

END OF THE WAR IS NOT IN SIGHT

Senor Gimeno, Spanish Minister, Unable to Believe This Achieved.

HANDLES U. S. INTERESTS

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

Madrid, March 31.—According to some of the advices reaching Spain, the end of the European war is not likely to occur this year. His excellency, Senor Amalio Gimeno, Spanish minister for foreign affairs, expressed this view to a representative of The Associated Press in the course of a conversation held at the ministry of state. Spain occupies a unique position as the representative of most of the nations at war and as such it is in a position to gauge the currents of information which flow in from all the quarters directly connected with the conflict. It protected the interests of some of these countries from the first, and has recently taken up most of the others laid down by the United States on the severance of relations with Germany. Already it had been vaguely conjectured that the end of the war was a good way off, but this was the first expression from one in authority, based on the unusual opportunities of the central mediating neutral to judge the real conditions and outlook.

End Is in Doubt.
"We have all hoped that this terrible conflict could be brought to a close this year," the minister went on, "perhaps in the early months of the fall and certainly by the end of the year. But I am sorry to say some of the information now reaching me is contrary to these hopes, although I am unable to make any positive statement, the end may come next year, but even that is a matter of doubt. To be sure, there is always the possibility of a sudden and more favorable turn of affairs which may bring a crisis and an unexpected termination of hostilities. But, generally speaking, we are obliged to accept the evidences of the present.

Change in Consulates.

This change of personnel in the Spanish consulates of Germany which Senor Gimeno announces will overcome a situation which had been pointed out by some of the American consuls passing through here from Germany on their way home. They stated that at Cologne and some other points the Spanish consul now in charge of American interests was a local German resident. This same condition prevails in the American and British consular service, where local residents are often employed in consulates not of sufficient importance to warrant sending a native-born American or British consul. Spain is seeing that such a situation does not apply to the care of American interests in Germany.

"It is Spain which has accepted the representation of the United States," said the minister, "and I am seeing to it that Spanish subjects only shall be in charge of these interests. All our preparations have been made for taking up the relief of Belgium and invaded France, begun by the American Relief commission, if the necessity arises."

Senor Gimeno was asked what measures Spain had adopted to protect its food supplies because of the world shortage resulting from the war.

Protect Food Supplies.

"We have prohibited the exportations of practically all the essential articles of food," he said. "This does not mean an embargo on all exports, but only on those affecting aliment and nourishment. This is a measure of self-protection for our stock of food supplies. It is the same measure of protection which other countries in Europe are taking. The others have suffered much more than we in Spain, but we are taking no chances on having our food resources drained off by the fighting nations. The cost of living has increased considerably in Spain because of the war, but nothing like the increase in other countries. "Because of this precaution, we have prohibited the export of wheat, flour, potatoes, beans, vegetables of all sorts, meat, poultry, eggs, milk, butter and the whole range of daily household requirements. But this does not interfere with the exportation of our products of iron, olive oil, fruit and other articles not essential to the food requirements of our people."

When asked if these restrictions on export trade were due to the dangers of transport through the submarine zone, Senor Gimeno said: "Not at all. The submarine question has nothing to do with our prohibition of exports. It is merely a matter of self-protection against possible want among our people should the increasing demand for foodstuffs become acute later, in case of short crops among the nations which are giving all their energies to fighting instead of producing food."

Senor Gimeno had a closing word to say on the good relations between Spain and the United States, and his belief that out of the war would arise an even greater community of interest between Spain and America, North and South, a community which he will seek to encourage and develop commercially, politically, and in every branch of international intercourse.

More Fever Just Like Gold Fever in Days of '49

Maastricht, Netherlands, March 30.—What gold was to the Californian "Forty-Niners," limestone marl is, on a smaller scale, to the inhabitants of southern Limburg. Claims are being staked, deals in "rights" are plentiful on the "marl exchange" and everyone who owns a few square yards of land is busy working his little marl mine, if he has nothing more to do it with than a pickaxe, a spade and a handbarrow. In short, every South Limburger has caught the marl fever and talks about nothing else.

South Limburg is rich in limestone marl, a mixture of calcium carbonate and clay, which occurs in the form of rock marl, ordinary marl loose marl. Up to the outbreak of the war only the rock marl was used, being quarried for building material. Since the beginning of the war it has been found that the loose marl is valuable as a fertilizer and useful in the cardboard industry, the manufacture of glass, and in the sugar and cement industries. Then the hitherto despised material assumed large proportions.

