

ORDERS INQUIRY INTO SINKING OF STEAMER EVELYN

Secretary Daniels Asks Naval Attache at Berlin for Report on Loss of American Cotton Ship in German Waters.

WILL HAVE BILL FOR DAMAGES

If Mine Which Sunk Vessels is Identified Nation Planting It Will Be Asked to Pay.

INSURED BY FEDERAL BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Secretary Daniels today ordered Commander Walter R. Gherardi, American naval attache at Berlin, to investigate and make a full report on the destruction of the American steamer Evelyn. So far advices merely have reported the sinking of the vessel and its cargo, but gave no details.

Wants Technical Information.

Secretary Daniels explained that his purpose in directing an inquiry after the State department had called upon the ambassadors at London and Berlin for a report was to get technical information, which might prove of value in the case of the mine which sank the vessel. It was, of course, understood that Commander Gherardi, as an American attache at the American embassy at Berlin, would be guided entirely by Ambassador Gerard in making his investigation.

It was said at the Navy department that from present indications it will be difficult for the Navy department to secure exact information of what actually destroyed the Evelyn.

Senator Simmons, one of the framers of the bill which created the war risk bureau, a White House caller today, said he assumed an effort would be made first to establish the responsibility for the sinking of the Evelyn and that if the nationality of the mine could be discovered, the government war risk bureau would make efforts to collect damages.

Warning Applied to Submarines.

The American note to Germany, warning that country against attacks on American vessels in these zones of war applied only to submarines. Since the outbreak of the war the North Sea has been mined by both German and Great Britain and an added warning was given to neutral commerce by the German reply to the American note last week in announcing that mines would be strewn in the waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland and in the English channel.

Hitherto in the notification of areas mined, pilots have been offered for neutral vessels. Whether the Evelyn had an opportunity to obtain a pilot or whether it struck a mine with a pilot aboard were questions on which officials expected to receive definite information tomorrow from Ambassador Page at London and Gerard at Berlin. It is understood that the State department had directed inquiries. The only message before the department early today was from American Consul Fee at Bremen, who reported that the Evelyn had been blown up, but did not give the cause. His cablegram stated that the ship and cargo had been lost, but that the crew was safe. Officials believe the crew had been captured in Germany, as Borkum is near the German coast.

Diplomatic Action Improbable.

It was considered unlikely that there would be any diplomatic action resulting from the loss of the Evelyn beyond claims for damages, inasmuch as there is now no international convention in force prohibiting the laying of mines, whether for offensive or defensive purposes. In the Russo-Japanese war the Japanese steamer, the *Asahi*, was torpedoed by the Russian submarine, the *Orskan*, in the Japanese harbor entrance to Port Arthur, which was held by the Russians. Similarly the Japanese laid mines in Vladivostok waters across Peter the Great bay for a distance of forty miles. While the laying of mines in offensive operations, such as the recent German note proclaimed, has not been acquiesced in as a belligerent right, it is believed in official quarters that this and other precedents would make it difficult for the United States to make further diplomatic protest.

The prevailing opinion in administration circles today was that the United States government would stand firmly on its warnings to Great Britain and Germany, respectively, concerning the misuse of neutral flags and possible attacks on American vessels or lives by submarines. This policy was regarded as significant of a possible critical turn of affairs, should any violation of the warning ensue.

Carries Federal Insurance.

The Evelyn is the first ship insured with the United States bureau of war (Continued on Page Two, Column Five).

PART OF THE KAISER'S MOSQUITO FLEET—Flotilla of German torpedo boat destroyers, ready to dash against English coast at any time.



BRITON'S TIP SENT EVELYN TO DOOM

Captain Smith Follows Advice of English Officer Instead of German Instructions.

STOKER DIES FROM EXPOSURE

BERLIN (By Wireless to Saville, L. I.), Feb. 22.—According to advices received here, Captain Smith of the American Steamer Evelyn, has informed the German authorities that his ship came to grief through the advice of a British naval boarding officer, who instructed him to follow the course on which he struck the mines instead of the northerly course as laid down in the German instructions.

Drift in Rowboat.

The disaster occurred at 4 o'clock Friday morning and the Evelyn sank seven hours later. Captain Smith, a Dutch pilot and thirteen men drifted in a row boat until Saturday afternoon when they were rescued by a German patrol boat.

A Spanish stoker in the row boat died meanwhile from exposure. The other men in the boat are all recovering. They are now at the sailors' home in Bremen.

Find No Trace of Crew.

THE HAGUE (Via London, Feb. 22)—Soldiers of the coast guard stations in north Holland have brought the reply that nothing had been seen or heard of that part of the crew of the American steamer Evelyn, who were reported to have proceeded for Holland after the steamer was blown up. A very dense fog prevailed throughout yesterday and today along the coast.

