

Seven Houses Destroyed and Two Damaged In Swatara—Theory That Blaze Was Started to Cover RIDDER SAYS HE'S WITH U.S.

Declares He Believes That to Be the Attitude of Most German-Americans (Special to the Star-Independent.) New York, May 11.-Herman Rid-

and damaged two others, resulting

a Murder Is Discredited (Special to the Star-Independent.) Swatara, Pa., May 11.-A fire which destroyed seven frame dwellings

even a single body is found. There are indications that the heavy death toll among the American men in the first cabin was due to a scarcity of hife belts, many of them having given the life preservers they had obtained to helpless women. There is a pre-ponderance of testimony that no American man got into a boat until after he had been thrown into the water.

Cunard Tug Hunting For Bodies

The Cunard Steamship Company, after much trouble, has sent a tug to

the scene of the disaster with the in-structions to run into the nearest cove

and inform Cunard officials here if

even a single body is found.

wall, Eng

# Vanderbilt's Last Moments

Vanderbilt's Last Moments Webb Wade, secretary of Alfred G. Vanderbilt, has not yet been able to arrange with the authorities to comply with his request that all necessary tugs be chartered at the expense of the Vanderbilt family to search for other bodies as well as that of Mr. Vander-bilt. Until he heard the story of Dr. Owen Kensan, of New York, Mr. Wade believed his employer had entered one Owen Kenan, of New York, Mr. Wade believed his employer had entered one of the boats smashed against the side of the ship, but Dr. Kenan's story is so definite it is accepted generally as the correct version of Mr. Vander-bilt's last moments aboard the ship. **Guided Women and Children** When the Lusitania was in her death three sthere was no acoder generative.

When the Lusitania was in her death throes there was no cooler group aboard than that composed of Mme. Marie De-page, Herbert S. Stone, Lindon W. Bates, Jr., and Dr. J. T. Houghton. The last named was the only survivor of the party. This little band guided wom-on and children, supplied life beits, bound up the wounds of other passeng-ers and then plunged hopelessly into the sea, having given up their own life priends and relatives arrived here last night but the chances of identifying wore of the dead are remote as the great plits in the come ashore soon will be beyond identification. **12 More Bodies Recovered** 

the torpedoing of the Cunard liner Lusi-tania at Baltimore, a small seaport on the southern Irish coast, was increased this morning to ten. Two other bodies have been brought ashore at Castle-townsend, near Baltimore, sixe are of men and four of women. The Cunard Line to day dispatched a tug to Baltimore to bring all bodies to

morning in the "Staats-Zeitung:" "What attitude do German-Amer-"" "What attitude do German-Amer-icans take toward the German subma-rine policy as evidenced by the fate of their fellow eitizens on the Lusitania 1 " Are they with the President of the United States or the Emperor of Ger-many?"—the Evening Mail. " I speak for myself and, I believe, for the great majority of German-Americans, when I say that we are with the President of the United States to the finish in all matters affecting national honor or national prestige. " I subscribe unqualifiedly to the statement of Carl Schurz: "My coun-

er makes the f

"I subscribe unqualifiedly to the statement of Carl Schurz: 'My coun-try, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; if wrong, to be set right.' "Does this satisfy the 'Evening Mail?' "Herman Ridder.''

### Wife of Prominent Lehighton Citizen Run Down by Hotel Man

By Associated Press

WOMAN KILLED BY AUTO

Allentown, Pa., May 11 .- Mrs. John Obert, wife of the senior member of the Obert Meat Packing Company, Lehighton, was run down and instantly killed at 10 o'clock last night by an killed at 10 o'clock last night by an automobile driven by Charles Christ-man, proprietor of the Central Hotel, Lehighton. The wheels of the car passed over her head, causing a frac-ture of the skull and a broken neck. Mrs. Obert was returning from a missionary meeting in company with cat pits in the cemetery are filled th those buried as unknown while her bodies which come ashore soon Il be beyond identification. **12 More Bodies Recovered** The number of bodies of victims of the torpedoing of the Cunard liner Lusi-nia at Baltimore, a small seaport on a southern Irish coast, was increased s morning to ten. Two other bodies

an approximate loss of \$15,000, curred here yesterday afternoon short-ly after 4 o'clock in what is known as the Italian colony, near the Bradley quarries. The fire started near the middle of a row of double frame dwellings and is said to have been caused by an overheat flue from a stove. An unconfirmed rumor, however, was afloat that a murder had been commit-

ed, following which the row was set afire. When Constable J. A. Snavely, was asked concerning this rumor, he There are several stories as to the

