PORT RICHMOND WATER FRONT THREATENED BY \$30,000 FIRE



Millions of dollars' worth of munitions stored for shipment on piers of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company were menaced by fire that destroyed three buildings at the foot of Somerset street last night.

## **BRITAIN CURBS** SUBMARININGS, **OPINION IN U.S.**

Believed That Drastic Measures Will Block Rathless War

FALSE CALM IS FEARED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 -Back of the mathematical Lloyd's reports on ship detruction in Germany's U-boat campaign probably lies a dramatic story of British ounter-measures, inasmuch as the tonnage eported wrecked now seems dwindling.

While the falling off in the last two days my be only temporary, some authorities here see in it the possibility that Germany's of frightfulness in the barred areas is be short-lived.

As the story went in British circles today England prepared for Germany's submarine rive some time in advance. She set out w patrols and she took steps to see that ers were armed. And armed ships are fear of the shell-like undersea boats. Perhaps, it is suggested, England already s established guarded lanes of grav ers within the barred area, and, morever, it is believed by naval authorities. rmany already has lost many of her brarines-though on this point the British Admiralty will tell no tales.

Some of Germany's undersea craft have doubtedly put back to their hase by now. aving used their meager supply of ammualtion This may account for the apparent decrease in activity, although there is still another possibility-that some of Germany's efforts are being hidden both by the Britdmiralty and Lloyd's.

The Administration, fearing that ultimately war or a 'state of war' with Ger-many must come, is anxious to keep alive the martial spirit in America. It would guard against the sapping influence of an ndue sense of security. On the other hand. here is no manifest move to raise an army for actual war. There has been some progress made toward naval and economic preparedness, however.

This epitomizes the Government position loday at the close of one week of broken miations between the United States and

It finds much of the neutral's shipping ordinarily plying the Atlahtic now shivering in home ports; it finds Germany has sain ship travelers in an apparently indiscriminate sea war; it finds shipping destroyed at the rate of about three-quarters of a million tons monthly.

of a million tons monthly.

And, with terrific possibilities ahead, it is anxious lest peace propaganda—and the absence of war—shall full the nation into an unjustifiable calm.

It has prepared itself for internal difaculties; there is talk of a half-million army with some discussion of various forms of military service. Thus far. however, these ideas have not crystallized into actual

#### SENATOR DEMANDS DEFINITION OF "OVERT"

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 .- The exact efinition of the Administration's view of "an overt act" which would cause war with Germany, was demanded by Senator Mc-Cumber on the Senate floor today.

"Since February 1, about seventy-five ships have been sunk by German submarines without warning," he said. "Yet we are told now that we will await an overt act. 'Certainly if we are to await abything further there never will be any cause for war."

Senator McCumber quoted from news-bager reports of the decision of yesterday's

her reports of the decision of yesterday's meeting to the effect that only the destruction of American ships and American lives would be regarded as cause for war. Laying special emphasis on "American ships and American lives." he said: "Does this mean that we have further receded from our position?

"Does it mean that we no longer question Germany's right; a sink without warning.

dermany's right to sink, without warning, colligerent ships with Americans aboard and that ti calls for nothing sterner than

"Does it mean that if we have another maitania we will allow it to pass un-

"If so we ought to notify our people and

Theo we ought to notify our people and brevent their traveling on helligerent ships. "Why not say to Germany: "We will not defend Americans traveling on ships carrying contraband." The decision of the Cabinet yesterday, if the resorts are correct makes war impossible. But we owe it to the American people and to the helligerent nations to say just where we stand."

The resolution demanding from Secretary absing a definition of "overt act" was re-stred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Skating Information

#### MUNITIONS MENACED BY RIVER FRONT FIRE

Fierce Thirty Thousand Dollar Blaze Threatens Section of Port Richmond

Munitions worth millions of dollars were in danger last night when a \$20,000 fire near the Delaware River at the foot of Somerset street destroyed three buildings and threatened a big part of the Port Richmond water front.

