

QUAKE DESTROYS CITY

SAN SALVADOR, CAPITAL OF REPUBLIC, IN RUINS, SAYS DISPATCH FROM NICARAGUA.

VOLCANO IS IN ERUPTION

Towns Within Radius of Thirty Miles, in Central American State, Are Wrecked—Many Persons Reported Killed.

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, June 11.—Many lives were lost in the destruction by earthquake of the city of San Salvador and several other towns in Salvador, according to meager advices received here.

San Salvador, the capital of the Republic of Salvador, has a population of more than 60,000.

A dispatch from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, says that in addition to the wiping out of San Salvador, the towns of Quezaltenango, Nejapa, Suchichoto, Paisanal, Armonios and Kejicanos also were destroyed. Kejicanos was a suburb of San Salvador.

An operator who reached the edge of the destroyed zone reported that San Salvador was in ruins, and that everything within a radius of 30 miles had been destroyed by the earthquake.

The town of Santa Tecla also has been destroyed, according to this report. Residents of San Salvador are camping in the streets and parks.

The disaster is supposed to have been caused by an eruption of the volcano of San Salvador, at the foot of which the city is situated.

The telegraph operator at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, reported that the operator at San Salvador had informed him that earthquakes had been felt there. The shocks also were felt at Tegucigalpa, where the operator at 7:45 p. m. lost communication with San Salvador on all wires.

From Sensuntepeque, in north central Salvador, flames were seen rising apparently from a volcano in the neighborhood of San Salvador.

CYCLONES KILL THIRTY-NINE

Tornadoes Hit Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Michigan—Millions of Dollars in Damage.

Chicago, June 8.—Thirty-nine persons were killed and millions of dollars' worth of property damaged by tornadoes which swept through Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Michigan.

In central and lower Michigan three were killed, fifteen injured and the property loss was over \$1,000,000. The storm twisted through Jackson, Battle Creek, Lansing and other cities. Mrs. Mary Ranzler and her baby were killed near Ann Arbor, and Mrs. Florence Brown was crushed to death at Springfield by falling walls.

In Missouri seven persons were killed in Wright county and much damage done in the apple belt. Eleven lives were lost in Boone county, three at Richmond, and one at Whitman.

Kansas reports eight fatalities in the country west and southwest of Topeka, and one was killed at Savonburg. In the far southeastern section of the state.

Reports from Central City, Ky., were that five persons were killed and 20 hurt in the cyclone which ravaged the surrounding county. Bevier, a mining town near Central City, was reported wiped out.

GERMAN SHIP LOST IN FIGHT

Destroyer Sunk and Another Damaged in Fight With British—Austrian Craft Torpedoed.

London, June 7.—A German destroyer has been sunk and another damaged in a running fight between six German destroyers and Commodore Tyrwhitt's squadron, the admiralty announces.

Vienna, June 7.—An Austrian torpedo boat was torpedoed and sunk by a hostile submarine on Sunday night in the northern Adriatic, it was officially announced.

GERMAN CAPTAIN GIVEN YEAR

Kaiser's Subject, Who Sank Steamship Liebenfels in Charleston Harbor, Sent to Atlanta Prison.

Charleston, S. C., June 8.—Capt. J. R. Klantenhoff, former master of the German steamship Liebenfels, which he pleaded guilty to sinking in Charleston harbor when the break with Germany was imminent, was sentenced to a year in Atlanta penitentiary.

No Passports to Peace Meet.

Rome, June 11.—A semi-official announcement said no passports will be given to Socialists who wish to participate in the conference at Stockholm. He considers the conference a maneuver of the central powers.

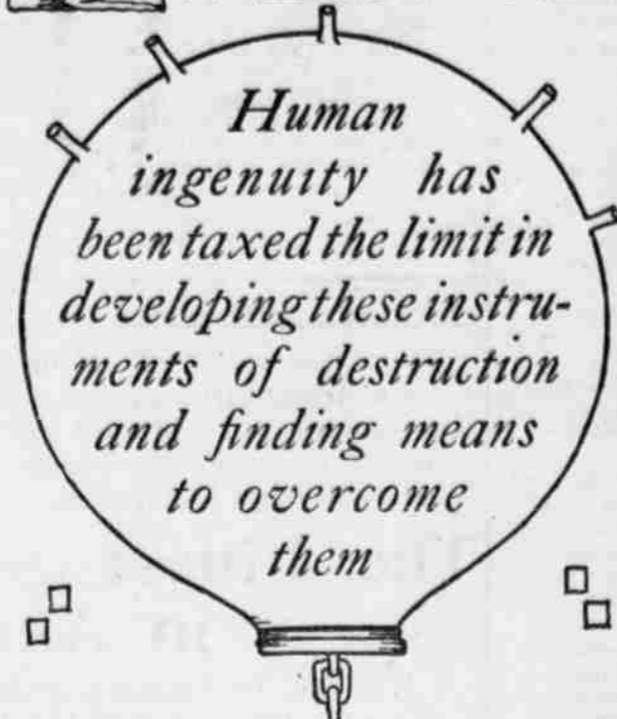
Austrians in Big Movement.