Continued or Seventh Page CENTRAL IRON & STEEL CO. LOST \$116,439 IN YEAR

## Receivers' Report Shows That Its Assets Depreciated \$208.949-Reduction in Business Is Attributed by Them to the War in Europe

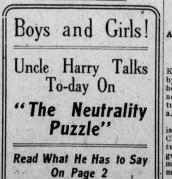
Attributing its reduced business to Attributing its reduced business to the depression due to the European war and declaring that the plant was oper-ated on a forty per cent. basis and at a net loss of \$116,439.10, while the as-sets decreased by \$208,949.40 during the year ended February 28, last, Charles L. Bailey, Jr., J. V. W. Reyn-ders and James Cameron, receivers of the Central Iron & Steel Company, of this city, last evening submitted their third annual report to the Dauphin county court.





MISS SARA EISENBERGER and Her Dog Tessie
(By Bowwow to the Star-Independent, New Cumberland, Pa., May 11.— My name is Tessie. I arrived from Se-bring, Florida, on Friday, where speat the winter with my mistress, Miss Sara Eisenberger. She came homed a few weeks ago and I stayed with Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Bobb. As they were returning to New Cumberland they shipped me. When I arrived 1 could scarcely wait to get out of the crate, and went trotting home, where I greeted the neighbors with a bark and made my owner very happy.

I greeted the heighbors with a bark and made my owner very happy. Sebring is a pretty place. I was the only Northern dog there and re-ceived much attention, yet I love New Cumberland and the old, Susquehanna river much better than the Sunny South.

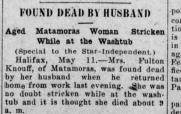


Paris, May 11, 10.45 A. M .- It is being persistently rumored in Paris that Germany and Austria Hungary have al-ready declared or are about to declare

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA TO

WAR ON ITALY, IS REPORT

satisfied. Military writers are presenting the argument that war for Germany and Austria on a third frontier undoubtedly will make the resistance of the central empires on their other fronts more feeble, so much so that with the advent of Italy, victory over Germany is set for the middle of the summer.



tub and it is thought she died about 5 a. m. Mrs. Knouff was aged 68 years and is survived by her husband, one son, Charles F. Knouff, of this place, and two daughters, Mrs. Millar Poffenber-ger and Mrs. Ray Beattie, of Ports-ments have not yet been announced. Coroner. Eckinger was summoned and pronounced death due to heart trouble.



The Rev. Rollin A. Sawyer, Rector of St. Stephen's Church

tographers, and then passed into the building where all the seats but those reserved for the choir and the clergy

rere already occupied. The gowns of black and white worn y the clerical delegates and the robes f their office worn by the bishops gave

Continued on Eleventh Page.

**OSTRICH COMPANY IN COURT** Creditors Allege Insolvency and Ask

Appointment of Receiver (Special to the Star-Independent.) Sunbury, Pa., May 11.-The ap

company's affairs and make distribucompany's anars and make distribu-tion of the assets among the creditors is sought through a bill in equity filed in the Federal court here yesterday against the African Ostrich Farm & Feather Company, which maintained of-fices in Bloomsburg and farms at Pax-tang, near Harrisburg, and in Espey, Pa.

tang, near Harrisburg, and in Espey, Pa. W. H. Hile, president of the com-pany, is directed under the court's or-der to show cause why the stockholders who brought the proceedings are not warranted in closing in on the company. It is charged that the company's af-fairs have been mismanaged and that the concern is insolvent.



German thrust and the Germanic allies

now have crossed the upper reaches of

the Wisloka river and are within fifty

Britain's Toll in Lost Vessels

London, May 11, 4.20 P. M .- The

cost of the war in British ships, not

including warships, thus far has been

201 vessels. The loss of life has been

miles of the fortress of Permysl.

1.455.

The newly inaugurated offensive movement of the allies over a long sec-tion of the front in Belgium and North-western France has developed a gen-eral engagement of considerable inten-sity. The official statement from Ber-lin to-day concedes that the allies have won ground between Carency and Meue-ville, but attacks elsewhere are said to have been repulsed The Germans an-nounce the capture of French trenches over a width of nearly one-fourth of a mile in the vicinity of Berry-Au-Bac. The Paris War Office states that the allies made gains yesterday in Belgium

Continued on Ninth Page.



### Beidleman the Only Senator Who Votes For Plan to Substitute Political Method Electing

The Clark bill making numerous amendments to the law governing third class cities, of which Harrisburg is one, and cutting out the non-partisan elec tion of city commissioners, was defeat-ed by a vote of 1 yea to 31 nays, in the Senate this morning. Senator Beidleman, of this city, who

in committee eliminated the non-partisan clause, was its only supporter.

WALL STREET CLOSING