

BRITISH PARTY IS WARMLY RECEIVED

SIMPLE HEARTFELT WELCOME EXTENDED ENGLISHMEN.

WILL MAKE CO-OPERATION EASY

Foreign Secretary Balfour Says U. S. Will Astonish World in War.—Declares Germany Lacked Foresight.—Had Uneventful Trip.

Washington.—Unscathed by U-boat and other marine perils, British Foreign Secretary Balfour and party arrived here safe and sound last Sunday.

The American capital extended a simple but heartfelt welcome to Mr. Balfour and the other members of the British commission.

The British foreign secretary, while unwilling to speculate on what form American participation in the war might take, said he had no doubt America's efforts would astonish the world particularly Germany.

He indicated that it was his opinion that if Germany had foreseen how fully the United States would enter the struggle she would not have precipitated war between the two countries.

More and more it has become evident that the commission, aside from any technical aid it may render to this country has come over for a general and broad understanding of the whole American point of view.

The Object of Commission.

The object of the commission, Mr. Balfour said, was "to make co-operation easy and effective between those who are striving with all their power to bring about a lasting peace by the only means that can secure it, namely, a successful war."

"Your president, in a most apt and vivid phrase," Mr. Balfour added "proclaimed that the world must be made safe for democracy; that self-governing communities are not to be treated as negligible simply because they are small; that the ruthless domination of one unscrupulous power imperils the future of civilization and the liberties of mankind are truths of political ethics which the bitter experience of war is burning into the souls of all freedom-loving peoples."

England's leading statesmen having safely evaded the German submarines and mines which sent Lord Kitchener to his death, were received with the highest honors as guests of the American people, when they arrived at Vancouver, just this side of the Canadian line.

A delegation of officials welcomed the commission in the name of the government and set out with them to the capital for what is admittedly the most vital conference in American history.

The commission was received, with the utmost simplicity and cordiality and with every recognition of the fact that Great Britain had given of its best. It is said, indeed, that no foreign minister has left England for the length of time that Mr. Balfour will be away since the congress of Vienna, a century ago.

Shortly after the Balfour party arrived in Washington, the state department made known the details of the commissioners' long trip, which was surrounded with secrecy and precautions never before equalled in this country.

The British commissioners stole secretly away from England, April 11, on a fast cruiser protected in every possible way from German spies who might have got out word to lurking submarines. The voyage was entirely uneventful, however, and the party arrived at Halifax April 20. Crossing to St. John, a special train took them to the little Canadian town of Mr. Adams, just across the international bridge, which Werner Horn, a former German officer, attempted to blow up. On April 21 the party arrived at the frontier town of Vancouver, where the American reception committee welcomed them to American soil.

Balfour made it clear, shortly after arriving in this country, that the war will be long, that it will tax our resources of men; it will require all we have of financial strength; it will command our commercial and industrial energy; it will involve the individual effort of every true American.

"We have come," he said, "to help America turn the first page in a new chapter in the history of mankind."

"The United States does not yet realize all it will be called upon to do and what we know it will do. And it is much. Time will bring the war home to you, as it has done to us."

The various members of the commission, including Mr. Balfour himself, brought with them much of the atmosphere of the quiet sufferings and pain that has afflicted England during the last two and a half years.

"Ever since we have been in the United States," Mr. Balfour said, "we have been struck with the atmosphere of calm and peacefulness which naturally prevails. We feel ourselves far removed here from the stress and horror that Germany has thrust on Europe, much as many of our people felt distant from France in the early days of the war. The United States, fortunately, probably will never experience the human losses that France for so long and ourselves during the past months, have experienced."

"Nevertheless," Mr. Balfour added, "I doubt if you can foresee what fundamental changes the war will bring into your ordinary life. We in England look back with amazement at the vital changes during our last thirty months of mobilization, and imagine that many of the changes we have gone through, so salutary even for themselves alone, will be repeated here."

Two German Warships Sunk.

London.—Two German destroyers were sunk, when the enemy attempted a raid on Dover, the admiralty announced.

The raid was attempted with five German vessels participating. Following the raid on Dover, German torpedo boat destroyers fired one hundred shells in the region of Calais, just across the English channel. Some civilians were killed. Twelve persons were slightly wounded.

Crowd Hoots German Survivors.

New York.—Reynolds' Weekly newspaper says that at Dover twenty-eight German and twenty-two British dead lie in the market hall. The crowds hooted the German survivors from the sunken destroyers when they landed, on account of the sinking of hospital ships by German submarines.

Berlin Admits Destroyers Lost.

