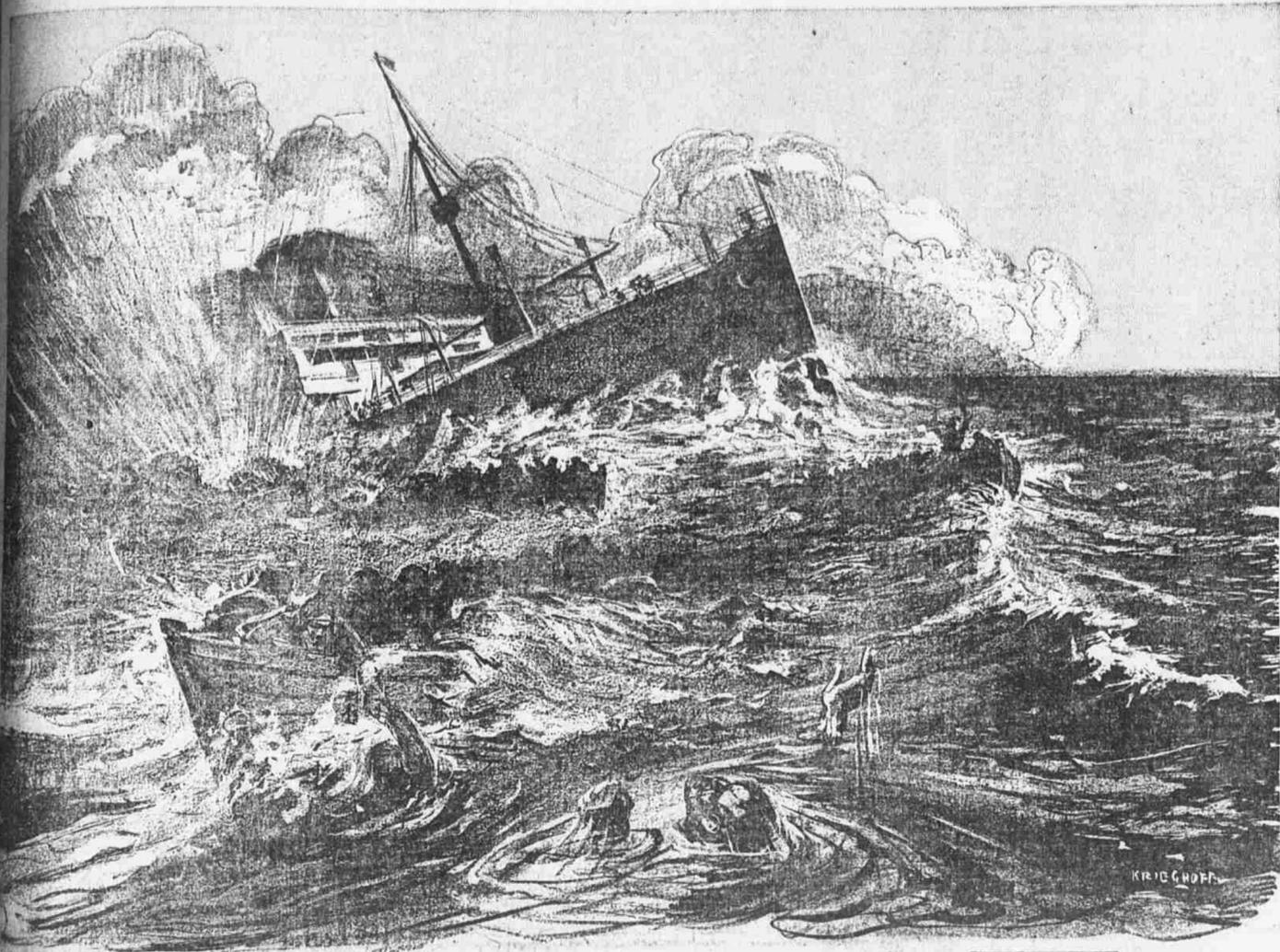




# LINER PROVENCE SUNK; 1000 DIE



## QUICK NEWS

### GIRL, POISON-STAINED, FOUND IN ALLEY

An unidentified girl, about 20 years old, was found unconscious in an alley opening off Oregon avenue west of 15th street and Snyder avenue station. Iodine stains were found on the girl's hands by physicians at the Methodist Hospital, where she was taken. Police believe the girl attempted suicide.

### BRYAN REFUSES TO DEBATE PREPAREDNESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Ex-Secretary Bryan will not debate preparedness with Representative Gardner. The Economic League tried to arrange the debate and Gardner was willing.