Udine, Italy, June 11.—A semi-official announcement says that Austria has made a formidable concentration of forces on the Italian front. The Italians are now confronted by an estimated two-thirds of the entire army.

Eight Die on British Ship.

New York, June 11.—Cable advices to the International Mercantile company declare that eight persons aboard the 1,200-ton British torpedoed liner Southland were killed outright and that 40 are missing.

Fighting the Deadly Sea Mine and Submarine



Human ingenuity has been taxed the limit in developing these instruments of destruction and finding means to overcome them

OR many months after the outbreak of the war abroad the submarine mine was a close second to the torpedo in achieving the destruction of all kinds of shipping. Thereafter the mine fell somewhat behind, not because it lacked power to do harm, but for two other reasons—first, the wholesome dread inspired by the prescribed mined areas and next because of the various expedients adopted by the belligerents to neutralize these subaqueous weapons. Even so, the mine is playing a big part in marine warfare, and we shall have to count with it and against it now that we have joined forces with the entente allies.

It is a matter of record that the Germans got the jump on the British by their prompt and even daring employment of the submarine mine. Within a very short time after the declaration of war Teuton mine planters were operating on the English and Scottish coasts and were busily engaged in sowing these weapons at the very entrance of enemy ports and rivers.

For this purpose it was rather easy then to have recourse to North sea fishing craft that had all the outward complexion of innocence; indeed, for weeks these boats went about their work well-nigh unsuspected. It was only when British battle craft were mysteriously damaged and sunk that the British authorities awakened to their peril.

Even then the belief prevailed that the damage was more or less a matter of sheer chance—chance in the nature of a friendly defense mine that had got adrift. Then the next explanation was that a particularly daring U-boat commander had managed to get within striking distance, and finally it dawned upon the British coast patrol that enemy mines were being freely planted right under their very noses.

Every fishing boat was then an object of suspicion, and prompt investigation proved in a great many cases that there was ample warrant for this attitude. Neutral trawlers became more and more infrequent in certain of the waters contiguous to the north and east coasts of Scotland and England, and for a time the mine menace was held pretty well in hand.

The resourceful Teutons, however, were not checkmated, and it was only a question of time before they developed a method with which to offset the vigilance of the British coastal patrol. Then the German submarine mine layers got to work. How many of these the Kaiser's experts have built and sent to their fields of service in the waters of the North sea especially, is not known. It is safe to say too many of them have been built and dispatched upon their missions and the general character of them all is probably much akin to that of the U-C-5, which was captured and taken into a British port.

By chance a British destroyer discovered the U-C-5 on the surface and in distress at some point along the east coast. When summoned by megaphone to surrender the crew of the submarine mustered on deck and held up their hands in token of submission, but curiously before a relief boat could be sent to them they jumped overboard.

