

GERMAN DESTROYERS BEATEN OFF BELGIUM

British Warships Force Enemy to Flee Back to Port, London Announces

LONDON, May 17.—A naval engagement took place off the coast of Belgium on Tuesday.

DISCOUNT SPY THEORY IN AUSTRIAN'S DEATH

Continued from Page One

Debrezenci's employers said today they placed no belief whatever in the report that he was a spy.

Debrezenci, who was 28 years old, was accompanied by Adolph Heidemann, employed in the office of the main factory of Schutte & Koerting, at 12th and Thompson streets, this city, when he took his fatal canoeing trip.

It was leaving the house the young Hungarian turned to the Simons family group and said:

"If I don't come back be sure and search for me."

About 3 o'clock that night Samuel Schutte and Joseph D. Rice, members of a fishing club, heard cries that came from the water.

They rushed over and found an upturned canoe with Heidemann struggling near it. Rice rushed over and grappled with Heidemann, who is over six feet tall and weighs 225 pounds.

There Heidemann told of the death of his friend. He said that Debrezenci had sunk to the bottom like a stone without once coming to the surface.

Deputy Coroner Rue was called to Cornwells from his home in Bristol, five miles distant. He examined Heidemann briefly, and the man returned to this city the following day.

Rice and Schubert dragged the Delaware River for the body and recovered it shortly before midnight Saturday. It was turned over to the Deputy Coroner, who had it removed to Bristol.

According to statements made yesterday by Mr. Simons and his daughter Adelaide, the young Hungarian told them that he had been arrested by Government agents in Charleston, S. C. All of his letters were written in either German or Hungarian.

Deputy Coroner Rue had some translated, and four were signed "Ritter."

These letters, bearing official seals, refer to the mobilization of Austrian army troops. It was said in Bristol that Government agents had said that the "Ritter" referred to was F. W. Ritter, who was arrested in Cleveland following the Lusitania cases.

The effects of Debrezenci consisted of a trunk and a large Gladstone bag containing clothes, a box and a large envelope containing papers and letters in German and Hungarian, a camera, \$10 in currency, \$140 in postal savings bank notes, a diamond stickpin and an iron ring.

The Simons family was astounded to hear that Debrezenci should have drowned so easily. They said he told them that he often swam the Danube in his native country. He was short in stature, but well built.

The Simons family also was astounded to learn that Heidemann had told the Coroner that he did not know Debrezenci well and did not know his first name.

FEDERAL AGENTS INVESTIGATE

It was reported unreservedly in Cornwells last night that for months Federal agents had visited that place and made many inquiries concerning the Schutte & Koerting plant, which is described as a branch establishment, used mostly for the testing of water condensers for ships, which the firm manufactures.

SIX ELIGIBLE FOR JOB

Civil Service Board Publishes Bureau of Surveys List

Six names appear on an eligible list made public today by the Civil Service Commission for the position of engineer inspector, Bureau of Surveys.

John H. Hamilton, 420 Somerville avenue. Clyde V. Jackson, 5221 Greene street. Harry M. Land, 412 East Wildy street. Edward H. Fox, 1122 Filmore street. Arthur H. Haig, 56 Harvey street. Edward N. Butler, 163 West Seymour street.

GLI ITALIANI OBBLIGATI AD ARRETRARE DALLE LORO LINEE AVANZATE

Violenti Attacchi del Nemico nella Valle dell'Adige Sino all'Altopiano di Folgaria ed all'Astico

ROMA, 17 Maggio.

AEROPLANI ABBATTUTI

Il Ministero della Guerra pubblica la sera il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna:

Sulla fronte del Trentino il nemico, dopo un'intensa bombardamento del 14 corrente, operò un attacco a massa della fanteria contro parti della nostra fronte di battaglia tra la valle dell'Adige e l'alta valle dell'Astico.

La prima resistenza, durante la quale noi indugiammo al nemico perdite gravissime, le nostre truppe che occupavano le posizioni avanzate si attrinsero sulla linea principale di difesa.

Sul rimanente della fronte fino al mare le azioni di artiglieria e gli attacchi della fanteria nemiche ebbero il carattere di diversioni. Di tale natura furono infatti i combattimenti che si ebbero nella Val Sugana, tra il Monte Collo e Sant'Anna, nell'alta valle del Seebach, sulle alture a nord-ovest di Gorizia e sulle pendici settentrionali del Monte San Michele.

