

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP SUNK BY A GERMAN SUBSEA

Norwegian Steamer Storstad, Flying Flag of American Commission, Sent to Bottom by U-Boat.

YANKEE ABOARD SAVED
One Man Perishes From Exposure and Two More Are Reported Missing.

TWENTY-SEVEN LANDED

London, March 10.—Official information was received here today to the effect that the Norwegian steamer Storstad, a Belgian relief ship, which had one American citizen on board, had been sunk by a submarine. It carried a cargo of grain from Buenos Aires. Twenty-seven members of the crew, including the American, have been landed. One member of the crew died of exposure and others are missing. It is stated officially that the Storstad was flying the flag of the American commission for relief in Belgium and bore the markings designated for the relief ships. The London office of the commission states that the Storstad carried 10,000 tons of maize, which was needed badly in Belgium, where the shortage as a result of the detention of grain cargoes will soon be felt severely. The Storstad was ordered to leave Las Palmas on February 26. It took on coal at Gibraltar and its master was instructed to proceed to Rotterdam by the northerly route.

No previous report has been received in this country of the sinking of the Storstad. The steamer, 6,028 tons gross, sailed from Buenos Aires on January 13.

Six Thousand Army Blankets Will Be Cleaned in Omaha

Six thousand army blankets are to be dry cleaned in Omaha.

Colonel G. S. Bingham, depot quartermaster at Omaha, has this little item to negotiate with some of the Omaha cleaners along with his other duties.

Colonel Bingham is advertising for bids on a lot of supplies which the government wants for the army at this time. The bids will be opened at 10 in the morning, March 13. The supplies are to be furnished at the Omaha quartermaster depot. The supplies include 400 pounds boiler graphite, 605 pounds of lubricating cylinder grease, 1,200 plain maple broom handles, 1,000 pounds of sheet iron, five pounds of blue printers' ink, 500 gallons of engine oil, fifteen reams of onionskin unglazed paper, 4,500 pounds of laundry soap, 4,200 pounds of washing soda, 400 pounds of caustic soda, 5,000 laundry tags, 100 pounds of hard steel, coppered wire, 800 memorandum blanks and hundreds of other articles which Uncle Sam's soldiers, officers and equipment need in their work.

Man Saves Woman From River Grave; She Tried to Die

After searching for work for two days without success, Elizabeth Mitzenfeldt, 30, of Peoria, Ill., decided to end her troubles by jumping into the river. She walked into the muddy Missouri up to her shoulders at the foot of Woolworth street early Saturday afternoon. But the ice-filled water was cold and she walked right out again.

Later she started a second time to end her life by the way of the icy water, but was saved by Anton Hanson, 107 Woolworth street, who waded into the water and carried the woman to shore. Hanson's 11-year-old son, Emil, had told the man of the would-be suicide while she sat on the river bank and gathered courage for her second dip. Police Officers Aughe and Farrand took the woman to headquarters and placed her in care of Matron Gibbons, who will care for her and try to find her a job. The woman said she came to Omaha from Hastings, although her home is at Peoria.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Probably snow, much colder.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.	Dir.
4 a. m.	50	50
6 a. m.	51	51
7 a. m.	51	51
8 a. m.	52	52
9 a. m.	52	52
10 a. m.	53	53
11 a. m.	53	53
12 m.	53	53
1 p. m.	53	53
2 p. m.	53	53
3 p. m.	53	53
4 p. m.	53	53
5 p. m.	53	53
6 p. m.	53	53
7 p. m.	53	53
8 p. m.	53	53
9 p. m.	53	53
10 p. m.	53	53
11 p. m.	53	53

Comparative Local Record.

Year	High	Low	Mean
1917	57	25	24
1916	57	24	24
1915	57	24	24
1914	57	24	24
1913	57	24	24
1912	57	24	24
1911	57	24	24
1910	57	24	24
1909	57	24	24
1908	57	24	24
1907	57	24	24
1906	57	24	24
1905	57	24	24
1904	57	24	24
1903	57	24	24
1902	57	24	24
1901	57	24	24
1900	57	24	24

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1, and compared with the last two years. Normal temperature... 23. Excess for the day... 19. Excess for the month... 12. Normal precipitation... 12. Deficiency for the day... 62. Total rainfall since March 1... 92. Deficiency since March 1... 37. Deficiency for the period, 1917... 1.18 inches. Excess for cor. period, 1912... 1.18 inches.