The munitions, stored for shipment on the A. B. C and D plers of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, were saved only because the thirty-mile gale carried sparks from the burning building out on the river and away from the explosives.

The wind, however, hindered the firemen in fighting the blaze, while the low temperature forced them to cut through the ice along the shore to get part of their water supply. The fire is believed to have been started by spontaneous combustion Ten cars of coal were also damaged, other being removed by locomotives.

### SUBMARINES SINK 3 SHIPS; TOTAL 77

Two British and One Norwegian Vessel Sent to Bottom

TWO NORWEGIANS LOST

#### Ships and Tonnage Sunk by U-Boats Since Feb. 1.

TOSSES to shipping of the Allies and of neutrals since February 1, when the German unrestricted submarine warfare commenced, have been as follows:

Ships reported sunk today. Tonnage reported sunk today 12,200 Ships reported sunk yester-

Total tonnage reported sunk 

since February 1........158,863

Ships Sunk Since February 1 Other belligerents ..... 7 Total ships sunk ...... 77

LONDON, Feb. 10. An American negro and three Englishmen, members of the crew of the torpedoed steamship Dauntless, have been landed on the Spanish coast, says a Reuter dispatch from Madrid today. They had been without food for five days and were so weak they had to be taken to a hospital.

LONDON, Feb. 10. - With three more ships sunk today, in Germany's submarine warfare, the toll of U-boat ship victims was

increased to seventy-seven. Two of the crew of the Norwegian merchantman Solbakken perished when that

vessel was sunk today. The British steamships Mantola and Lullington were also reported sunk.

The Solbakken was a steel screw steamship of 2616 tons, registered at Bergen and the property of O. F. Olsen,

vessel, of a net tonnage of 6828, built in of his way to criticize Germany." 1916, registered at Glasgow and owned by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The Luilington was a steel screw steamship of 2816 tons, registered at London, and the property of the South Down Steamship Company, Ltd.

#### Fair and Warmer Tomorrow

Fair and Warmer Tomorrow
Fair weather for tonight and tomorrow
with rising temperatures is the forecast
of the Weather Bureau. Moderate westerly
winds are expected. The thermometer registered thirteen degrees this morning and
reached twenty-four degrees early this afternoon. With the exception of Tuesday and
Wednesday fair and warmer weather is predicted for next week. dicted for next week.

New Lower Merion Commissioner NORRISTOWN, Pa., Feb. 10 .- The court today appointed William McElhaney mem-ber of the Board of Lower Merion Town-ship Commissioners from the East District in place of George Sullivan, deceased.

U-Boat Sinks Fifteen Ships BERLIN, Feb. 16.—A German submarine which has just returned to port has announced the destruction of fifteen ships. It

# GERARD LEAVES

120 Americans to Depart Other Bodies May Be Among With U.S. Envoy and His Staff

WILL GO TO SWITZERLAND STEEL MEN AID FIREMEN

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. Ambassador von Bernstorff, his suite, and the German Consuls from various parts of the country who will return with him, will sail from New York at 2 p. m. next Wednesday.

The Scandinavian-American Line this afternoon announced this sailing date and hour for the liner Frederick VIII, on which the German diplomatic representatives in this country will take passage.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN

BERLIN, Feb. 10. One hundred and twenty Americans will eave Germany with Ambansador Gerard when today he fulfills the last step in President Wilson's orders to break relaions with Germany.

The 120 citizens of the United States will leave on the special embassy train which has been provided by the German Government. They will probably go on the second section of the special, the Ambassador and his personal staff occupying accommodations on the first section.

No large congressional appropriation will be needed to relieve stranded Amersame time Ambasyador Gerard departs. The reason is that through the generosity of the American Ambassador and his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Mayer, of New York, virtually all Americans with-out funds who desired to leave with the Ambassador were provided with money and

ing for some pitiful cases which a con-gressional fund would assist after the American consular representatives leave. These include especially a number of Amer-icans ill in hospitals.

