

BERLIN TO ADMIT LUSITANIA SINKING "UNJUSTIFIABLE"

Controversy Will Be Formally Closed When Note Is Sent by Germany

PRESIDENT IS SATISFIED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Berlin today will receive by cable America's provisional acceptance of Germany's "last word" on the Lusitania. America's acceptance will be made complete when the German Foreign Office substitutes a formal note for the informal memorandum presented by Ambassador Bernstorff last week.

It is understood that the forthcoming formal note from Berlin will not contain the word "disavowal," but will admit that the deed was unjustifiable. It also contains a phrase which sets forth in effect that belligerents cannot legally order any act, even an act of reprisal, which endangers lives of neutrals, but which does not specifically admit the submarine commander who sank the Lusitania committed an illegal act. It had been Germany's unwavering contention from the first that she could not disavow a specific act of a commander who had been ordered to do that very thing as an act of reprisal against what Germany held to be an illegal act—establishment of a food blockade by England.

PLEDGES FOR CONDUCT. It was this single point about which had centered all the negotiations of the last five months. As to reparation, Germany first considered it sufficient if she agreed to pay indemnity out of friendship. Later there was concession to American demands that reparation be made not as an act of grace but because it was right. Germany gave pledges regarding future conduct of submarine warfare, with only a show of hesitation.

In the matter of reprisals, the United States held they may sometimes be justifiable, but never legal. Germany has agreed to admit that sinking the Lusitania was not justifiable against neutrals, which means that the Lusitania sinking was not justifiable. The United States points out that illegal acts include acts that are not justifiable. Germany's admission that the act was unjustifiable as being admission that the act was illegal.

The informal memorandum which President Wilson yesterday agreed would be acceptable, when made into a formal note, is held to concede practically every demand made by the United States. It is regarded, in effect, as a real disavowal of the sinking of the vessel. And what the President considers even of greater importance, it forms a diplomatic precedent and a basis for international law regarding submarine warfare.

It became known today that the immediate cause for the continued controversy that has lasted exactly nine months to a day was a long cable message from Colonel E. M. House, the President's "envoy extraordinary," abroad.

HOUSE'S REPORT EMPHATIC. While the contents of Colonel House's communication may never be made public, it is understood to have emphasized three conditions he found to exist in Germany. They were:

First, that the Berlin Government, in the instructions it was then forwarding to Ambassador Bernstorff, was making its final concession in the Lusitania negotiations.

Second, that as a result of the feeling against America for its stand in the case there was a growing demand by the Von Tirpitz minority for a return to a policy of unrestrained submarine warfare on all belligerent ships.

Third, that severance of diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Germany would inevitably result in war. The House cablegram actually reached the President while he was in St. Louis. It was in code and was not decoded until President Wilson's return to Washington last Friday afternoon. Coincident with delivery to the President of the House cablegram he was handed a communication from Secretary Lansing said to include reports from Ambassador Gerard regarding the latter's knowledge of Berlin's "last word."

Gerard's reports, it is stated, were pessimistic as to the outcome in the event of the President not accepting Ambassador Bernstorff's instructions as a basis of settlement.

The President is said to have been impressed deeply with Gerard's communication. It was a rebuff to Gerard's gloomy outlook by the House report that decided the President and Secretary Lansing to appoint to the country that the situation was "grave." They were convinced Germany would offer no more.

