proceed to the place indicated and convey the merchantman through that portion of the sea which Germany, following the example of Great Britain, has declared to be dangerous.

"Of course," said the Admiral, "ships under convoy, by the rules of international law, are not subject to search, but it is honor, as it were, to say that they do not carry contraband of war."

LITTLE MAY BE JAIL WARDEN Secretary of Society for Organizing Charity Won't Confirm Report.

R. M. Little, secretary of the Society for Organizing Charity, will sacrifice his present position, which pays \$2000 a year, to accept a post as warden of the Federal Penitentiary, where he believes he will be able to accomplish more good, according to dispatches from Atlanta today; but Mr. Little has not confirmed the report.

Warden William H. Moyer, who has been in charge of the Government prison, has been removed. Charles W. Moore, Julian Hawthorne and others who have been confined in the Southern institution made charges of cruelty against the former warden.

SUNDAY'S ASSOCIATES HOLD DISTRICT PRAYER MEETINGS Sunday campaign activities began at 10 o'clock this morning, when 23 district prayer meetings, conducted by members and associates of the Sunday party, were held in churches throughout the city.

At 11 o'clock Miss Miller and Miss Kinney opened their business women's lunch rooms in the Chambers-Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church, respectively, and made addresses at intervals in the auditoriums of the churches.

At noon factory meetings were conducted by Billy Sunday co-workers as follows: Mr. Hamilton, Factum and Company, 317 North Broad street; Mr. Rose, Spring Garden Street Y. M. C. A.; Mr. Behrens, Western Electric Company, 11th and Chestnut streets; "Jack" Cardiff, E. A. Wright Bank Note Company, Broad and Huntingdon streets; Mr. Rodeheaver, Quaker Lace Company, 22d and Lehigh avenue; Mr. Stover, J. T. Pugh Company, 31st and Locust streets; Mrs. Asher, Smaltz-Goodwin Company, 12th and Carpenter streets; Miss Fetterolf, Brownhill and Kramer Company, Memorial street and Columbia avenue; Mr. Brown, Port Richmond Y. M. C. A.; Mr. Wright, car barn, 4th and Thompson streets. At 2 o'clock Mr. Getty conducted a meeting at the car barn at 5th and Locust streets.

Miss Fetterolf conducted a meeting for girls of the William Penn High School in the Trinity Methodist Church, 11th and Mount Vernon streets, at 2:30 o'clock. Mr. Rodeheaver conducted a similar meeting for boys of the Southern Manual Training School in St. Luke's Church, Broad and Jackson streets, at 3 o'clock.

Miss Gamlin conducted a boys' and girls' mass-meeting in the Grace Reformed Church, 11th and Huntingdon streets, at 3:45 o'clock. Miss Saxe held a B. I. U. Church Company, 31st and Locust streets, at 4 o'clock. Mrs. Asher will deliver an address at 7 o'clock this evening.

The activities of the day will be brought to a close by a parents' mass-meeting, which will be conducted by Miss Gamlin in the Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church, 14th street below Oxford, at 8 o'clock this evening.

FEW AT "GRETTA GREEN" Only Five Couples Granted Marriage Licenses at Elkton Today.

ELKTON, Md., Feb. 17.—Only five couples were granted marriage licenses here today.

Those who applied were David A. Duffield and Georganna Hetrick, Joseph L. Kelly and Katherine A. Kane and Charles Reinhardt and Louisa Lutz, all of Philadelphia; Orville D. Hendrickson and Ethel M. Faux, of Rising Sun, Md.; and Charles A. Boone and Lena E. Beard, of Reading, Pa.

Chas. P. O'Connor Proud Father Congratulations are being bestowed today on Charles P. O'Connor, assistant clerk of Select Council, whose home at 8th and Pine streets was visited by the stork early this morning. A baby, weighing 10 pounds was left. O'Connor is the first employe attached to the clerical department of Select Council to become a father.

MAJOR MITCHELL'S VIEW NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Mayor Mitchell laughed when he heard that the Rev. James Y. Chalmers had described him at a preacher's meeting as a "backboneless creature, who stays up until 3 o'clock in the morning dancing the tango."

"Yes," the Mayor confessed, "I dance now and then, and if some of those who criticize me for doing so would dance to their dispositions might be improved."

As to the complaints of the clergymen that the excise law is not enforced, the Mayor said:

"These gentlemen are well intentioned and well meaning, all of them. They really believe that all evil flows from drink and that if the consumption of liquor could be stopped all human evil would cease—that we would have the millennium. I do not agree with them."

"They believe that the chief business of the police is to enforce the liquor laws. The chief business of the police is, instead, to put down crimes of violence and preserve the peace. After that comes the enforcement of the summary laws."

EPIDEMIC IN PIOTROKOW Germans Reported Evacuating South Poland Railway Centre.

PIOTROKOW, Feb. 17.—German troops are reported to be evacuating the town of Piotrokov, an important railway centre of southwestern Poland, because of an outbreak of disease there.

It is stated that the outbreak has become an epidemic and that the German troops are being decimated.

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