Berlin.—"After a naval engagement to the east of Dover," says an official statement, "two German torpedo boat destroyers, the G-85 and G-42, are reported to have been lost."

Two Hospital Ships Sunk.

London.—Two British hospital ships, the Donegal and Lafrance, have been sunk without warning by German submarines. Seventy-five persons, including wounded men and men of the crews of the two vessels, are believed to have perished.

Of the wounded all were not British—fifteen were German officers and soldiers, who were on board the Lafrance. All together there were 167 Germans on this vessel.

The placing of Germans on hospital ships which do not carry the characteristic sign is one of the methods of reprisal decided upon by the British government because of the unwarmed sinking of these boats of mercy. One of the latest victims of submarines was not so marked.

The Lafrance was a vessel of 6,287 tons gross, 418 feet in length. The Donegal was registered 1,967 tons gross and was 331 feet long.

Turkey Breaks With U. S.

London.—The Turkish government on April 20 officially informed the American embassy that diplomatic relations with the United States had been broken off, according to a Berlin dispatch forwarded by Reuters' correspondent at Amsterdam.

American Ambassador Elkus, who is suffering from typhus fever, the report adds, will have to remain some time in Constantinople. The ambassador's condition has shown some improvement.

Soldiers Fire On Strikers.

London.—Ten thousand strikers, mostly munition workers, tried to burn the town hall at Magdeburg on April 20, according to dispatches reaching here from Oldenzaal, Holland.

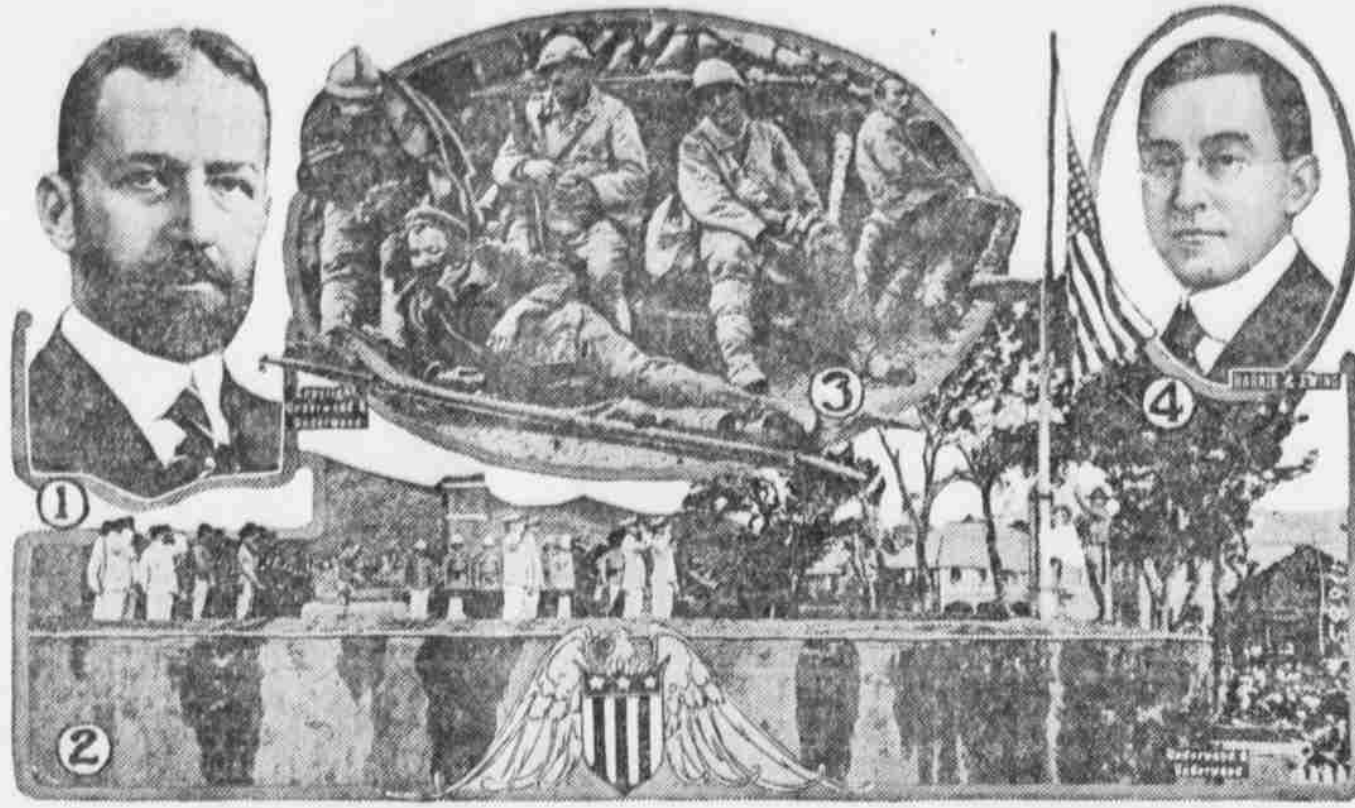
Magdeburg is the capital of the Prussian province of Saxony and one of the strongest fortresses in the German empire.