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RUSSIANS PIERCE TARNOPOL LINE IN GALICIAN DRIVE

Renewed Offensive Admitted by Vienna, Which Claims Foe's Repulse

TEUTONS TRANSFER MEN

BERLIN, Feb. 9.—The Russians are again on the aggressive in Galicia, according to the statement by Austro-Hungarian army headquarters, transmitted here. In an attack on an Austro-Hungarian advance infantry position northwest of Tarnopol the Russians temporarily succeeded in entering the point attacked, according to the statement, but were shortly afterward ejected. "The statement, as issued in Vienna, is as follows: "Favored by clearer weather, there was vigorous artillery activity along the entire northeast front yesterday. Northwest of Tarnopol the Russians last night repeatedly attacked one of our advanced infantry vantage points, which they temporarily succeeded in penetrating but from which they were ejected after a short time." This was only one of repeated attacks on this position, according to the statement, which adds that, favored by clearer weather, the artillery along the whole Russian front has been active.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 9.—In the absence of any definite news developments in Bukovina it is assumed that the deadlock in the region of Czerowiz, where the muddy terrain has made operations on both sides impossible, is still unbroken, and that both armies are making the best of their situation by consolidation, developing to the utmost the defensive possibilities of their positions. Pursuing the same tactics which they have employed since the beginning of the war on this front, the Germans again are rapidly transferring troops from Bukovina to the region of Dvinsk.

BELGIAN KING REJECTS KAISER'S PEACE OFFER

Terms Proposed Through Vatican, Italian Newspaper Reports

ROME, Feb. 9.—Acting through the Vatican, the Kaiser has made offer of a separate peace to Belgium, says the Giornale D'Italia, but it was rejected by King Albert. The agent of the Vatican was M. de Tael, papal nuncio at Brussels. The terms offered by Germany were:

- 1. Restoration of Belgium sovereignty.
2. Recognition of Albert as the lawful monarch.
3. Payment of an indemnity, the amount to be fixed later.
4. Establishment of a commercial treaty giving Belgium rights not enjoyed before the war.
5. Ostend and Antwerp to be transferred to German ports. King Albert, it was declared, indignantly rejected these terms, and announced that he would consider peace until the Allies were victorious and Germany beaten.

ITALIANS SHELL TRAINS CARRYING FOE'S SUPPLIES

Austrian Aviators Bombard Borgo and Castellernovo, Rome Reports

ROME, Feb. 9.—The following official statement was issued by the War Office last night telling of an artillery bombardment along the entire Austrian front:

"In the course of artillery action along the whole front we shelled the main artery of the enemy's communication along the Drava Valley, and enemy trains in the stations of Caldorazzo and of San Pietro in the region of Gorizia. "Enemy aeroplanes dropped bombs on Borgo and Castellernovo, with slight damage."

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BRITISH CRUISER CAPTURES GERMAN RAIDER AT SEA

Continued from Page One. Washington dispatch Saturday night said that the British Embassy had a report that the German raider which took the Appam had been captured. The embassy refused to reveal the source of the report.

GERMAN RAIDERS RIDE ATLANTIC TO PREY ON BRITISH COMMERCE

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The German raider which captured the Appam and sank half a dozen other British ships as it followed the Appam across the Atlantic to American waters, it is believed in maritime circles. Heavily censored cablegrams from London, declaring that "a large passenger steamship had met with a terrific accident in the North Atlantic" and implying that other liners have been captured or sunk in the North Atlantic, were borne out by a statement from N. D. Everth, second officer on the British ship Author. The Author was one of the vessels sunk by the Moeve before the Appam was made a prize.

"In my opinion the Moeve is now lurking in or near the Gulf of Mexico and will be heard from again soon unless caught by British cruisers," declared Everth. "The German wireless operator of the Appam talked with the Moeve every night on the voyage from the Canary Islands to Norfolk. I figure that the Moeve was less than 50 miles away when the Appam hit into Norfolk." "The captain and officers of the Moeve are good seamen, but the crew are not much. They became badly rattled in the fight with the Clan McTavish and fired wildly."

No word has yet been received of the British steamship Orissa, which is now nine days overdue at Liverpool, and fears that she was captured by the German raider are becoming stronger daily. The Orissa may be the "large passenger steamship" which the censored cables refer to as having met with an accident in the North Atlantic. To add to the mystery, cable messages to London correspondents, asking verification of the report from the Orissa's owners, remained unanswered.

She carried probably not more than 40 passengers. It was stated at the company's local offices. "Her passenger list was mailed from Rio de Janeiro, and we have no way of telling whether any American were aboard. Most of her crew were British citizens."