Dappertutto il nemico fu prontamente respinto. Più disperate furono invece le azioni svoltesi nella zona di Monfalcone dove, dopo varia fortuna, il nemico fu costretto a ritirarsi.

Una squadriglia di nostri Caproni bombardò all'alba in stazione ferroviaria di Volcjadraga, che dista 8 chilometri da quella di Gorizia, e gli accompagnamenti nemici limitati a Lovbivio e Sorgeti, sul Carso. I nostri aviatori lasciarono cadere cinquanta bombe con pieno successo.

La nostra squadriglia, sebbene attaccata da numerose batterie e da numerosi velivoli austriaci, riuscì a ritornare alla sua base senza danni dopo avere abbattuto due aeroplani nemici nelle linee austriache in vicinanza di Gorizia.

IL METODO TEDESCO

Nella loro controffensiva, che ora è in corso su gran parte della fronte italiana, gli austriaci hanno adottato il metodo tedesco. Gli attacchi delle fanterie sono preceduti da intensissimi bombardamenti contro le posizioni italiane, con cui gli austriaci cercano di rendere le truppe e le altre opere di difesa prima di lanciare la fanteria all'attacco.

Gli aviatori austriaci sono attivissimi lungo tutta la fronte e incursioni si sono avute al di qua delle linee di battaglia. Il nemico ha cercato di distruggere o danneggiare le comunicazioni ferroviarie e gli accantonamenti allo scopo di impedire il movimento delle truppe, ma questi tentativi non hanno avuto successo e ne hanno avuto soltanto in minima parte.

Intanto cannoni di grosso calibro, che gli austriaci hanno messo in posizione sull'altopiano di Lavaronne, bombardano le posizioni italiane dell'altopiano di Asiago, a dodici miglia di distanza.

Nella zona di Gorizia gli austriaci hanno operato una serie di violenti attacchi nel settore di Monfalcone, ma hanno sofferto gravi perdite.

L'eccellente organizzazione del servizio aereo italiano ha dato al generale Cadorna fosse pienamente informato circa i movimenti delle forze austriache, in modo che egli potesse ammassare truppe su quei punti dove si sarebbe sferrato l'attacco austriaco.

Molte colonne d'attacco austriache furono percosse sotto i fuochi combinati delle artiglierie italiane e delle mitragliatrici e soffersero perdite gravissime, forse le più gravi mai sofferte sulla fronte italiana. In alcuni punti le forze austriache riuscirono ad occupare alcune posizioni avanzate che gli italiani avevano abbandonato di già per evitare inutili perdite, essendo troppo esposte al fuoco delle artiglierie nemiche.

Nel loro raid su Venezia gli aviatori austriaci sono appena riusciti a danneggiare e non gravemente una casa, mentre a Mestre uccisero due borghesi.

Il governo ha emanato un decreto col quale sono proibite le esportazioni di oggetti di lusso e di oggetti di grande volume, come mobili, ecc., e ciò allo scopo di fare maggior posto sui prosciotti agli articoli di importazione governativa ed ai viveri.

Il governo ha ora allo studio progetti intesi a regolare il prezzo dei viveri, a dare maggiore impiego alla mano d'opera femminile, ed altri provvedimenti economici che si impongono come risultato della guerra.

Si apprende che alcuni aviatori austriaci hanno tentato di bombardare un treno nel quale viaggiava la regina Elena, ma il tentativo è fallito grazie alla sorveglianza degli aviatori italiani, i quali contrattaccarono il nemico prima che potesse atterrare sopra il treno, e lo misero in fuga.

Il comunicato ufficiale austriaco annuncia che gli austriaci hanno sfondato le linee avanzate italiane sul Monte Armatoro, che è nella Val Sugana, a sud-est delle opere di Panarotta; sull'altopiano di Folgaria ed a sud di Rovereto.

NEWSPAPERS APPROVE LOAN BILL'S PASSAGE

Editorials Hail Vote for Improvements as Forward Step, Taylor Complimented

Philadelphia newspapers, as a unit, commend the action of the citizens in voting overwhelmingly for the loan bills.

The Inquirer, in an editorial, says that the citizens have placed Philadelphia on the "Highway of Progress." It regrets the factional differences that threatened for a time to become serious obstacles to the further development of civic necessities.