### APPAM DECISION MAY BE ISSUED TODAY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The State Department today announced that its decision as to the status of the British liner Appam, which sailed across the Atlantic and took refuge in Norfolk with a German prize crew aboard, will be officially communicated to the German Embassy here late today or tomorrow. While there was no intimation of what the decision will be, it is confidently expected in official circles that the United States will decide that the Prussian treaty of 1828 covers the case. The treaty provides that the two countries may bring prizes into each other's ports exempt from all civil proceedings. If so decided, it is probable that the libel now pending in the Federal court at Norfolk, filed by the British owners, will be dismissed.

### COURT DEFERS SENTENCE ON DI BERARDINO

Sentence was deferred today by Judge Henry in Quarter Sessions Court on Luigi di Berardino, who was convicted of wantonly pointing a deadly weapon, carrying concealed deadly weapons, and aggravated assault with attempt to shoot Public Service Commissioner John Monaghan. Berardino was indicted last week on the three charges. His defense was that he had no intention of firing the revolver, which he drew about two weeks ago and pointed at Mr. Monaghan in a restaurant, and that he only did it to frighten the latter.

### KNIGHT TELLS IRRITATING AMERICAN POLICIES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Admiral Knight, president of the naval war college, before the House Naval Affairs Committee today declared that the Monroe Doctrine was the big thorn in the side of other world powers which probably will drag the United States into war. Pressed by Representative Calloway, of Texas, the Admiral declared that the United States was now supporting more policies that were irritating to foreign nations than any other world power. Among them he enumerated the open door in China, possession of the Panama canal, and Asiatic exclusion, in addition to the Monroe Doctrine.

### COL. A. B. STEWART LEAVES PENITENTIARY

Colonel A. B. Stewart, Chicago lawyer and former Attorney General of Porto Rico, completed his term in the Eastern Penitentiary today, where he was sent for participation in the \$5,000,000 International Lumber and Development Company swindle. Colonel Stewart was sentenced to a year and day and a \$1000 fine. He made an affidavit that he was not able to pay the \$1000 fine and then served 30 more days for nonpayment. Colonel Stewart said today, while waiting in the Federal Building for the arrival of Commissioner Edmunds, that he would return to his home in Chicago where he would "start all over again."

### SHIPYARD FIRE MENACES U. S. BATTLESHIP NEVADA

QUINCY, Mass., Feb. 29.—A blaze which started in an outbuilding at the dock of the Fore River Shipbuilding yard today set fire to an oil tank and sent the flames shooting in the direction of the battleship Nevada anchored close by. The crew of the Nevada manned themselves and fought the fire from all sides. The Nevada was scorched on the side and much of the paint was burned off.

### COMMITTEE TO URGE ARMY AERO CORPS INCREASE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Senate Military Affairs Committee will recommend extensive enlargement of the army aviation corps, both in personnel and equipment, without waiting for determination of responsibility for the present inefficiency of the corps. Whether, as Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, charges, the responsibility for the condition of the corps rests upon Colonel Reber, its chief, is of secondary importance to the necessity for immediate improvement, committee members today declared.

### DYEING AND PAPER PLANTS BURNED

About \$40,000 damage was done by two fires which early today destroyed a dyeing establishment in Northeast Philadelphia and the warehouse of the Penn Paper and Stock Company at 410 North Marshall street. The dyeing plant was the property of James Kerr and was situated at 1410-12-14 East Oxford street. Dyestuffs valued at \$12,000 were damaged and the blaze also destroyed the greater part of about \$15,000 worth of silk yarns. The Pilgrim Congregational Church is in the rear of the building and the pastor, the Rev. Harry W. Myers, and Mrs. Myers began to save the church furnishings when the fire was discovered. The blaze in the plant of the Penn Paper and Stock Company caused between \$7000 and \$12,000 damage, it is said. It drove several families from their homes.

### LEHIGH VALLEY ORDERS 20 LOCOMOTIVES

The Lehigh Valley Railroad announced the purchase of 20 more Mikado freight 15 switch engines have been ordered by the company. The 20 just ordered will be built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

### SMITH SIGNS \$280,000 FRANKFORD "L" CONTRACT

Mayor Smith today signed the contract for the erection of that part of the superstructure of the Frankford Elevated line, on Frankford avenue between Unity and Dye streets which has been awarded to the American Bridge Company for \$280,000. Work on the line will be started in a few days. Some of the materials include 10,000 pounds of riveted steel girders, 10,000 pounds rolled beams, 10,000 pounds steel columns, 10,000 pounds steel rods and 10,000 pounds iron columns.