SEVEN CENTS A DAY TO SAVE STARVING

Appeal to Americans for Further Aid in Behalf of Destitute Jews.

CONDITIONS DESPERATE

New York, March 10.—Facts and figures carefully compiled from cable messages received here in the last several weeks by the joint distribution committee for the relief of Jewish war sufferers by the treasurer, Herbert H. Lehman, indicate that the plight of the Jews in Europe is worse than any previous statement has shown. There are today in the belligerent countries upwards of 7,000,000 Jews, of whom not less than 35 per cent, or 2,450,000, are entirely destitute and depend upon daily relief in the form of food to maintain life. Mr. Lehman has estimated that taking the prevailing average cost of foods in all the countries engaged in the war, or directly affected by it, in which the Jews are in need, the minimum per capita cost for food alone is 7 cents a day, or 49 cents per week, without any allowance whatsoever for meeting the cost of fuel, clothing or shelter.

Millions of Money Needed. The cable messages lately received make the number of 2,450,000 requiring relief, a most conservative estimate, so that in order merely to sustain the lives of these people would take \$2,500,000 a year for the one item of food. It is estimated that at least one-half of this great sum must come from sources outside of Europe itself, and as America is virtually the only nation in a position to extend aid, it should be figured that \$31,000,000 annually, under present conditions, must come from this side of the Atlantic.

The cable messages show that the conditions are particularly serious in Poland, Palestine and Turkey. The last cable received during the week from Poland reads as follows: "In name of hundreds of thousands destitute Jews entreat you most urgently send immediate remittances. Any stopping of contributions will cause saddest catastrophe."

Conditions in Poland.

Detailed information from Poland shows that forty-two towns in the province of Kalisch, including Lodz and vicinity, have a Jewish population of 200,000, of whom 100,000 are destitute; sixty-four towns in the district of Warsaw have a Jewish population of 500,000, of whom half are in want; in the district of Plock, including forty-six towns, 90,000 Jews are in want; in the government of Siedlec, including the southern part of Grodno from Likow to Pinsk, forty-four towns have 150,000 Jews, of whom two-thirds are destitute; in the vicinity of Sosnowitz, Dombrowa, Czenstochau and Bondzimir there are 75,000 destitute in twenty towns; and so on in every district of Poland, word comes of thousands upon thousands of Jews depending upon relief funds for their daily bread.

Conditions in Lithuania are similar, although thousands of Jews have left the country. From Russia, it is learned, relief is being extended by the central committee to 238,000 families, or roughly speaking, more than 1,000,000 persons. Thirty-eight per cent of these families are deprived of fathers or family heads; 37 per cent of the individuals are children under 14 years of age, and 15 per cent are the aged and sick. Conditions are not different in Austria, Galicia, Bulgaria, Roumania and the other countries directly involved in the war.

Short of Funds in Turkey.

Ambassador Elkus has wired that in Constantinople and the surrounding country 25,000 people are daily being fed, but that owing to the insufficiency of funds 40,000 are destitute and cannot be helped in any way. At a recent meeting held in honor of Ambassador Elkus at the Grand Rabbin of Grand Rabbi Nahoun the Jews able to give contributed 6,000 Turkish pounds for local relief, the largest collection ever taken there. The greatest obstacle in the way of relief is the steadily mounting cost of food, which makes it unlikely that the present allowance of one piastre a day will long suffice to keep alive a destitute person.

American Contributions Inadequate.

The joint distribution committee since January 1 has sent abroad for relief purposes about \$1,500,000, a sum so totally inadequate to the need that suffering and loss of life, particularly among the children and older persons, beggars description. Since the outbreak of the war a total of \$7,500,000 has been sent in aid, raised by American Jews and distributed in the various countries, but were this sum or a sum many times larger to be sent again, it would not suffice to meet the full requirements of the situation.

Many Must Die.

The joint distribution committee realizes that to raise all that is needed is an impossible undertaking, and that it will be impossible to save all the lives of those now facing starvation. It is simply a question of how many lives are to be saved by America's aid in dollars and cents. Every 7 cents sent from here will sustain the life of one individual for a day and \$25 will prolong the life of a human being for a year. Mr. Lehman points out there can therefore be no question in the mind of anyone but that even the most trifling contribution will help. Every dollar and ever cent contributed means just that much less suffering and loss of life.