TOWNSHEND TO HOLD FORT BELEAGUERED BY TURKS

Kut-el-Amara Strategic Key of Mesopotamia

LONDON, Feb. 9.—General Townshend's forces at Kut-el-Amara are in no danger of capture, according to dispatches received here today from headquarters of the Indian army. "She is entirely surrounded by the Turks, the British garrison at Kut could cut its way out and join the main force under General Aylmer, 20 miles to the east, with but slight losses, it was stated. Townshend, however, has been ordered to hold the position at Kut-el-Amara. It is of immense strategic value for future offensive operations in Mesopotamia, and if surrendered to the Turks might be so strongly fortified as to hold future British attempts to march on Bagdad.

Traffic Committee Named. A committee of the Traffic Managers' Association was appointed last night to confer with the management of trunk line railroads as to the lifting of embargoes on shipments from this city to New York and points in New England.

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ALLIES PREPARE TO MEET ENEMY IN THE BALKANS

Will Attack Bulgarian Thrace, Is Belief of Athens Strategists

ACTIVITY AT SALONICA

The Allies are feverishly preparing to meet any offensive of the German allies in Greece. In fact the Allies may make the first move in the new Balkan campaign, to forestall a hostile drive upon their Salonica base. Twenty thousand French troops are reported to be on their way to the Gulf of Orphanos to reinforce the Allied army in Greece. A Reuter dispatch from Rome quotes the Corriere Della Sera as saying that Germany is expected to make a warlike move against Rumania, forcing her to a decisive stand by a sudden blow.

The Athens correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs: "It is reported from Bucharest that the German and Bulgarian army commanders intend to request the withdrawal of the neutral Consuls at Monastir, in Bulgarian and Turkish Thrace and in other war zones." "The Allies at Salonica, after intrinsically thorough, are now making reconnoissances."

"The newspaper Ethnos in the course of an article on the position in Macedonia, says: "All signs indicate that the Allies are definitely preparing an offensive. Their attention lately has been turned to the east, and the indications are for a movement toward Bulgarian Thrace, and further disembarkations in the Gulf of Orphanos of fresh French army corps are expected shortly."

"The Allies calculate that there are 120,000 Bulgars on the frontier. It is noteworthy that since two German regiments have re-entrained the Bulgars in the Dobruja-Strumitza sector the Bulgarian desertions across the Greek frontier have ceased."

"There is still no reason for expecting an attack on Salonica. The key of the situation really lies in Vienna and Sofia, where negotiations continue to obtain Bulgarian participation, without which an attack would be impossible. "The German diplomats are doing all they can to conciliate the divergent interests of Austria and Bulgaria, as the Bulgarians will not take part now without the promise of certain territory which Austria has notoriously coveted. "One difficulty is that the compensation Bulgaria demands are not within either Austria's or Germany's power to grant. "Some advance has been made toward such an agreement, but much still remains to be done."

Man Tells Magistrate He Parted With \$5000 in Defendant's Place. Hercules Conday, who said he lived at 106 Walnut street, told Magistrate Beaton at the Central station today that he had parted with \$5000 at different intervals at a gambling establishment which he declared Stephano Babasikas, 33 years old, of Ardmore, conducted in a house on Locust street, above 10th street. The prisoner was held under \$500 bail for a further hearing tomorrow. Conday said the prisoner's place was frequented by different people and he knew one man in particular, he said, who lived at the Majestic Hotel and who recently lost \$2000 at the place. Magistrate Beaton told Conday to have this man present at the further hearing. Conday said there were others who have lost heavily but they were either ashamed or afraid to appear in court.

BRIAND VA A ROMA PER RINSALDARE IL BLOCCO DELL'INTESA

Il Presidente del Consiglio Francesc Spera di Ottenere la Piena Cooperazione Italiana nei Balcani

CANNONI E MUNIZIONI

ROMA, 9 Febbraio. Telegrammi da Parigi dicono che il presidente del Consiglio francese, Aristide Briand, si rechera' in questi giorni a Roma con una missione politica. Egli parte oggi da Parigi ad una conferenza con il presidente del Consiglio italiano, on. Salandra, con il ministro degli Esteri, on. Sonnino, e quindi si rechera' alla frontiera per conferire con il re e con il generale Cadorna. A Parigi si ritiene generalmente che egli ritornera' con le piu' ampie assicurazioni di una piena cooperazione dell'Italia all'offensiva che si prepara per la primavera prossima da Salonico.