ALLIED SECRETARY BLAMES GERMANY

Baron Denys-Cochin Says Tensions First Started Mine Laying.

TWO METHODS COMPARED

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

Paris, March 31.—Baron Denys-Cochin, under secretary of the foreign office in charge of blockade questions, in a talk with American correspondents on the entente blockade policy against Germany, said: "Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German chancellor, and Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, in their recent declarations sought to throw upon the entente the responsibility for a continuance of bloodshed. They talked of a blockade which, it was asserted, was causing the death of women and children. The entente is not at all responsible for a situation which it did not create and which grows out of the most unqualified aggression. The blockade, such as the Germans understand it, does not resemble in any way that which we have organized and which we are pursuing.

Zimmermann's View.
"M. Zimmermann complains of the inhuman extension Great Britain is making in the North Sea war zone—that is to say, the laying of mines to bar the way of the submarines. But who is it that started to lay mines? It was not the allies, but Germany. England, before the war, notably in 1907 at the Hague, showed itself hostile to the use of submarine mines. Germany demanded the right to use mines, in terms, furthermore, which would hardly permit one to foresee the use which it would make of them. From the early days of the war Germany spread mines in the North Sea and elsewhere around the English coasts in order to intercept the commercial routes. The allied admiralties first announced the fact in order to warn peaceful navigation and then gave notice of retaliatory measures which they regretfully announced they would have to take. The laying of mines in open sea assuredly is destructive to the liberty of the sea. It affects the innocent as much as the neutrals.

"M. Zimmermann attributes to the entente the project of waging a war of extermination, not only against the armies of the central empires, but also against women and children. The entente powers have never had such black designs. They want to obtain reparation for the past, guarantees for the future. They desire to obtain them with the least loss and suffering possible. They asked only to maintain peace; attacked, they were obliged to struggle to conquer that peace. They hope to accomplish it at the lowest possible cost; they wish to compel their adversaries to yield. They have no desire to exterminate them. They do not project, as does the German manual of instructions to officers, that 'humanitarian considerations such as those respecting the care of persons and their property can only come into question if the nature and aim of the war permits of it and that the only real humanity rests frequently in the employment of severity.'"

Example of Paris.
"France does not believe that it is required to renounce the use of pressure and constraint, the legitimacy of which has been admitted by all states and notably by Germany. M. Zimmermann complains that the women and children suffer from the obstacles placed by the allies to the feeding of Germany. Bismarck did he not refuse an armistice in 1870 asked for by Jules Favre because he did not wish to allow Paris to be reprovvisioned, which would prolong 'the time necessary to reduce the city by famine? And the city of Paris, was it not compelled by famine only to capitulate in 1871? Is not a blockade which stops all communication by sea recognized in procedure of war as lawful?"

"M. Zimmermann reproaches the entente for injuring indirectly women and children who suffer from the dearth of food, who would not suffer any more if Germany would resign itself to yield as Paris did in 1871. But Zimmermann, has he ever reproached Germany for having quite directly injured women and children of France and Belgium, massacred by German troops at the beginning of the war, or for having them put in front of the armies to serve as a shield? Has he protested against the deportations which have caused the revival of slavery in a country occupied by the German armies?"

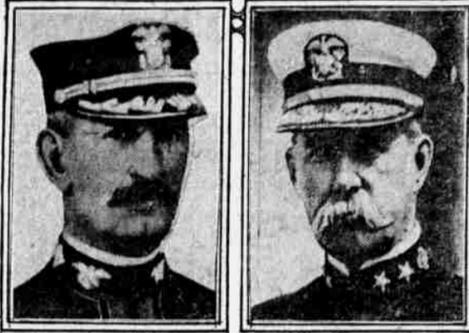
As to the Blockade.
"As to this German submarine campaign, it is quite wrongfully that one claims to give it the name of a blockade. The expression is based on an ambiguity. There is nothing in common between a blockade regulated by international law and the measures taken by Germany. Germany destroys systematically the vessels and their cargoes without regard for the lives of the passengers and crews. In case of error the crime is irreparable. The entente operates quite the contrary. It limits itself to confiscating or stopping merchandise coming from or going to Germany. There is in all cases the guaranty of the jurisdiction of the prize court.