The Dutch marine department is also without information concerning the missing men of the Evelyn's crew.

House and Senate Are Working Upon Appropriations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Congress is observing George Washington's birthday by grinding out the long-delayed appropriation bills. Only nine working days of the present session of congress remain before adjournment. The House and Senate are working upon appropriations bills, while in the house consideration of the fortification bill was renewed. The latter measure furnished the text for a discussion of military preparedness, Representative Gardner of Massachusetts having given notice of his intention to speak on the subject. With the fortifications bill out of the way, the house will take up the general deficiency bill.

Only two of the larger supply bills—the legislative, executive and judicial and the sundry civil bill—have been passed by the senate. Eleven yet remain to be acted upon. All of the supply bills have been passed by the house except two.

Pope Again Makes Effort to Initiate Peace Negotiations

ROME, Feb. 22.—Reports received by the secretary of the Vatican say the pope is still making an effort to initiate peace negotiations. The pontiff considers such a condition of affairs lends itself favorably to diplomatic steps. He is reported again to have interposed Emperor William to know on what conditions Germany would be disposed to negotiate for peace, observing that in any case the military honor of Germany is safe.

The National Capital

Monday, February 22, 1915.
The Senate.
Met at 11 a. m.
Senator Root read Washington's farewell address.
Conference on the seamen's bill composed all differences between house and senate.
Debate was resumed on the army appropriation bill.
The House.
Met at 11 a. m.
Representative Garrett of Tennessee read Washington's farewell address.
Debate was resumed on the fortifications appropriation bill.
A judicial subcommittee resumed taking testimony on the charges against Federal Judge Peyton of West Virginia.
The ways and means committee put action on the repeal of the tax on mixed flour over until Wednesday.
Adjourned at 5:40 p. m. to 11 a. m. Tuesday.

War and Preparedness for War Debated in House and Senate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—War and preparedness for war were the sole topics of discussion today in congress, the senate debating the army appropriation bill and the house working for a bill for coast fortifications.

Chairman Chamberlain of the senate military committee gave notice that legislation for an army of 250,000 men and a reserve system would be taken up at the next session.

"With reorganization along these lines," he said, "the United States will be in a position to meet all dangers within or without the nation."

"In the house Representative Gardner declared that at the present rate it will be eighteen years before coast defense guns and sufficient ammunition for an hour's engagement and the coast fortifications could be taken from the rear."

Mexico figured much in the senate debate. Senator Norris suggested that if General Villa knew how unprepared the United States was for war he would take the country in two weeks.

Senator Fall declared a situation had developed in Mexico similar to that as a result of which the French established Maximilian on a throne. Should the United States be driven into the European war he declared, Mexico would furnish an inviting base from which it could be attacked.

Senate republicans intend to put a larger submarine building program in the pending naval bill than has been provided by the house.

Senator Smoot today introduced an amendment for fifty submarines of a new, going type and twenty-five smaller ones. For the first year it would appropriate \$3,000,000.

"The European war has demonstrated beyond any question," said Senator Smoot, "introducing his amendment, 'that submarines are invaluable for defense of coast cities and coast line. That is the sort of defense we want in this country more than anything else.'"

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DESTROY ENTIRE RUSSIAN ARMY; TAKE 100,000 CAPTIVES

German Army Wipe Out Tenth Corps of Czar in the Battle of Mazurian Lakes, in East Prussia.

PETROGRAD ADMITS THE LOSS

Muscovite General Staff Confesses Story of Extermination of Great Body of Troops True.

MANY GENERALS PRISONERS

PETROGRAD, Feb. 22.—The Russian general staff admits the loss of almost an entire army corps in the recent retreat from East Prussia. The main Russian army has succeeded in escaping from the German trap and has in turn taken the offensive.

Hundred Thousand Russ Taken.

BERLIN, Feb. 22.—(Via London.)—The German official statement issued today announces that the captures in the battle of the Mazurian lakes district of east Prussian have been increased to seven generals and more than 100,000 men. The pieces cannon numbered 150.

The text of the statement reads: "Western theater: Another hostile trench was taken by us yesterday to the east of Ypres (in Belgium). The enemy's counter attacks on the captured positions remained unsuccessful."

Quiet in Champagne.

"In the Champagne district there was comparative quiet yesterday. The number of prisoners taken by us during the last battles in this region has been increased to fifteen officers and more than 1,000 men. The sanguinary losses of the enemy have been extraordinarily high."

"The enemy made an unsuccessful attack on our positions to the east of Verdun during the night."

"In the Vosges the villages of Hochrad and Stoessweil were taken by us after a short engagement. Otherwise nothing of importance occurred."

Many Generals Captured.