### EARTHQUAKES ROCK SECTION ABOUT QUEBEC

QUEBEC, Que., Feb. 29.—Three earthquake shocks were felt in this vicinity this morning. The undulations were felt for a mile along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In the vicinity of St. Saviour glassware was broken and chimneys cracked.

### 1,000,000 MEN MAKING MUNITIONS FOR BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 29.—From a high source it has been learned that official badges as munition workers have been issued to 1,000,000 persons, including 150,000 Admiralty workers. This, however, does not include the enormous numbers of women employed in munition factories. Also it takes in only a slight percentage of the unskilled laborers who had some special qualification. As the best authorities here estimate that Germany is employing only 750,000 munition workers of all grades and classes, the report furnishes a tangible reason for British optimism.

### ITALY MAY DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY THIS WEEK

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Great interest is being displayed here in the possibility of a declaration of war on Germany by Italy when the Italian Parliament opens. At the date of adjournment in December it was stated that Parliament would be convened March 1. According to Rome dispatches, the Italian Government has not yet decided whether it will yield to the popular demand for a war with Germany. The Italian newspapers assert that the Italian Cabinet council yesterday voted to make a declaration on the subject in Parliament only if the Government was pressed to do so.

### THE WEATHER

FORECAST  
For Philadelphia and vicinity—Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday, with lowest temperature tonight about 25 degrees; gentle variable winds.

### LOST AND FOUND

BOOK—Lost, a book of Jno. Schwanke, 1000 Locust St., Philadelphia. Finder please return to Schwanke, 1000 Locust St., Philadelphia.  
BULL TERRIER—Lost, a white bull terrier, same name, with slight mark on back. Finder in possession of Schwanke, 1000 Locust St., Philadelphia.  
Other Classified Ads on Pages 16, 18 and 19

## GERMANS PIERCE NEW FRENCH LINES SOUTHEAST OF VERDUN; CHECKED NORTH OF FORTRESS

### Crown Prince Delivers Smashing Attacks Along Railway From Eix to Fresnes—Captures Manheulles and Champton

Suddenly shifting their attack, the Germans have launched a heavy drive on Verdun from the eastward, aiming to squeeze the French out of Verdun by a threat of envelopment. The German War Office this afternoon announced the capture of the villages of Manheulles and Champton, 11 miles southeast of Verdun, and the advance of the whole German front, northeast, east and southeast of Verdun, and the capture of about 17,000 French prisoners. The Germans also have cleared a large forest district northeast of Warville and Haumont of French troops. The French War Office, reporting a visible slackening of the Crown Prince's onslaughts north of Verdun, admitted the loss of Manheulles and confirmed Berlin reports of heavy fighting in the Woivre region east of Verdun. At the same time the Germans continue their Champagne offensive. The French War Office admits that French first-line trenches have been penetrated at several points. From Dutch sources came reports today that 45,000 Germans were killed in the frontal attacks upon Verdun fortress and estimates that the Germans have lost at least 160,000 in killed, wounded and missing since the smash began. The German official statement for the first time revealed this afternoon the extent of the German operations on a 15-mile front east of the fortress. "In the Woivre region," it was stated, "the Germans have passed Dieppe (eight miles northeast of Verdun), Abcourt (nine miles east northeast of Verdun), Blanzee (eight miles east of Verdun) and have captured Manheulles and Champton (near Fresnes and about 11 miles southeast of Verdun)." The capture in this region of 16,575 men and 228 officers, 68 cannon and 86 machine guns, was also reported by Berlin. "East of the Meuse they captured a small armored work northwest of Fort Douaumont.

BERLIN, Feb. 29.—German headquarters today announced the capture of two more fortified French villages on Verdun's southeastern front. In the great operations that have for their objective the surrounding of the mighty French fortress on the Meuse, German troops have taken Manheulles and Champton. The total of prisoners captured by the Germans in their campaign against Verdun has been increased to 328 officers and 16,575 men. Manheulles lies on the Woivre plain about seven miles southeast of Verdun and approximately three miles northwest of Fresnes. Champton is also in the Woivre district (the region between the Meuse and Moselle Rivers) and about 30 miles southwest of Manheulles and a little more than a mile from Fresnes. The official headquarters report follows: "The most serious fighting continued at several points. East of the Meuse we effected a small armored work. Northwest of Douaumont repeated attacks made by the enemy were stopped at the outset. In the Woivre we passed Dieppe. Also