"Germany defends the principle of the liberty of the sea in sending to the bottom of the sea neutral as well as enemy merchant ships. The entente tries amid difficulties to prevent the provisioning of the enemy and to maintain respect for offensive navigation. However rigorous they may appear its solutions at times, those rigors have in view at least none but material objects; they stop before persons and incline before the exigencies of humanity.

"If we accept the notion of the old blockade, that which the allies' blockade approaches the most, can it not be admitted that it is nearly effective? There is not one ship in fifty that succeeds in avoiding the vigilance of our cruisers."

The German Blockade.
"As to the pretended German blockade by submarines, it doesn't stop one ship in a hundred; the statistics of entries into our ports and the ports of our allies prove that eloquently. The effect most evident of the so-called blockade which Germany has pretended to establish has been to show,

Commander-in-Chief and Division Commanders of the Atlantic Fleet



ADMIRAL MAYO

VICE-AD. COFFMAN



REAR-AD FEHETLER

REAR-AD T.S. RODGERS



REAR-AD GLEAVES

CAPT W.L. RODGERS

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once again, the radical difference of the principles of the two groups of belligerents. It is this which cannot fail immediately to strike the neutrals. "No one has been surprised to see President Wilson pledge himself to the resolute policy of which you are aware. This policy was one which could be expected on the part of the eminent jurist who knew so well how to characterize and stigmatize the doctrines and principles of our enemies."

China Is Considering Rebuilding of Taku Forts
(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)
Tien-Tsin, China, March 10.—Admiral Cheng Pi-kuang, minister of the navy, has revived the subject of rebuilding the Taku forts, destroyed by the allied forces during the Boxer trouble in 1900. The cabinet is considering the admiral's recommendation, and an effort probably will be made in a short time by the foreign office to gain permission from foreign powers for the reconstruction of the historic forts, which stand at the mouth of the Peiho river leading from Tientsin to the sea. Under the protocol of 1901, immediately following the Boxer trouble, China is forbidden to fortify the mouth of the Peiho.

ENGLAND PLANS TO PAY OFF DEBT

Empire Resources Development Committee Is Formed for This Purpose.

DEVELOP ALL UTILITIES

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

London, March 22.—A plan to make the fishing resources of Hudson Bay, the whale oil of the South Seas and the jute trade of India help pay off the huge debt with which the British empire will find itself burdened at the close of the war, has been launched here through the formation of the Empire Development committee, with Sir Starr Jameson, the organizer of the Jameson raid, as chairman.

The plan is to put the work in the hands of captains of industry whose business would be the development of potential wealth. The state would back the enterprise, would enlist the work of experts, who would seek out the most valuable resources of the empire and exploit them for the benefit of the people.

Use for the state after the war of the fishing fleet now engaged in minesweeping, is one of the novel suggestions of Alfred Bigland, member of the House of Commons and a leading business man who has traveled extensively in the United States.

"We should tap," said Mr. Bigland, "the fisheries in the Pacific ocean bordering on British Columbia; in the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and in the waters around Newfoundland and Labrador. We could become the purveyors of fish in all forms almost to the whole world."

"Already Newfoundland is sending on an average of 300,000 tons of cod to the Mediterranean and neutral countries. There is practically no limit to the quantity and the Grand Trunk Pacific railway has already offered us refrigerating plants to bring fish from Prince Rupert Island to Liverpool at 2 cents a ton, which would be reduced still further on government contracts."

Use War Boats.
"After the war, if the government allowed it, all the vessels now used in the North Sea for mine sweeping and other purposes, could be used to form the nucleus of an empire fishing fleet."

"Cold storage houses should be built in towns all over the land and profits from the sale of fish caught by the state fleet should go into the state treasury. The fishermen would be paid according to the size of the catch, with a guaranteed minimum." Mr. Bigland said that he believed that four times as much fish might be sold in this country as was sold before the war and that the state might make a gross profit of \$180,000,000 a year.

Must Be Done.
"It may be said," he added, "that this is socialism run rampant, but it is coming whether we like it or not."

An additional plan of the committee is that the state provide for the development of water supplies, railways, harbors, grain elevators or factories for the handling of agricultural products in order to "utilize state-owned land for the purpose of meeting state liabilities." After such expenditure the state should sell the land to private individuals or corporations.

The purpose of the state expenditure on facilities would be to attract settlers, who would be prepared to pay a higher price for land if facilities for transport were already provided. The state would thus not only own the railways, but would receive large sums from the sale of land.

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