"Eastern theater: The pursuit after the winter battle in the Masurian district has come to an end. During the clearing up of operations to the northwest of Grodno and in the battle reported during the last few days in the Hober and Mavev district, one commanding general and four other generals and approximately 40,000 men have been taken prisoners up to the present. Seventy-five cannon and some machine guns, the actual number of which has not yet been ascertained, and much other war material has been captured."

"The total booty taken in the winter battle in the Masurian district, as a result of these additions, has been increased to date to seven generals, more than 100,000 men, upwards of 100 cannon and quantities of other materials of all descriptions, the amount of which cannot yet be approximately estimated."

Cannon Sunk in Lakes.

"Cannon of a heavier caliber and ammunition frequently are buried by the enemy or sunk in the lakes near Loetzen and in the Widmer sea. Eight cannon of heavy caliber were dug up or pulled out of the water yesterday."

"The tenth Russian army, under General Baron Sjeviers, is considered as having been destroyed."

"New battles appear to be developing at Grodno and to the north of Siechowol. It is reported that the battles to the northwest of Osovetz and Lomsa, as well as those at Przenyz are taking their regular course."

"There is no news from Poland to the south of the Vistula river."

Indian Warehouse Very Likely to Go

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(Special Telegram.)—The Interior department, through the Indian office, having recommended that there shall not be more than three Indian warehouses in the country, the senate committee on Indian affairs will report late tonight or tomorrow the Indian appropriation bill with the recommendation of the department uppermost.

Zeppelin Bombards Calais; Five Killed

PARIS (Via London), Feb. 22.—A Zeppelin airship bombarded Calais this morning, according to an official statement issued tonight. It dropped bombs which killed five persons, all civilians.

LARGE BUILDING IN PUEBLO IS BURNED

PUEBLO, Colo., Feb. 22.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed the four-story building occupied by the Holmes Hardware company here early today, entailing a loss estimated at \$200,000. Cartridges stored in the building were exploded by the fire, but no one was injured.

ALLIES DISCUSS REPRISAL PLANS

Consider Retaliatory Measures to Be Taken Against Submarine Policy.

ASQUITH MAKES STATEMENT

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The allied governments have not yet decided upon the precise attitude which it is proposed to adopt in retaliation against Germany's recently initiated belligerent policy, but a speedy agreement is expected. Replying to a question in the House of Commons this afternoon, Premier Asquith said: "The allied governments are considering what action it would be proper to take in the way of reprisals against the German policy of attacking and destroying British, allied and neutral merchant vessels, without warning and without an attempt being made to save the lives of civilians and innocent crews."

"Pending a decision which I hope will very soon be announced, I cannot make a statement regarding the nature or scope of the measures to be taken."

"As to the form in which the decisions will be published," Premier Asquith said, "there certainly will be a note from Great Britain, and I hope there will be a joint one."

The British government may reconsider its ruling permitting the entrance of cotton into Germany. This was intimated in the House of Commons this afternoon by Harold J. Tennant, under secretary of war. Mr. Tennant stated that when the decision was reached not to make cotton contraband the government believed that the requirements of Germany were already satisfied, but he added, "This attitude must be revised from time to time."

AUSTRALIAN mail steamer was fired on by an armed merchantman in the English channel, but was not struck. The Berlin report of the sinking of a British transport lacks confirmation from any other source.

GERMAN war office announced today that the Russian Tenth army corps was "considered as having been destroyed" as a result of the recent German victory in East Prussia. It is stated that more than 100,000 Russians, including seven generals, were captured.

FURTHER GERMAN victories in Vosges are claimed, including a capture of another town. The German war office also states that the losses of the allies in recent fighting in the Champagne district were "extraordinarily high."

NAVAL ATTACHE of the American embassy in Berlin has been instructed to investigate the sinking of the American steamer Evelyn by a mine in the North Sea.

BULLETIN.
LONDON, Feb. 22.—Traffic between England and Sweden has been discontinued for the time being, says a Copenhagen dispatch to the Daily Express, owing to the torpedoing of the Norwegian tank steamer Belridge.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Germany's submarine blockade continues to be the chief topic of interest in the United Kingdom, although British shipping apparently is moving with its usual freedom.

Wilson Nominates Trade Commission

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—President Wilson nominated the following members of the new federal trade commission: Joseph E. Davies, Madison, Wis.; Edward N. Hurley of Chicago; William J. Harris of Cedarhurst, Ga.; William Parry of Seattle, Wash., and George Rublee of Cornish, N. H.

Politically the commission has three democrats and one progressive republican and one progressive. Parry is described by the White House as a progressive republican and Rublee as a progressive.

Mr. Davies is commissioner of the bureau of corporations which is merged with the commission under the new law. Mr. Hurley is a business man and trade expert with extended knowledge of Latin-American conditions. Mr. Harris is a lawyer and business man. Mr. Rublee is a lawyer who was consulted frequently by leaders in congress when the trade commission bill was being framed.