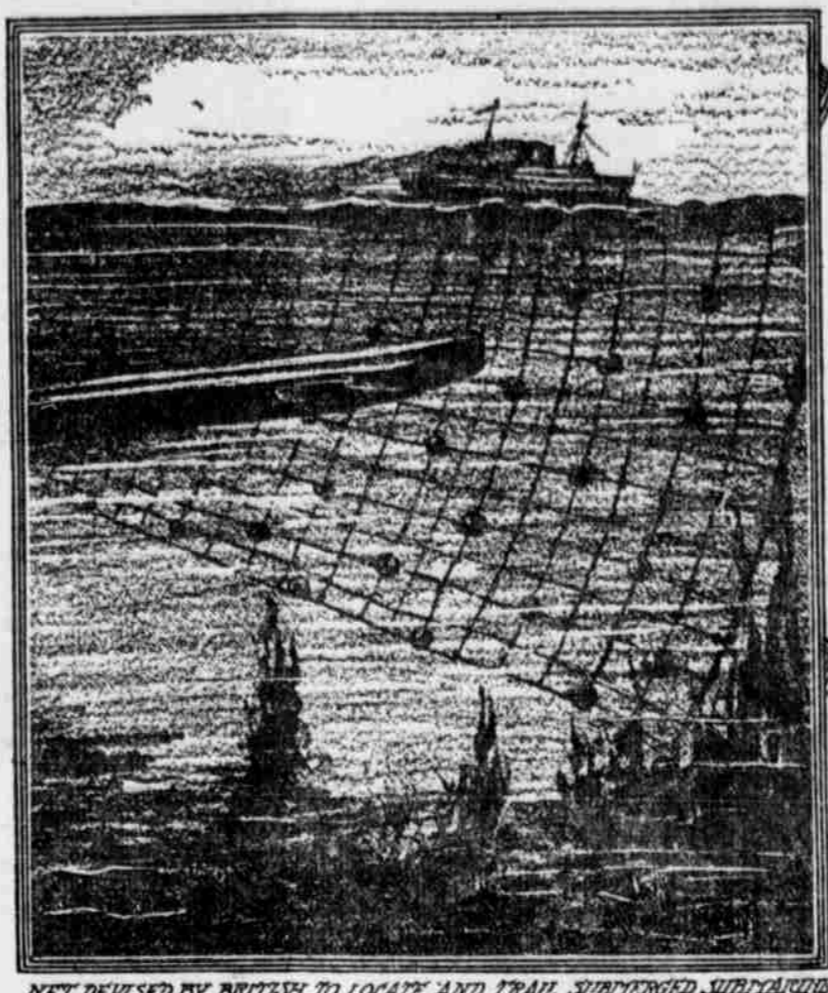
The cause of their action was soon explained. Another member of the submarine's complement suddenly appeared upon deck and threw himself into the water and almost immediately afterward there were a number of violent explosions within the U-C-5. The last man had exploded bombs which blew holes in the craft. But for prompt action on the part of a British sublieutenant, who, protected by a gas mask, went dauntlessly down into the injured U-boat, the mine planter would have filled and gone to the bottom in water too deep for her recovery.

As it was, she represented a desperate task for her would-be salvors and it was necessary to secure a couple of mines within the boat that had been set free by the explosions before it was safe to tow the submarine into harbor and to dock her. Upon examination this new order of submarine was found to be charged or laden with a dozen powerful contact mines housed in six vertical wells passing directly from deck to bottom of the craft.

Each well held two mines, one on top of the other, and both were kept in their places by locking devices which could be released from within the submarine. The controlling station for this operation was found to be in the conning tower, so that the commander of the boat with only her periscopes above water could see just where to sow his weapons.

In this way the Germans have been able upon many occasions to approach certain sections of the waters about the British Isles and to plant these mines that have accomplished the destructive work cut out for them. How many ships have been sent to the bottom by mines sown by boats of this sort is, of course, a matter of conjecture, but there can be no doubt that submarine mine planters are actively employed today.

One thing about them that makes them of special interest, even concern, to us is that there is nothing to prevent their operating in a similar manner upon our Atlantic coast. What is to prevent a submarine somewhat after the order of the Deutschland from being equipped for work of this nature? Instead of carrying some hundreds of tons of commercial freight she could just as easily divide that weight among mines, mine-plant-



NET DEvised BY BRITISH TO LOCATE AND TRAIL SUBMERGED SUBMARINE

ing apparatus and an increased supply of fuel and food which would make it possible for her to perform her service for longer periods and over wider zones of action.

The whole subject of submarine mines, offensive and defensive, and the subaqueous protection against enemy submarines is one with which our naval and military authorities are deeply engaged. It is safe to say that we are going to see some remarkable developments, and largely because our allies are going to give us the benefit of their own experience so that native ingenuity can start to improve upon the fruits of the labors of others. Indeed, our subaqueous defenses must of necessity be of the best types possible because of the extent of our seaboard and the comparatively limited number of vessels that the navy has for patrol work.

The recent presidential order prescribing defense zones at the approaches of certain ports and waterways had to do with the army's part primarily in this matter of subaqueous safeguards. The mine fields controlled by the military authorities, those of the Coast Artillery corps, are as a rule protected by observation mines or electric contact mines that are made active or inactive by the operation of a switch. That is to say, the vitalizing current comes from a central station ashore, and neither of these types of mines will explode unless the electric current reaches them by way of a submerged cable.

In the case of the contact mine with the current turned on the mine will explode when bumped and tilted over to a prescribed angle. The observation mine, on the other hand, does not have to be touched by the enemy craft, but is subject to the will of an observer on shore.

Observation mines are planted in groups and are laid out in definite checkerboard areas, and each group is set off separately and simultaneously. The observer, by means of range marks or bearings, knows just when the approaching foe reaches any one of these squares, and accordingly the one within which the enemy lies at the moment determines the group of mines to be detonated.