It is seventy-six miles from Berlin and is the seat of immense steel works and machine shops, forming part of the great Krupp works. The city had a population in 1900 of 229,693.

Dispatches from Amsterdam quoted the Dusseldorfer General Anzeiger as saying that a mass meeting of Berlin strikers adopted resolutions demanding peace without annexation, abolition of compulsory service, liberation of political prisoners, complete political freedom and general, secret, equal and direct franchise throughout the empire.

Papers Hope for Speedy Victory.

Amsterdam.—German newspapers express the opinion that the record figure of the sixth German war loan will prove to the entente that the attempt to exhaust Germany's financial strength is a failure and that this, coupled with the American crop shortage and the German submarine exploits, must bring a speedy victory. The Vossische Zeitung attributes the success of the loan to the "fires that flamed up in German breasts at President Wilson's repulsive treatment of us."



1—New portrait of Mario G. Menocal, president of Cuba, who is co-operating actively with the allies. 2—Raising the Stars and Stripes over the Virgin Islands at Fredericksport, St. Croix. 3—German soldiers, captured by the French, wounded and dazed by gun fire. 4—Theodore Brent of New Orleans, youngest member of the federal shipping board which is planning the construction of 1,000 wooden ships.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

War Councils With Leaders of the Allies Are Opened in Washington.

FIGHT OVER CONSCRIPTION

Dent's Committee Rejects President's Plan—Enemy Submarine Reported Near New York—Nivelle Smashes German Lines Between Reims and Soissons.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

For America at war the outstanding event of the past week was the opening of the great allied war councils in Washington. Headed by such eminent men as British Foreign Minister Balfour and Rene Viviani, former premier of France, the commissions from England and France arrived in the national capital, were installed in fine residences and at once began the series of conferences with the heads of the American government and of its armed forces.

In order to insure the safety of the commissioners, the government quite properly suppressed all news of their movements; and it is in no hurry to tell what transpires at the conferences. It is safe to say, however, that the results of the meetings will be momentous.

Congress provided enough sinews of war for the present by passing the bill for the issuance of \$7,000,000,000, of which \$3,000,000,000 is to be lent to the allies. There was not a single opposing vote in either house or senate. Congress also appropriated \$100,000,000 as an emergency war fund to be put at the disposal of the president.

Conscription Still in Doubt.

President Wilson continued throughout the week his strenuous fight for selective conscription, but arguments and threats were alike vain so far as the house military committee was concerned. The committee rejected, 15 to 8, the administration provision, and then adopted an amendment offered by Chairman Dent providing that the president should call for 300,000 volunteers under the existing volunteer act, and should apply conscription only when he "decides that such additional forces cannot be effectually raised and maintained under the call for volunteers." The house agreed to take up the army bill on Monday.

In the senate committee the president fared better, for the administration bill with the selective conscription feature was accepted by a vote of 10 to 7. It is the hope of the administration that the senate will pass this bill before the house acts.

Impressed by the strength of the opposition to his conscription plan, especially in the ranks of the Democratic party, the president on Thursday issued an appeal to the public to support his proposition.

Administration leaders protest that the advocates of the volunteer system have spread the idea that under the conscription plan there is no room for the volunteer system, whereas the president's plan leaves the way open for 500,000 volunteers to serve for the duration of the war only.

At the beginning of the week President Wilson issued a remarkable proclamation to the nation, calling on all the people to give to it, in their respective capacities, their united, full service for the successful prosecution of the war. Such a call was doubtless needed to arouse individuals, but recent events show that the industries of the country already are completely organized and proceeding to carry out the plans outlined by the council of national defense. The work done and being done by that body of patriotic men is revealed as most comprehensive and complete, and when it is known in its entirety will astonish the people of America.

U-Boats in American Waters?

Are there any German U-boats in American waters? Berlin says "not yet," but the officers of the American destroyer Smith aver that a torpedo was fired at their vessel early Tuesday morning 100 miles south of New York. They are sure the missile came from a submarine, because they saw the periscope.