The following additional Americans today

**GARDNER SHAKES** 

House Angrily Resents

Philadelphian's Charge

By a Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.-Highly en-

raged because Representative J. Hampton

Moore, of Pennsylvan'a, accused him of

wanting to force the United States into war

with Germany, Representative Augustus P.

Gardner, of Massachusetts, walked down

the aisle of the House and shook his fist in

"I absolutely deny that statement. I ab-

The gavel was banged on the Speaker's

"The gentleman," said Representative

speeches on the floor of the House in favor

of siding with England. He has gone out

"Of-course, I have," said Representative

. The spirited debate was started when

Representative Gardner interrupted Repre-

"Does the gentleman think that the send-

ing home of the German Ambassador was

"Oh," said Representative Moore, "the

"That does not answer my question," said

"Why, of course, 1 think the sending

ome of the German Ambassador was justi-

gentleman has certain anglomaniac ideas."

GARDNER'S ANGRY DENIAL

Gardner, "and I shall do it again."

sentative Moore to ask:

Representative Gardner.

Justified?"

desk in a vain attempt to restore order.

the face of the Philadelphian, shouting:

solutely deny it."

Continued on Page Two, Column Three

FIST AT MOORE

### FIRE TRAPS FOUR GERMANY TODAY IN BOARDING HOUSE

Ruins in South Bethlehem

#### Toll of Life and Property Taken by Fires of One Day

Boston - Lenox Hotel; loss,

Pottsville-Boarding house; four known dead; loss, \$4000.

New Castle, Del-Six houses; loss, \$10,000. Burlington, N. J.—Pier and ware-house; loss, \$4000.

Parker's Landing - Houses and stores; one dead; loss, \$100,000.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM, Pa., Feb. 10 .-Four Greeks, as yet unidentified, were burned to death in a fire which early today destroyed a boarding house on Buttonwood street. Six other boarders, all men, are unaccounted for. The blaze is supposed to have started from an overheated stove, The loss to the building will be about \$5000. The belief is that the dead were first over come by smoke and rendered unable to weape

When the firemen arrived the flames had gained great headway. Chief George H. Moritz called on the Bethlehem Steel Company department for assistance. Shortly icans in Germany unable to leave at the | before 6 o'clock the flames were under control. It was then that the firemen dis covered that several persons were victims

With hatches and axes the work of rescuing the bodies was begun. All recovered were burned beyond recognition their entire passage home. The American consulate here is still carThe American consulate here is still carThe American consulate here is still car-

Continued on Page Two, Column Two

American Duchess Dies in Rome ROME, Feb. 16 .- The Downger Duchess Mat.lda Antonio Lante who was Miss Ma tilda Davis, an American, died here today

### **BOARD MAY DENY** TRANSIT PERMIT

Massachusetts Member of Fear of Penrose Causes Members to Hesitate Over Certificate

NOT' DEMANDING WAR WOULD WAIT FOR LEASE

By a Staff Carrespondent HARRISBURG, Feb. 10 - The entire Public Service Commission will sit at the hearing of the application filed by the City of Philadelphia for certificates of public transit convenience, which will be held in

City Hall, Philadelphia, next Wednesday. An invitation has been sent to all the business men's associations in Philadelphia, and to all the individuals who have publicly attacked the proposed transit lease to be present. The commission also hagiven notice that it will hear any taxpayer who wishes to appear.

Moore, "has made some of the most famous The proposed lease, it is expected, will' have a large part to do with the granting of the requested certificates. It is even being said on Capitol Hill today that the proposed lease is one of the reasons why all seven inembers of the commission will go to Philadelphia for the hearing.

The Public Service Commission is under fire from the heaviest of the Penrose guns during the present factional fight within the Republican Organization, and the commissioners do not want to leave themselves open to any possible criticism from the Pen-rose legislative leaders who are desirous of probing the utilities body.