House Committee Opposes Buying Fremont Normal

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, March 10.—(Special Telegram.)—For the second time the same committee has recommended the bill for the purchase of the Fremont Normal for indefinite postponement. After reporting it for death the first time, the committee reconsidered the matter on request of the people of Fremont and made a personal investigation of the school, but it appears was not favorably impressed. The bill will be recommended out for indefinite postponement.

BRITISH ADVANCE IN ANZOU; TURKS HOLD LINE

English Forces Capture Village of Irlas and Neighboring Defenses, With More Than Hundred Prisoners.

GERMAN ATTACKS FAIL

Teuton Attempts to Regain Lost Ground in the Champagne Prove Futile.

FRENCH MAINTAIN GROUND

London, March 10.—In an advance today on a front of more than three miles in the Ancre region in France, British troops attacked and captured the village of Irlas, northeast of Grandcourt, and the neighboring defenses, according to the official statement from British headquarters issued tonight. More than 100 German prisoners already have been counted and fifteen machine guns and four trench mortars were captured. The British troops in Mesopotamia on Thursday were engaging Turkish forces which were holding the Diala river line, six miles below Bagdad, in some strength, it was announced officially.

In the Champagne District.

Paris, March 10.—Violent fighting occurred in the Champagne last night in consequence of a German attempt to recapture the ground won by the French between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne. Today's official statement says that after several desperate charges had been made with alternate advances and retreats the French succeeded in holding all the ground they had gained and in making fresh progress.

On the Verdun front the Germans attacked the trenches recaptured by the French north of Carrières wood. They penetrated these positions at some points, but were ejected by a counter attack.

The French continued their raids, penetrating the German positions east of Armancourt as far as the third trenches and taking prisoners near Crouy, northeast of Soissons.

Germans Repulse Attack.

Berlin, March 10.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—Russian troops in the Champagne attacked the German lines near Prosnay yesterday. Today's war office announcement says the Russians penetrated German trenches at some points, but were subsequently driven out. South of Ripont in the Champagne new fighting developed without important result. The French failed in an attack on the Verdun front.

Germans Scuttling Ship at Charleston Get Year in Prison

Florence, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers of the steamship Liebenfels, sunk in Charleston harbor the night of January 31 last, today were sentenced to a year in the Atlanta federal penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$500 each. They were convicted yesterday of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream in violation of the navigation laws.

The defense gave notice of an appeal. Nine officers of the vessel were indicted, but as Captain Klattendorf was ill in Charleston his case was postponed.

Those convicted are: Johann Luband, first officer; George Funke, third officer; J. E. Jansen, chief engineer; Heinrich Wattenberg, first assistant engineer; Johann W. Buse, second assistant engineer; Moritz von Thullen, third assistant engineer; August Neuse, fourth assistant engineer, and Wilhelm Schwarting, machinist. All are Germans; except Jansen, who says he is a Dane. The government charged that the men not only opened the Liebenfels' sea-cocks, causing it to sink, but that they wrecked the machinery and the wireless plant, officially sealed by the United States officers.

Stromsburg Organizes Community Chorus

Stromsburg, Neb., March 10.—(Special Telegram.)—The Commercial club has recently undertaken the organization of a community chorus. From the very outset the people of the town and neighboring country have been enthusiastic in its support and nearly 100 members have been enrolled. Practice is held every Wednesday evening in the auditorium of the high school. The officers of the chorus are: President, Mrs. G. H. Presson; secretary, Miss Violet Faulk; treasurer, Ernest Ericson; librarian, Howard Haverland; accompanist, Miss Mabel Ekeley; director, Rodney S. Dunlap.

In the first week of May the chorus will hold its first annual music festival. Frederick H. Cowen's secular cantata, "The Rose Maiden," will be used on the first evening of the festival.

Mayor of New York Buys 90,000 Bushels of Potatoes

New York, March 10.—Potatoes have been added to the foods purchased in huge quantities and sold at retail at the lowest possible price by the mayor's food committee. Word came from Boston today that the committee had purchased through a broker there 90,000 bushels of Maine potatoes at a price said to be more than \$225,000.