Having been advised by British and French naval men that the well-armed merchant vessel is the best weapon for use against the submarine, the American government is pushing with redoubled vigor its plans for the building of big fleets of wooden ships. It is even considering delaying the construction of five battleships for this purpose.

In the United States union labor in general is heartily supporting the government in its war measures. The exceptions are certain scattered groups of manifestly Germanic tendencies. The members of these, as well as certain other Americans with perverted ideas of their duty to mankind, may profitably study President Wilson's proclamation, issued Monday, warning against the commission of treasonable acts. Giving aid and comfort to the enemy is treason, and the punishment for treason may be death. It is a pity that such a proclamation should be necessary.

Recruiting Is Better.

Recruiting for the regular army and navy during the past week was much more satisfactory than heretofore. From the navy training schools thousands of young men, made fit by intensive training, were sent to the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard to man the vessels of the fleets.

The University of Illinois' plan for the enlisting of a great army of agricultural laborers, men and boys outside the years of military service or otherwise exempt, having been recommended by the council of national defense and approved by the administration, seems likely to solve the problem of farm labor. This, and the concerted movement to urge the growing of limit crops have aroused the farmers and gardeners so that the dangers of a food shortage are decreasing. Every help possible is promised the agriculturists in the way of obtaining seed and labor.

Prices of Foodstuffs Still are Abnormally High.

Prices of foodstuffs still are abnormally high, and there are more than hints that the government will curb the avarice of the speculators. Canadian wheat was put on the free list Monday, and the depressing effect on the price of May wheat was immediate but not lasting. The grain speculators are being investigated by the federal authorities.

Great Victory for the French.

The greatest battle of the war to date, and consequently the greatest in all history, is that being fought in northern France. While the British were making their tremendous thrust toward Lens and St. Quentin, the French were concentrating their artillery fire on the German lines in the Reims-Soissons sector. When storms and German re-enforcements temporarily checked the rush of Haig's men, Nivelle's troops took their turn. On Monday they smashed against the Teutonic front, crushing the enemy defenses for 25 miles, capturing the second and even the third line in places. Such was the impetus of the attack that in one instance, at Brimout, they broke clear through. This is the sector where the crown prince commands, and he hurriedly brought up brigade after brigade of reserves which made desperate attempts to win back the lost ground. But the wonderful French field artillery had followed close behind the infantry and checked the German counter-attacks with awful loss of life. On Tuesday the French resumed their drive and pushed the Germans still farther back on the line from Reims to the Champagne front. All Tuesday night the fighting was fierce, but the French held their gains. In those two days 14,000 Germans were taken captive and about 35,000 others were killed or wounded. The prisoners were in a state of collapse from hunger and the effects of the gas-fire.

Meanwhile the British pushed their way farther to the north of St. Quentin and consolidated the positions they had won.

What Berlin Says of It.

German official reports on the French offensive are naive. They admit the success of the attack, but assert the object of the Germans was,

"even if war material were lost, to spare the lives of our forces and inflict heavy sanguinary losses upon the enemy, and thus decisively weaken him. This was achieved."

Again, on Wednesday, General Nivelle hit the German line hard along a twenty-mile stretch from Reims to Auberive, and then beat off the crown prince's furious counter-attacks. The British made more advances near Loos and St. Quentin. So it went day after day until, before the week ended the French estimated the number of unwounded prisoners taken by them alone at more than 20,000. They also captured many guns and immense quantities of supplies.

Retirement of the Germans in Roumania is foreshadowed by the report from Jassy that they have burned the towns of Braila and Fokshani.

The Turks, too, are retiring, willy-nilly, before the steady advance of General Maude's army northwest from Bagdad and the Russian forces in Asia Minor.

Russia Will Stand Firm.

In what may be called the field of diplomatic endeavor, attention must be called again to German efforts to seduce the new Russia from her allegiances and make a separate peace. These efforts, started by Socialist leaders, have now taken on a semi-official character, for the German censorship and prohibition of egress from the country have been relaxed and the government treats the Socialists with a sudden favor that is decidedly suspicious. The negotiations are being carried on in Sweden, whither some Russian radicals have betaken themselves. Encouraging reports from Petrograd say that the dam is split, the majority favoring sustaining the provisional government in its determination to prosecute the war to a victorious end is very large. Germany's pacific promises to Russia, and those of Austria, are too showy to deceive any but the most simple-minded, and even were they more substantial, the course of the imperial government has not been such as to inspire the least confidence in its pledges. Wilhelm may mean to fulfill his promises of electoral reform in Prussia, but they give little assurance of measurably promoting the cause of democracy, for which the world is fighting. Indeed, the promised reform would leave the autocratic system in the heart of Germany.