The contact mine, as may easily be understood, does its work where an observer might fail, after dark, and for that reason the electric current is turned on with set of sun and the whole area so soon becomes instantly a menace to friend or foe. It is quite likely that observation mines were employed by the Turks at the Dardanelles, and therefore by approaching from under water it was possible for the British submarine B-11 to dive beneath five rows of mines, probably shoving their cables aside and tilting the weapons, and then pushing on so that she could rise to the surface and torpedo the Turkish battleship Mesudiyeh, which was stationed to guard that very mine field.

Had those mines been of the contact sort, the displacement of their cables would probably have caused their detonation and likewise the destruction of the B-11. Other British submarines succeeded in passing submerged through those Turkish defenses, the enemy observers being unable to see the underwater boats. It was the exploits of the submarines at the Dardanelles that disclosed to the British the weak spot in their own mine defenses and led a short while afterward to the development of other protective agencies in dealing with the German underwater boats.

Unquestionably the most spectacular part of submarine mining is that in which the weapons are resorted to in open waters, especially in those offshore areas where a defense of that sort is not ordinarily employed. The Italians were the pioneers in this order of subaqueous warfare, and they developed the art in peace to such a point that other nations realized that the mine was no longer limited in its potential usefulness either to the defense of a port or for blockading the ships in an enemy harbor.

The Italians showed that the submarine mines could be used offensively, so to speak, if planted secretly and placed where by strategy the unsuspecting foe could be lured over and into them. The Japanese during their war with Russia made good use of what the Italians had taught them, and when the present conflict began Germany was fully prepared to carry the practice still further.

German mine layers were ready and numerous on August 1 three years ago; and as we now know the Kaiser's navy lost no time in mining the marine approaches to the fatherland. Not only that, but these craft, in various guises, planted mines over wide areas in the North sea and in the waters of the British Isles.

The Hague convention of 1907 among other things provided that "it is forbidden to lay anchored automatic contact mines which do not become harmless as soon as they have broken loose from their moorings;" and it was also prescribed



DECOY PERISCOPE ON TOP OF CONTACT MINE

at that time that no unanchored mines should be used which would be dangerous more than an hour after they had been dropped into the sea. The mines in question are self-contained contact mines that are not controlled from any shore or observing station and are well-nigh instantly menacing when cast overboard.

Just before the war the Germans, with their usual technical cunning, developed a naval offense and defense mine which could be used either in a fixed position or be planted hastily in water traversed by enemy shipping. This mine is the type which has done such destructive work and is designed to be fired by an electric battery placed inside of the mine, this battery being inactive until the mine has been submerged and then struck by a passing craft.

A development of the contact mine which the Germans have at times employed successfully is one surmounted by a dummy or decoy periscope. The object of this ruse is to invite ramming on the part of a patrolling vessel or even a merchantman when the deceived navigator believes that the chance is good for sending a U-boat to the bottom. Of course a vessel attempting to ram that dummy periscope is sure to strike the contact mine and cause it to explode, the result being disastrous to the ramming craft.

This lure has not worked so well latterly because the observer is able in a few moments to establish the fact that the periscope is stationary, and the work of getting the underlying mine out of the way is left to the fairly safe process of sweeping—trawlers linked together by a loop of wire rope doing the work.

In order to deal with both the submarine torpedo boat and the submarine mine planter the British admiralty has had recourse to defense nets of a novel character. These have been very well described by Rear Admiral William S. Sims. According to this authority:

"We did not find out for a long time what those nets are like and I think it is necessary that it should be understood in order to realize the great danger submarines run in the presence of light surface craft.

"The net is a very light one, made of little wire rope, probably not as big as a lead pencil, probably not more than a quarter of an inch in diameter. The meshes of the net are 12 to 15 feet square. On top of this net are floats and on the bottom are little weights.

"The moment this net—'unbeknownst' to the submarine commander, of course—is in the water in front of him, the floats keep the net on the surface and the weights keep the bottom down, and if he runs into it his bow goes into one of the meshes and the net falls back around him, and it may foul his propeller or may not.

"The net is 300 or 400 yards long, and as the submarine proceeds the floats will trail on the surface, so that even if he dives deeper he leaves these on the surface and his trail is plain and there is no difficulty then in capturing him. He knows when he runs into a net that his capture is practically certain. If he goes down 200 feet the floats of the net are still on the surface."