I giornali parigini si occupano ampiamente di questa visita di Briand. Il Matin dice che Briand esporra' al governo italiano che se esso dovra' ampliare il fronte della vittoria di tutti gli alleati, quella deve prendere una parte attiva alle operazioni militari da Salonico. "Questo naturalmente aumentera' il peso che l'Italia si e' messa addosso," continua il giornale parigino, "ma aumentera' anche i vantaggi che essa ne ricavera". La riputazione di Briand come uomo di stato e' solida anche a Roma, e la sua visita avra' l'effetto di aumentare la unione politica e militare degli alleati che e' condizione essenziale della vittoria."

Il giornale conclude col dire che una maggiore cooperazione dell'Italia nella guerra le dara' maggiori vantaggi che non quelli a cui essa guardava quando entro in lotta, e cioe' il controllo assoluto dell'Albania. I giornali francesi dicono che, sebbene il partito giolittiano sia tuttora piuttosto forte in Italia, l'opinione pubblica e' favorevole all'idea di fare maggiori sacrifici ora che la conquista della Serbia, del Montenegro e della Macedonia da parte dei suoi nemici richiede che l'Italia getti nella bilancia tutte le sue forze per conservare il dominio dell'Adriatico e guadagnare anche quello della costa orientale. E' certo che a Roma Briand avra' le piu' simpatiche accoglienze, giacche' egli vi e' tenuto in grande stima.

CIO CHE SI ASPETTA. Nei circoli politici parigini si dice che la visita di Briand a Roma ha tre scopi principali, e cioe' quello di stabilire una piu' stretta cooperazione di tutti gli alleati nella guerra contro gli imperi centrali, quella di discutere le condizioni finanziarie dell'Italia, e quella di conferire sulla parte che l'Italia prendera' alla prossima offensiva degli alleati nei Balcani. Si apprende ora che anche il ministro delle munizioni, Albert Thomas, il gen-

The spirit of Great Britain, the efficiency of Germany, the dignity of France, and "the stockyard hordes of armies like the Russian Army"—these are four dramatic facts of the war as seen by Richard Washburn Child, whose article, "ALL FOR RUSSIA," appears this week in



erale Dumoulin e Leone Bourgeois, ricercheranno a Roma. Il fatto che Thomas viene in certi circoli romani come significativo. Si e' detto che ragione dell' "inattività" delle forze italiane nei Balcani e in certa misura anche la scarsa di munizioni. Ora il ministro Thomas si propone di concludere con l'Italia un accordo per cui gli alleati forniranno una enorme quantita' di munizioni non solo ma anche numerose batterie di artiglieria.

Un telegramma da Londra dice che si aspetta che l'Italia dichiarerà tra breve la guerra alla Germania e faccia noti, per quanto e' consentito dalle ragioni militari, i suoi piani per la campagna balcanica. Questo avverrebbe in seguito alla visita di Briand a Roma.

Il comunicato ufficiale emanato dalle autorità serbe a Corfu dice che le forze serbe incontrarono le forze austriache in Albania nelle vicinanze del villaggio di Blama e si ebbe un disperato combattimento. Dapprima gli austriaci ebbero il vantaggio, ma piu' tardi i serbi, essendo stati rinforzati riguadagnarono le loro posizioni e misero in fuga gli austriaci che lasciarono il terreno coperto di cadaveri.

Il Ministero della Guerra pubblicava ieri sera il seguente comunicato ufficiale circa la situazione sulla fronte italo-austriaca: "continuano le azioni di artiglieria. Le nostre batterie hanno bombardato con successo la principale via di comunicazione lungo la valle della Drava (7) ed alcuni treni nemici nelle stazioni di Caldorazzo e di San Pietro, nella zona di Gorizia."

"Aviatori nemici hanno lasciato cadere bombe su Borgo e Castel Telvana, in Val Sugana, facendo pero' lievi danni."

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