The leaders of democratic Russia must see, as do the leaders of the other allied nations, that though the world might afford to make peace with the German people, it cannot afford to make peace with the German kaiser. On Wednesday still better news came from Petrograd in the form of assurances to the American government that under any conditions the provisional government of Russia would yield to the overtures of the German and Austrian Socialist agents to negotiate a separate peace.

The Austrian cabinet became disrupted during the week. Two of its members withdrew. It was reported that Premier Tisza of Hungary had resigned.

Food restrictions and labor conditions in Germany gave rise to a big strike of Berlin munition workers that started on Monday. The government was forced to make concessions to them. Poles forced by the Germans to work in munition plants of Warsaw also went on strike.

Norway and Spain Aroused.

Norway is becoming more and more indignant over the destruction of her merchant marine by German submarines, and in the last few days the shipping men and the press, heartened by America's entrance into the war, have been openly advocating the arming of their vessels. Spain, too, is exasperated by U-boat outrages, and King Alfonso on Wednesday told some troops at a review: "It is necessary that we shall keep in a constant state of preparation."

Serious news came Thursday from Buenos Aires to the effect that the German inhabitants of three states in Brazil had rebelled. They are said to be well armed and organized. There are about half a million Germans in Brazil.

Germany lost one of her "strong" men last week when General von Bisping, the German governor general of Belgium died. The Belgians did not go into mourning.

ASKS FOR POWER TO CONTROL FOOD

HOUSTON LAYS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM BEFORE CONGRESS.

WANTS FUND TO OPERATE PLAN

Agricultural Department Seeks Authority to Take Over Concerns in Case of Emergency—Omaha Dealers Vitaly Interested.

Washington.—The government's program of food control during the war was put before congress by Secretary Houston in a communication to the senate asking power for the Department of Agriculture to take direct supervision of food production and distribution in the United States and requesting a \$25,000,000 appropriation to put the plan into operation.

Authority was asked for the Council of National Defense, in an emergency, to buy and sell foodstuffs and to fix maximum or minimum prices.

Plans Food Supply Survey.

As outlined to the senate, the government's plan is first to make a complete survey of the country's food supply to determine its ownership and distribution. Then if necessary to license and control the operations of all concerns engaged in the manufacture of food or feeds, agricultural implements and all materials required for agricultural purposes.

Authority is sought for the agricultural department to take over and operate the concerns if necessary to the public interest.

Giving the government power to deal directly in foodstuffs probably would make its application unnecessary, Secretary Houston declared, as its very existence would tend to keep conditions normal. He proposed that the government should have full discretion, saying it might be wise if an emergency arose to fix prices on a single commodity.

Market Grades Necessary.

Market grades and classes for farm products, Secretary Houston said, is one of the chief needs of the country to insure proper conditions in producing and marketing farm products.

Authority also was asked for the department to require of transportation companies preference for the movement of farm machinery, seeds, fertilizers and materials that enter into the processes of food production.

Officials of all departments and divisions of the government realize the facts of the situation existing must be learned before remedies can be planned. Now, no one knows how much food there is in the country and how it is distributed.

Suggestions that the government is contemplating measures for national prohibition during the war as a means of increasing the food supply are met with the statement by officials that no early action in that direction is likely as it is not considered necessary at this time.

Mr. Houston warned against agricultural experiments in new areas and tests of new crops. The increase of food, he said, must come about largely through increased farm efficiency and on farms and ranges already in operation. The problem he defined as one of more concentration of effort, not that of putting more land under cultivation.

"Some of the greatest preventable wastes are in the home," said the secretary.

Can't Avoid Duty By Marrying.

Washington.—Men of military age who have married since a state of war against Germany was declared will not escape their obligations of military service under a war department policy formally announced. The department's statement follows:

"The war department announces that all men married since the outbreak of war will be treated upon the same basis as unmarried men in so far as their military obligations are concerned. It is desired that the utmost publicity be given by the press to this announcement."

The department was moved to take this action in order that all men should understand exactly what is contemplated in the organization of an army to fight Germany. It was desired that there should arise no question of slackers upon the score of marriages contracted since the outbreak of war with the possible construction that the marriage in any case was hastened in order that military duty might be evaded.

Women Will Cultivate Lots.

Armour, S. D.—The women of Armour, in an effort to reduce the high cost of living, have started a movement to cultivate all the vacant lots in the city.

Offer Advertising Space Free.

Washington.—Publishers of agricultural papers, representing 6,000,000 readers, in session here recently, adopted resolutions offering to the government free advertising space for the sale of war bonds or to promote enlistments in the army or navy.