The Penrose attack has been centered almost solely around the condition of the State finances, and the threat of Lexowing Mayor Smith and other municipal executives throughout the State that has been made has the condition of municipal finances as its basis.

The Public Service Conwhy, of course. The Public Service Commissioners, it was declared authoritatively today, are loath to field if Germany no longer intended to pay any intention to international law and the laws of humanity, but I do not think as the gentleman from Massachusetts does, that the break in diplomatic relations should be followed immediately by a declaration of war, involving 100,000,000 of our people in a bloody conflict. "Has the gentleman any reason for that statement?" asked Representative Gardner as he started toward the Speaker.

"Yen, the gentleman "

The Public Service Commissioners, it was declared authoritatively today, are loath to indorse the proposed subway and elevated lines until the proposed lease is signed. Should they grant the certificates before arrangements were made for operating the figh-speed lines, they would open themselves to attack upon the charge of jeopardizing a considerable additional amount of the taxpayers money, is was pointed out, in the event of the Philadelphia Rapid Transij and the city not being able to get to operate the lines itself. The commissioners is was an authoritatively today, are loath to indorse the proposed subway and elevated lines until the proposed lease is signed. Should they grant the certificates before arrangements were made for operating the selves to attack upon the charge of jeopardizing a considerable additional amount of the taxpayers money, it was pointed out, in the event of the Philadelphia Rapid Transij and the city not being able to get to operate the lines itself. The commissioners, it was declared authoritatively today, are loath to indore the proposed subway and elevated lines until the proposed lease is signed.

### QUICK NEWS

#### PLOT REVEALED TO OVERTHROW CUBAN GOVERNMENT

HAVANA, Feb. 10 .- A plot to overthrow the Cuban Government has been unearthed, according to a statement made by Aurelio Hevia, Secretary of the Interior. It is said that some arrests have been made. Among those arrested, it was said, was at least one army officer, perhaps more.

#### HOUSE VOTES ON GREAT NAVAL BILL TUESDAY

WASHINGTON, Yeb, 10 .- The House today agreed to vote on the \$350,000,000 navy bill at the opening of Tuesday's accesson. The bill probably will be completed late today. Monday will be Lincom's birthday. Many members will be absent, so the vote was deferred,

#### ALLIED AIRMEN SHELL ZEEBRUGGE NAVAL BASE

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 10.-The German naval base at Zeebrugge has been bombarded by a squadron of Allied aeroplanes, says a dispatch to the Telegraph.

#### FRENCH SHELL KARLSRUHE; TEUTONS RETALIATE

PARIS, Feb. 10 .- The German city of Karlsvalle, fifty miles inside of the Franco-German frontier, has been bombarded by a French aviator, the War Office announced today. The Germans have again shelled Dunkirk from the air, as well as Amiens, Nancy and the region of Pont St. Vincent. A woman was killed at Amiens. Near Pont St. Vincent a civilian was killed and four wounded. A German aeroplane was shot down near Pegniville-en-Haye.

#### INFANTRY UNIT AUTHORIZED AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—President Wilson today ordered the establishment of an infantry unit at Cornell University and also a senior division of the reserve officers' training corps.

#### 3100 CRAFT CARRY TEUTON BOOTY UP DANUBE

BERLIN, Feb. 10.-More than 400 steamboats and 2700 tugboats are engaged in transporting the enormous booty captured by the Germans in Rumania up the River Danube to Austria-Hungary and Germany, the Press Bureau said today.

#### POPE MAY INTERVENE TO PREVENT U. S.-GERMAN WAR

PARIS, Feb. 10.-It is reported on good authority that Pope Benedict is considering the suggestion that he intervene in the German-American situation in order to prevent the breach between those two countries from growing any wider. A dispatch from Home stated it was believed in some circles that Spain probably would back up any action that the Vatican might take in that direction. Cardinal Gasparri, the Papal Secretary of State, was quoted as saying that the Pope considered the situation grave.