These nets are used in two ways, either passively at chosen points in guarded waters or they are dropped overboard by patrolling vessels that discover a submerged submarine in motion. It is a fact that even though a submarine be running totally submerged 20 or 30 feet down, it still causes a disturbance at the surface, not a wake, but the usual sense of the term, but a type of wave which is easily distinguished from the regular surface waves, and this phenomenon is readily discernible from the bridge of a ship or from a hydroplane.

To return to the submarine mine. We have so far considered only that so-called offensive type which can be anchored in fairly smooth waters, such as prevail extensively in the North sea, but now let us take up that kind which can be dropped overboard in much deeper water. This sort is capable of being planted from a speedy ship seemingly bent upon escaping from her pursuers, and her strategy consists in luring chase while dropping these stumblingblocks right in the path of her oncoming enemies.

Generally the ship hitting weapons of this sort does so bow on, and that part of a vessel is the least vital section. A craft may have her bow blown off and yet be able to make a haven, and besides the damage may be susceptible of speedy repair. Our mines, on the other hand, have a delayed action, and after being hit by the stem of a craft roll sternward in contact with her bottom for some distance before they explode. In this way the blow, when the mine does burst, strikes some vital area and the damage is well-nigh certain to be fatal.—New York Sun.

GOSSIP FROM STATE HOUSE

Blank petitions for the referendum on the limited suffrage law passed by the last legislature are being circulated from headquarters at Omaha.

Much of the state's available land, idle in past years, is being utilized in the great endeavor to increase the food production needed during the coming year.

According to a ruling by the attorney general salaries and administrative expenses of the university can be legally paid out of the 3-4 mill tax levy for activities.

Special branches of work in the educational department of the state may have to be discontinued on account of a scarcity of teachers resulting from enlistments and other causes produced by the war.

Deputy Attorney General Dexter T. Barrett has tendered his resignation as Attorney General Reed, and the latter has accepted it and named Charles S. Roe, now assistant in the state legal department to succeed him.

J. W. Shorthill, secretary of the state farmers' grain and live stock association, has gone to Washington to protest against proposed legislation regarding price fixing by the government in so far as it relates to farm products.

According to the report of the state treasurer, the balance in the general fund has increased from \$156,000 to \$278,000. The total balance in all the funds has increased from \$1,200,000 to \$1,525,000.

A petition asking for a thorough investigation of the Nebraska School for the Deaf has been filed with the state board of control. Among the charges specified are mismanagement, favoritism, lack of discipline and incompetency.

State Veterinarian Anderson makes the statement that the constant demand from Europe for American horses has seriously depleted the number of animals available for the use of the United States government, particularly in Nebraska.

Governor Neville's attention having been called to the labor law making nine hours a day's work for women, says he does not believe the law will be enforced in the case of those women who will be called upon to take men's places during service in the war.

State Labor Commissioner George Norman has been appointed by Governor Neville to the new position of compensation commissioner, created by the last legislature. The governor named him for this place on the understanding that he will perform the duties of both offices with no extra salary.

The supreme court has upheld a California law imposing an occupation tax on corporations doing an interstate business based upon the capital stock. The state of Nebraska has a similar law, and has won a suit against the Rock Island railroad, which may be appealed, but it is thought the decision in the California case will render such proceeding useless.

At a recent meeting of the Lincoln Commercial club, there was a general discussion of the convict road law adopted by the late legislature. The bill carries an appropriation of \$50,000 to be used by the board of control in the purchase of a site and equipment of a plant for manufacturing purposes, to be operated for the use and benefit of the state in the employment of convicts at the penitentiary. Following reports from Dr. Condra and Prof. Chaburn of the state university, State Engineer Johnson, and others, the club adopted resolutions urging the board of control to investigate the use of convict labor in the various states with the idea of putting into effect senate file No. 300; and that such part of the \$50,000 appropriated and now available, as may be necessary, be expended for the purchase of a site, machinery and equipment for the operation of a plant for the making of brick, or getting out other road building material and thus conserving the resources of our state; and further urges the board of control to purchase such machinery and equipment as is necessary to make the convict road law operative.

Owing to the fact that Nebraska is several hundred troops behind in war strength, Adjutant General Hall anticipates a draft of men between 18 and 45 to fill up the ranks. This would be independent of the selective draft authorized in the federal army bill.

Thirty two-days courses in canning will be held over the state during the month of June, under supervision of the university extension service. This department is very anxious that every woman possible attend these sessions.

An act of the 1915 legislature which empowers high school districts containing less than six sections of land to annex parts of other districts contiguous thereto under the direction of the county superintendent and county board was held valid by the supreme court recently in a decision in a Nemaha county case. The fact that the land was not detached equally from all of the adjacent districts is held not to vitiate the proceedings.