An increase of 1 cent a pound from 6 to 7 cents in the price of rice brought a statement from George W. Perkins, chairman of the committee, today, to the effect that any rise in the price of rice "must be the direct result of collusion and the federal government should act."

What's the Toast?

Conditions of the Contest: For the best and cleverest answers, not exceeding 50 words, The Bee will give prizes as here enumerated. Address Picture Puzzle Editor, The Bee. Answers must be in by Wednesday, March 14. Awards announced Friday, March 16.

Ten Prizes for Best Answers. First Prize - \$2.00 in Cash. Second Prize - The Original Picture. Three Prizes (each) 2 Orpheum Tickets. Five Prizes - (each) A Popular Novel. Answers may be written in blank space in picture or on separate sheet of paper, as preferred.



Railway Mail Clerks Chafe Under Hardships of the New Regulations

Efforts of Administration to Create Surplus Out of the Mail Service is Hitting Hard.

AT EXPENSE OF THE MEN

Omaha, March 8, 1917.—To the Editor of The Bee: After reading the most timely article, which appeared in last night's edition, in regards to the mail service, kindly allow me to give a few facts as to conditions which exist in the service today, also those which are contemplated and are to be put in effect soon as possible, "The Surplus." No doubt nearly everyone has at one time or another read the statements of the postmaster general, which showed that from a deficit he had made the postal service self-sustaining. The statement was to the effect that through able and efficient management not only was the deficit wiped out, but there was also a surplus turned back to the treasury. No doubt there may have been a surplus. But let us see how this surplus was made possible. The public in general is of the opinion that when they mail a paper or parcel that same is placed on the first mail train and goes merrily to its destination. It did before the entrance of our present economical postmaster general. This is what the railway mail service was established for, to expedite the delivery of mail matter of all kinds and it also is what the public pays for. But economy has changed all this. Instead of being forwarded to the proper railway postoffice to be delivered at once, same is first dumped into a terminal postoffice and with other accumulated matter is worked into direct sacks. After enough mail has accumulated to warrant a sack, then the sack is tied out and forwarded to destination in baggage cars. Can Use Cheaper Men. The reason for handling mail in this manner (the style used fifty years ago) is that space in terminals is cheaper than in railway postoffices; also the salaries of the men are lower. The fact that the public is paying all that the department demands and supposes that it is getting first-class service has no weight whatsoever. Another item of economy is the equipment used. During past administrations all equipment used had to be of a certain standard and was kept in excellent condition. Now almost any old kind of a gunnysack is used to do it. It is simply stamped U. S. Mail and nobody cares a hang whether it reaches destination whole or in tatters, with contents strewn all over creation. Some of the equipment in use would be a disgrace to a junk shop. Another saving effected by this administration has been in the salaries of the clerks on the road. Naturally, since all mail except first class is put into terminals, the force on the road has been cut to the minimum. The saving in this has been considerable on the salaries of the clerks, as those

ADD ON THE WORK TO FOOD DEPUTIES

House Members Load Up Consolidated Department With Extra Duties.

NO ADDED HELP GIVEN

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, March 10.—(Special.)—On account of the sentiment which appears to exist among the house members against raising salaries, creation of jobs and the increase in appropriations for the different departments of state, the bill to increase the efficiency of the food, drug and dairy department by increasing the number of inspectors about half a dozen, was amended by Ollis, its introducer, today, and the inspectors cut out, extra help limited, assistant chemist cut out only when needed and some more cuts made. Further Cut Prevented. Representative Swanson attempted to cut things more yet by reducing the secretary and assistant secretary from \$1,600 a year to \$1,200 a year, but when it was pointed out that the regulated concerns paid the salaries, the house carried out its principle of getting something for nothing and the bill was sent to third reading. The Banning law was changed on request of Peterson of Lancaster, cutting out the excise board of the city of Lincoln. This board has always had charge of granting saloon licenses, but soon there will be no use for an excise board. Other Bills Advanced. Following are some of the measures which the house ordered to be engrossed for third reading: County workhouse bill, amended to make it optional instead of mandatory. Mayor and council in cities of 15,000 to 25,000 population authorized to issue bonds up to \$15,000 a year for paving intersections, without a vote of the people. Library boards given power of eminent domain for building sites. The committee of the whole indefinitely postponed a bill for the admission of insurance companies into Nebraska when they have been organized and doing business for one year in other states. The present law excluded companies until they have been doing business four years.