#### EVERYBODY IN U. S. SHOULD HAVE \$43.50 TODAY

The amount of money in circulation in the United States on February 1 was Norwegian steamship Fagersand, which in-\$4,498,060,871, according to the report of the Treasury Department. According to tended coming to this port from Clenfuegos these figures, each man, woman and child in the country should have \$43.50 in with a cargo of sugar, reached the Delapacket if the total amount were evenly distributed. The impulation of the United were Breakwater and received orders to

#### DECEMBER RAILROAD EARNINGS OFF \$2,000,000 WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.-Haliroad carnings fell off more than \$2,000,000 in

December, according to a summary in part of the 144 largest railroads issued today by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

#### PLANES SHELL DUNKIRK; FOUR KILLED

PARIS. Feb. 10.-An official statement says that aeroplanes have again dropped bombs in the region of Dunkirk, killing four civilians. Projectiles were dropped in the Frouard district also, four persons being wounded.

#### WARSHIPS AND RAIDER REPORTED IN BATTLE RUENOS AIRES, Feb. 10.-Special dispatches received from Pernambues

declare that a battle occurred Thursday off Fernando de Naronha between a British cruiser squadron and the German raider. The fight lasted four hours, it was said, but the outcome was unknown. The Island of Fernando de Naronha is situated about 125 miles off the eastern extremity of Brazil.

#### 250,000 CATS, 100,000 DOGS IN PHILADELPHIA

Phriadelphia has 250,000 cats and 100,000 dogs, according to statistics gathered by the Morris Refuge, 1242 Lombard street. In 1916 the Morris Refuge handled 54,712 cats and kittens and 11,543 dogs. Port Richmond comes near being the cat center of the city. More than 2500 cats were disposed by the Richmond branch of the organization last year.

### 682 VESSELS UNDER WAY IN AMERICAN SHIPYARDS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—In response to a general inquiry, which included every shipbuilding yard in the United States, the Bureau of Navigation of the Department of Commerce has received returns showing that there are now under construction in this country 682 vessels, designed for freight and passenger traffic, with a total tonnage of 2,098,761.

#### STEEL COMPANY CUTS \$8,000,000 FROM CAPITAL

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 10.-An amended certificate was filed with the Secretary of State by the Wharton Steel Company, which has a plant at Wharton, N. J., decreasing its authorized capital stock from \$10,000,000 to \$2,002,000.

### PHILADELPHIA AIRMAN TO SAIL FOR FRANCE

Another Philadelphia airman soon will leave for France to join the aviation corps of the American Legion. He is Robert J. Smith of 5511 Race street. Smith is twenty-two years old. He has been training for more than a month at the Curtiss Aviation School at Newport News. He will sail from New York on

NEAR FIGHT AS LABOR MEN REFUSE TO SING "AMERICA" SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 10.-Refusal of four members of the Scranton Allied Trades Council to arise and sing "America" at the close of a meeting resulted in a dispute that for a time promised to end in blows, and which lasted for more-than

#### BRUMBAUGH MAY APPROVE PROBE RESOLUTION

Governor Brumbaugh may approve the Sproul resolution calling for an investigation of his administration, according to word received by Senator Penrose. The Senator, after a conference with his State lieutenants, said: "It would not be sur prising if the Governor approved the resolution." Word was received, it was said. that the bill would be signed.

#### PHILADELPHIA HAS THIRD LOWEST DEATH RATE

Philadelphia has the third lowest baby death rate in the ten largest cities in the country, according to figures given out by the Bables' Welfare Association. The the city itself to operate the per thousand babies, a figure seven deaths below the average. St. Louis was at rifle less than ninety-nine deaths the city itself to operate the healthiest city and Baltimore, despite a large decrease in the death rate, the worst, with 115 deaths per thousand. infant mortality for this city during 1916 was a trifle less than ninety-nine deaths

### GOING UP! SUGAR PRICES SOARING

Several Big Candy Plants Forced to Close Because of Shortage

SUPPLY FAST EATEN UP

Unless Relief Comes City Will Be Sugarless Within Fortyeight Hours

#### Candy Manufacturers Abandon Some Brands

Manufacturing confectioners obliged to abandon manufacture of certain brands of candy because of famine in refined sugar. Several may be forced to shut down.