## ELECTRIC LIGHT COST IS 18 1-3 TO 33 PER CENT. HIGH

—F. W. BALLARD, Expert

Witness Declares Cuts Could Be Made in Arc and Residence Service

SEES PADDED APPRAISAL

How Expert Would Fix City Electric Rates

For electric lighting in residences, 5 and 6 cents per kilowatt hour, instead of 10 and 12 cents, a cut of 50 per cent. Urges an 18 1-3 per cent. reduction for municipal arc lighting. Declares Philadelphia Electric property is worth \$23,500,000, instead of \$51,500,000, as appraised by company. On this basis company's earnings in 1914 were nearly \$2,000,000 above a fair rate of return on its investment. Company would not lose by establishing lower rates, as increase of consumers would in less than two years offset the initial disadvantage. Frederick W. Ballard, expert for the complainants, submitted estimates before the Public Service Commission, today, at the hearing of the complaints against the prices and service of the Philadelphia Electric Company, to show that the company could reduce its charges for municipal arc lighting by 18 1-3 per cent and for residence lighting and commercial lighting and power by 33 per cent, and still earn 7 per cent on its investment. But, said the expert, that was only one way of considering how better rates might be established. He would suggest, he said, what he called another and better method, and by that the rates for residence lighting and commercial lighting would be decreased by 50 per cent, so that the householder, instead of paying 10 and 12 cents per kilowatt hour, would pay only 5 and 6 cents. In an interview after the hearing, Mr. Ballard said he was confident that he could run the Philadelphia Electric Company.

Continued on Page Six, Column One

### "Frightfulness"

Just how accurately that word describes the German military policy is shown in the first of a number of articles contributed

BY ELLEN ADAIR the well-known woman writer, who is now in England. This story will appear in the

EVENING LEDGER TOMORROW

It deals with the fearful havoc wrought over the peaceful English countryside by

## FRENCH SEA FLIER, USED AS CRUISER, MAY HAVE BEEN GERMAN SUBMARINE VICTIM

### Believed War Craft Converted From Palatial Transatlantic Ship Carried Troops—Goes to Bottom of Mediterranean

PARIS, Feb. 29.—It was rumored late this afternoon that the liner Provence was attacked by two submarines.

PARIS, Feb. 29. More than 1000 lives are believed to have been lost in the sinking of the French auxiliary cruiser La Provence, formerly in service as a transatlantic liner, in the middle Mediterranean on Saturday. Eighteen hundred persons were aboard the cruiser, an official statement from the Ministry of Marine stated. Of this number, 296 of the crew have been landed at Malta and others on the Greek Island of Melos. A later official statement from the Admiralty put the total number probably saved at 870, making the number missing about 1000. Ten boats are now at the scene of the disaster continuing the search for other survivors, the Ministry of Marine announced. In all probability the Provence was carrying troops either from or to Salonica. The islands of Malta and Melos, where survivors were landed, are 600 miles apart. Melos lies off the southeast coast of Greece. It is probable the Provence was sunk somewhere between the Greek west coast and Island of Malta. Dispatches from Paris, transmitted through Paris direct and also other dispatches, transmitted through London, did not state whether the Provence was sunk by a submarine, by a mine or was the victim of an accident. Submarines are known to have been operating in the mid-Mediterranean for some time, the British steamship Fastnet and a Swedish steamship having been torpedoed in those waters within the last few days. Recently the British censor has eliminated all references to submarine attacks, allowing messages stating that a steamship has been torpedoed to read only "was sunk." The French censor, however, has permitted correspondents to cable the fact that ships have been submarined. French patrol boats were sent to the scene with a number of destroyers when the Provence flashed word that it was sinking. As fast as the rescue boats were filled with survivors they hurried away to Melos or Malta. By Sunday morning 485 survivors had reached Melos and on Monday 85 more arrived on a patrol boat that had been delayed.

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. The auxiliary cruiser Provence sunk is believed to be the palatial French liner of that name, formerly in transatlantic service. The liner Provence is now in the Admiralty service, it was stated at the French Transatlantic offices here today. It was said, however, the Government would not notify them in case the ship was lost. The Provence was of 18,000 tons and about 600 feet long. There is a French battleship of the same name, but it is obvious this is not the vessel referred to as having been lost. The fact that there were 1800 persons aboard the lost ship strengthens the belief that it was the former transatlantic liner. The Provence has been famous for 10 years as the fastest French ship afloat. It was built in 1906 at St. Nazaire, France. The ship was built for speed and before the war was one of the vessels best liked by Americans traveling to and from Europe. It had a capacity for 1604 passengers and when plying the Atlantic carried a crew of 435 men. As the Provence was not a passenger liner or an armed merchantman, its sinking, even if due to U-boat attack, would not add a further complication to the international crisis.