Bank Clerks Hear Lecture On the Art of Expression

Miss Effie Steen Kittelson addressed a meeting of the Omaha Chapter of the American Institute of Banking at the Loyal Hotel Thursday night on "Art in Expression." She gave several readings to exemplify theories of expression, which she is now teaching. About fifty young bankers from the Omaha banks were present and following Mrs. Kittelson's address, they practiced the things she taught in her lecture.

State Goes Part of the Way to Get Good Roads

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, March 10.—(Special Telegram.)—The finance committee of the house has finally agreed on a bill to meet the federal aid for state roads and has amended the federal road bill by recommending four-tenths of a mill levy for a period of two years, instead of a 1 mill levy for four years as the bill originally called for. The house will probably make the bill a special order for some time next week.

Judges to Decide the Elevator Case Next Week

District court judges have the jail elevator phase of the rumpus under advisement. They are expected to report the first of the week as to which faction—the sheriff's office or the county board—has the right to appoint the operator for the lift and to buy the supplies for the bastille.

U. S. SHIPS MAY FIRE ON GERMAN U BOATS AT SIGHT

State Department Holds that Kaiser's Threat Justifies Immediate Action by Americans.

HOLDS TO RIGHT TO RESIST

German Repudiation of Rule of Visit and Search Makes All U Boats Actually Hostile.

GUNS READY FOR VESSELS

Washington, March 10.—The mere appearance of a German submarine or its periscope in the presence of an American armed merchant vessel would entitle that ship, according to State department opinion today, to take all measures of protection on the presumption that the U boat's purpose was hostile. Under this ruling an American armed merchantman could fire on a German submarine the moment it is sighted without being considered as taking aggressive action. This view is based on Germany's declared intention to sink on sight within certain zones all vessels, neutral as well as belligerent, and whether passenger vessels, freighters or contraband carriers.

Stands by Right to Resist.

The United States was said to stand flatly on its armed merchantmen warning of March 27 last, in which it definitely recognized the "right to prevent capture" as part of the "right of self-protection," which could be exercised either by flight or resistance.

The mere presence of a German submarine is declared ground for assuming hostile intent, because of the deliberate statement by Germany that all vessels are to be sunk on sight. Denial by Germany of the old rule of visit and search makes all its U boats actually hostile. The consensus of opinion in diplomatic quarters was that the United States today was nearer to war with Germany than at any time within its history.

Guns Ready for Ships.

Preparations for defending American merchant vessels had already been taken by the government and actual work of equipping the vessels only awaited the Navy department's approval of applications from ship owners. In the various navy yards along the Atlantic coast are stored guns, ammunition and other necessary equipment ready for installation. In official circles today confidence was expressed that Secretary Daniels' appeal to newspapers not to seek nor publish specific news of the arming and sailings of American merchantmen would be observed. A similar appeal was made to telegraph and cable companies. "The best news the readers can have," said the secretary, "is that the government will protect the rights of Americans to the freedom of the seas. The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life."

House Organization Problem.

The organization of the new house cannot be foretold at this time, for a majority is 218 and the standing is: Republicans, 215; democrats, 214; prohibitionists, progressives, progressive-protectionists, socialists and independents, one each; vacancy in democratic district, one. The republican and democratic leaders declare they will have support from enough of the so-called independent group to control the organization, but there is considerable talk of a coalition organization. The new senate is democratic by a majority of twelve. Speaker Clark believes congress will find so much work before it that it will continue in session until August, 1918.

Appropriation Bills.

Appropriation legislation, which must be passed before July 1, includes the army, sundry civil, general deficiency and military academy bills, carrying in the aggregate more than \$500,000,000. Among the measures which failed in the last congress, strongly urged by the administration, are the railroad labor bill, Webb foreign agency bill, conservation and land leasing measures and acts to enlarge the Interstate Commerce commission and give wider powers to the shipping board.

Hearing of Slayer of U. B. Balcombe Is Postponed

Liberty, Mo., March 10.—The preliminary hearing set for today of B. B. Smith, charged with the murder of U. G. Balcombe of Omaha, was postponed until March 23. This action was taken upon Smith's request, who still is being held in jail. Balcombe was killed in Smith's confectionery shop at Excelsior Springs last Wednesday.

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