The president is hopeful the commission will be confirmed during the present session of congress and organized at once.

Mr. Davis was born in 1876 and is a lawyer. He is secretary of the democratic committee. Mr. Hurley was born in Illinois in 1864. He is president of the Illinois Manufacturers' association.

Mr. Harris was born in Georgia in 1868 and became an insurance manager and a banker. He has been director of the census since July, 1912.

Mr. Parry is treasurer of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and is 50 years old. He was editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, manager of the ship building plant which built the battleship Nebraska, chairman of the finance committee for the Alaska-Yukon exposition and treasurer of the city of Seattle.

Mr. Rublee was born in Wisconsin in 1868. At present he is counsel for the Alaska railway engineering commission. He is a resident of Cornish, N. H., where President Wilson spends his summers.

Calls on Germans To Sacrifice Selves

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The Prussian government voted unanimously today a bill appropriating 100,000,000 marks as a subsidy to be used in alleviating the sufferings of persons affected by the war, says a Berlin dispatch.

Clemens Delbruck, the imperial minister of the interior, declared that a supply of food for the population at moderate prices was assured.

"The methods by which Great Britain is striving to wage a war of starvation against Germany," Herr Delbruck continued, "imposes on every man the obligation to subordinate every other consideration to that of serving his country. What will inflict the most injury on our enemy and contribute the most for victory for the fatherland must be the principle by which we are governed hereafter in carrying on the conflict. Then we cannot lose even if the whole world should be in arms against us."

CRACKSMEN DRILL SAFE WITH ELECTRICITY

FARMERSBURG, Ind., Feb. 22.—The safe in the Citizens' State bank here was blown during the night by robbers and \$25,000 taken. Connections left in the light fixtures showed the safe had been drilled by electricity.

NORSE NEUTRALS MUCH ALARMED BY BLOCKADE

Representatives of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway Consider Sending Convoy with Merchant Fleets.

FIGHTING IN THE CARPATHIANS

Desperate Struggle for Gateway to Hungary Continues Without Interruption.

FRENCH CLAIM GAINS IN WEST

The Day's War News

RUSSIAN general staff admits the loss of almost an entire army corps in the recent retreat from East Prussia. Unofficial reports from Petrograd say that the main Russian army succeeded in escaping from the German trap and has in turn taken the offensive.

AN AEROPLANE, believed to be German, was fired on by soldiers while flying over Swiss territory and forced to descend. The German government recently made amends to Switzerland for violation of that country's neutrality by aeroplanes.

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The Scandinavian neutrals, however, are showing much alarm over the situation, a great sensation having been caused in those countries by the torpedoing of the Norwegian steamship Belridge, off Folkestone, last week.

Representatives of the Scandinavian governments are holding another conference today, the outcome of which is awaited with much interest by neutral shippers.

The question of a naval convoy, it is understood, is being considered seriously at the conference, but the guarded comments of the newspapers show that it is clearly recognized that such a step might lead to war.

The question of the right of the crews of five Danish ships to refuse to sail for English ports is now before a court which is considering their claims that Germany is not likely to respect a neutral flag.

Following precedent which seems to have made Sunday a popular day for such raids, a lone German aeroplane flew over several coast towns last night, dropping (Continued on Page Ten—Column Two.)

Useless to You

but valuable to someone else. This means those odd pieces of furniture, carpets, rugs, musical instruments or other articles that you have lying around or stored away.

The "someone else" are the people who are reading the For Sale Columns of The Bee. Every day they read this column looking for, perhaps, the very thing you cannot use.

Offer them for sale; you will find a ready buyer and be agreeably surprised to find how quickly they can be turned into cash.

Phone Tyler 1000 about it.

THE OMAHA BEE
"Everybody Reads Bee Want Ads."

The Weather

Forecast until 7 p. m. Tuesday.
For Omaha, Council Bluffs and vicinity.
—Unsettled, probably snow flurries; colder in east portion of state.
Temperature at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.	Dir.
6 a. m.	24	34
7 a. m.	24	34
8 a. m.	24	34
9 a. m.	24	34
10 a. m.	24	34
11 a. m.	24	34
12 m.	24	34
1 p. m.	24	34
2 p. m.	24	34
3 p. m.	24	34
4 p. m.	24	34
5 p. m.	24	34

Comparative Local Record.

Highest yesterday	1915, 1914, 1913, 1912
Lowest yesterday	21, 13, 15, 18
Mean temperature	24, 25, 18, 30
Precipitation	0.00, 0.00, 0.00, 0.00
Temperature departures from the normal	
Normal temperature	32
Deficiency for the day	02 inch
Deficiency since March 1	1.33 inches
Total rainfall since March 1	1.33 inches
Deficiency for our period, 1915, 5.81 inches	
Deficiency for our period, 1914, 4.33 inches	
J. A. WELSH, Local Forecaster.	