The opposition, it says, "was in a measure entirely honest, arising from a fear of increased taxation. Sons of it," it continues, "was based on a feeling of disgust because of the political methods resorted to by the Mayor. The factional split over the loans was distressing, and the Mayor cannot escape responsibility for bringing it about. He should have known no politics in office and kept his skirts clean of all suspicion of factionalism. Then, indeed, would a united citizenship have stood sturdily behind the problems of development and brooked no delay."

"But the contest is over and progress has won. Since it has won, let no man stand in its way."

Another editorial in the same issue adds "to the mountain of congratulations" that will be heaped this morning on former Transit Director Taylor.

The Press, commenting on the triumph of the loan bills, says:

"Its approval by a vote of the people is a cause for general rejoicing. It means a new and greater Philadelphia, a city more attractive and satisfying to live in, capable of handling easily and cheaply a larger commerce and a greater trade. It means real rapid transit and a large and rapid development of the city north and south."

"Its approval," it continues, "is a tribute to the intelligence of the voters who could not be persuaded to do their city a great harm by defeating the loan merely to gratify the factional animosity of some political leaders or to please those whose personal interests happened in the case to be opposed to the best good of the city."

The Bulletin, after voicing the opinion that "the adoption of the loan bills is a matter of satisfaction to citizens who believe that these measures as a whole are

TRANSIT AND GENERAL LOAN SWEEP CITY

Continued from Page One

against either loan. They defeated it in only four out of the 48 wards, and it was the worst defeat they have ever suffered.

McNichol was able to return a majority of only 1009 against it in his own ward. Seger, who usually piles up big majorities against loans he opposes, also was able to get only 1599 majority against them. Harry Trainer, whose ward usually gives 2000 majority against anything Trainer opposes, gave only 701 against the loans. Penrose's own ward, the 8th, also went against it, but it was with a much smaller majority than usual. They could not stop the transit loan, especially, because the people wanted it."

GAFFNEY TELLS OF PLANS

Chairman Joseph P. Gaffney, of Council Finance Committee, said:

"The passage of the loan bills by the people is nothing more than an indication of their will to increase the city's indebtedness. We must now pass the bills first in Common Council and then at a separate meeting of Select Council. It is not probable that the official returns will be in before May 18, which is the date of the next meeting of Common Council. Therefore, we will have to wait until June 1 to introduce the bills into Common Council. Following their introduction into Common Council they must be advertised for four weeks, making it possible to pass them in Common Council the first week in July. A week must elapse before they are taken to Select, therefore it will be the second week in July before the bills can be ratified by both branches. It will not be before August 1 that the money is available. However, we are going to stick at it until everything is

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than the \$3,000,000 set aside from the \$6,000,000 loan of a year ago to complete the work on the Frankford elevated line. Out of the new loan the sum of \$4,400,000 is to complete this line.

SCHOOL GIRLS GIVE BENEFIT VAUDEVILLE SHOW TONIGHT

West Philadelphians to Raise Fund for Bryn Mawr Scholarship

All of the latest topics and follies of the day will figure in the vaudeville and dance which will be given tonight by the students of the West Philadelphia High School for Girls, at the Philomusian Club, 40th and Walnut streets.

The affair is staged under the direction of Miss Marie Nofor and a committee composed of Mrs. Parke Schoch, Miss Helen Dorroth, Miss Margaret Adams and Miss Josephine Garber.

The participants will include the following: Miss Marie Nofor, proprietress; Doris Bell, Gertrude Blackburn, Dorotha Bowers, Ruth Cameron, Miriam Crawford, Margaret Dillon, Josephine Garber, Dorothy Gibb, Hattie Jones, Elizabeth Hoy, Isabel Jacobs, Edna Jones, Ethel Jones, Mary Kimball, Edna Nofor, Marie Nofor, Katherine O'Boyle, Katherine Osmond, Dorothy Oviatt, Elsie Pitsch, Katherine Rambo, Beatrice Ramson, Kathleen Smythe, Charlotte Thompson, Elizabeth Vandever, Gertrude Voshage and Florence Young.

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Who Tried to End Life Dies

Man, 28 years old, of 424 West 10th street, who shot himself in the head while on the banks of Concoquee River, near the bridge, Monday night, after having been under the impression that his wife had died yesterday.