Chain stores boost the retail price one cent, and wholesalers raise the price from \$6.75 to \$8 per 100

Experts say there are not 12,000 barrels of sugar in the city; the normal supply is about 75,000 barrels.

Today raw sugar advanced to 5.02c; this is a rise of thirteen points over yesterday. Strikers at Philadelphia refineries

hold firm in their demands.

The famine in refined sugar became serious from an industrial standpoint today, when several of the largest manufacturing confectioners were obliged to abandon the making of certain grades of candy because

they were unable to obtain sugar supplies. Housewives in the city received a severe jolt when the chain stores advanced the price of refined one cent the pound. Prior to today they sold refined for seven and one-half cents, but today the price is eight and one-half. Many chain stores have no sugar or

hand with little prospects of getting any for several days. Other stores with a limited stock will sell only four pounds to a customer. Scores of retail grocers outside the chain list are charging from ten to twelve cents a nound.

The strike of 2000 sugar workers at the three big refineries in the city has stoppe absolutely the output of refined swear Philadelphia. The a mpathette strike terday of more than 1990 steredores longstoremen has blocked the imporatation

of raw sugar in Philadelphia. The sympathetic strike of the stevedores has caused Philadelphia to lose two large cargoes of raw sugar. One of 15,094 bags was brought here on the Cuban steamship Yumuri last Sunday from Sagua and Cardenas. The vessel tied up at Pier 60, South, foot of Reed street. The ship will sail today for New York, the captain having obtained clearance papers yesterday. The

proceed to New York. Discharging of the American steamship Caute, which arrived Monday from Clenfuegos with 31,000 bags of raw sugar, has stopped. The vessel is lying at Pier 61, South, wear Reed street. Strike leaders said today that stevedores working for New York refineries would go out next week.

UNPRECEDENTED SHORTAGE It was estimated by leading sugar brokers and wholesale grocers that there were not in the aggregate 1200 barrels of refined sugar in the entire city. This includes the fast-diminishing supply in warehouses and on the shelves of retail grocers. Several wholesale grocers took advantage of the scarcity and boosted the price from \$6.75 the hundred pounds to \$8. This explains the boosting in price of the retailers.

Never since sugar experts can remember has the supply in Philadelphia been so low. Under normal conditions the experts say that there should be at least 75,000 barrels of sugar stored in the refineries and the wholesale houses of the city. Under normal conditions the wholesalers move 4500 barrels a day, and in view of these figures t is seen that the present meager supply of 1200 barrels will not last long. In fact, it is stated that if relief does not come at once Philadelphia will be virtually sugarless within forty-eight hours.

CANDY MEN UNPREPARED It was explained by confectionery manufacturers that the closing of the refineries because of the strige caught them unawares. Most of them were looking for a decided drop in the price of sugar at this time so they had deferred laying in large stores until the expected reduction. An a result they were virtually without stores. On Tuesday the output stopped entirely, and twelve hours later the supplies in the

candy factories were exhausted. The candy factory proprietors made frantic appeals to refineries in New York and Boston. A few carloads of sugar were rushed through to them, but the present railroad embargo prevented shipment of sufficient sugar to meet the demands here The fact that the big Brooklyn refinery of the American Company, too is crippled by

Continued on Page Five. Column Two

### . THE WEATHER

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair to night and Sunday; coldest tonight about eighteen degrees; somewhat warmer Suday: moderate westerly winds.

Sun rises . 7.00 a.m. Moon rises . 0.11 p., Sun sets . . 5.29 p.m. Moon souths. 2.17 a. DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES