

HALIFAX HORROR STUNS CONTINENT; U. S. AND AUSTRIA ARE NOW AT WAR

PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL DECLARING GERMANY'S ALLY AMERICA'S ENEMY

Congress, With One Dissenting Vote, Adopts Resolution in Response to Epochal Speech of Tuesday; Effective at 5:03 P. M. Friday When Chief Executive Affixed Signature to Document.

Washington, Dec. 7.—War between the United States and Austria-Hungary was formally declared today. Congress, with one dissenting vote in the house, adopted, and President Wilson approved, a resolution declaring existence of a state of war between the "Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and people of the United States," and authorizing the president to employ the nation's armed forces and pledging its resources to victory.

EFFECTIVE AT 5:03 P. M.

The resolution, the response of congress to the president's request in his address Tuesday, is similar to that passed April 6, declaring war on Germany. It became effective at 5:03 p. m. today, when it was signed by the executive without formality. An executive proclamation will follow shortly.

SENATE'S VOTE UNANIMOUS.

After but one hour's debate the resolution was unanimously adopted by the senate with an affirmative vote of 74. It was approved by the house, 363 to 1, Representative London, the New York socialist casting the only dissenting vote.

A few minutes later Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark had signed the document and sent it to the White House, where President Wilson attached his signature with Secretary Tumulty and Assistant Secretary Forster as the only witnesses.

The resolution follows: "Joint resolution. Declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute the same.

Acts of War Against U. S.

"Whereas the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian government has committed repeated acts of war against the government and the people of the United States of America; therefore be it.

"Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled that a state of war is hereby declared to exist between the United States of America and the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian government and that the president be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on war against the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination. All the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States.

"CHAMP CLARK. "Speaker of the house of representatives.

"THOMAS R. MARSHALL. "Vice President of the United States and president of the senate.

"Approved 7th December, 1917. "WOODROW WILSON. "Turkey and Bulgaria Deferred.

In accord with President Wilson's suggestion, action in respect to Turkey and Bulgaria, Germany's other allies, was left to the future. Widespread demand in congress for their inclusion in the declaration was indicated.

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GERMANS FOOLED BY BRITISH: TAKE ABANDONED WOOD

Reforming of Line Done So Quietly That Enemy Was Misled for Several Hours.

(By Associated Press.)

German wedges, driven into the salient before Cambrai, have compelled the British to evacuate exposed points, and they have given up to the Germans several villages west of Cambrai as well as the Bournonwood. The retirement was carried out so well that the Germans continued to shell the empty positions for several hours, not knowing the British had left them.

The British line has been shortened and made more capable of strong defense by the retirement.

Attacks Repulsed. Berlin in its latest report claims the occupation of Marcoing, about four miles southwest of Cambrai. Minor German attacks south of Bournonwood and near La Vacquerie have been repulsed by the British.

Violent fighting continues on the northern Italian front between Asiago and the Brenta river, where the Austro-Germans made gains Wednesday, but have not yet been able to break the Italian line. The Italians, inflicting heavy losses on the attackers, retired gradually to prepared positions up Monte Fior and Monte Castelgomberto.

On the western end of the line the Austro-Germans attempt to encircle the Meletta position and cut it off were defeated. Along the Brenta east of Monte Badegocche and Monte Tondarecar, lost Wednesday to the enemy, the Italians repulsed with heavy loss, a determined effort to break through.

Grocery Stores and Meat Markets to Close Sunday

Beginning next Sunday, December 9, all grocery stores, meat markets and bakeries must close by city ordinance. The Sunday closing ordinance goes into effect that day. The fine for not obeying this ordinance is \$25 for the first offense and \$100 for the second. The Grocers' and Butchers' association of Omaha will watch the situation closely Sunday for violations. Secretary J. J. Cameron of the association says in all probability any who keep their stores open Sunday will be arrested. He says he has heard rumors of a few who intend to open for business in order to test the validity of the ordinance.

PREACHER WHO WOULD NOT FIGHT HELD FOR TRIAL

Hastings, Neb., Dec. 7.—(Special Telegram.)—W. L. Crowe, an itinerant preacher from Chanute, Kan., who is so strong a pacifist that he says he would not defend his own home, because Christ taught men not to resist evil, was bound over by U. S. Commissioner Addie today for trial in February court. Crowe was fixed at \$5,000, which he was unable to supply. The complaint charges Crowe with conveying false reports with intent to interfere with the operation and success of the armed forces of the United States. Crowe had addressed a number of meetings at Holstein and Ayr and was arrested at the latter place at the instigation of the council of defense. Crowe says he told his audience that he would not take a combatant position in war and advised those drafted to seek non-combatant positions. He denies making pro-German statements and pleaded not guilty when arraigned. Crowe was called to Ayr by Henry Druecker, but he says Druecker did not know his sentiments on the war.

Sammy's Christmas Shopping



As Visioned by One of the Fort Crook Boys

ITALY HOLDS NARROW PASSES; TERRIFIC ONSLAUGHTS FAIL

Takes Advantage of Unusually Mild Weather and Attacks With Unprecedented Ferocity, Meeting Determined and Bloody Resistance From Bersaglieri and Alpini, Which Preserve Italian Line.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 6.—The big operation which the enemy is attempting in the north is virtually a repetition of the turning movement he executed six weeks ago in the great offensive above Gorizia. At that time he broke through the upper end of the line and thus endangered the lower end. This is exactly the situation which is being repeated today.

STRONG CO-OPERATION. It has been established that while Field Marshal Conrad von Hotzen-dorff is directing the movement General von Krobatin's forces also are co-operating. In addition to the superiority in numbers the Austro-Germans are taking advantage of the backward season and are striking before the mountain snows impede operations.

The weather this year happens to be favorable to the enemy. The snow is only a few inches deep, whereas in December the snow usually reaches a depth of from four to 10 feet. One such snowfall now would be worth divisions. Gray skies today indicated snow, but the fall was light.

Russian Prisoners Released. Austrian prisoners taken in the last few days say that the release of Russian prisoners held in Austria began 10 days ago. Austria took the initiative in this without waiting for Russia to release Austrian prisoners.

Each Russian prisoner was schooled carefully in Austria's desire to end the war and the whole body of these Russian prisoners was returned to Russia as a sort of propaganda for terminating the struggle.

The importance of the fighting around Asiago is not underestimated, but it is believed the line of resistance on which the Italians have retired is capable of holding the Franzella and Gadenia passes leading into the Brenta valley and the open plain some miles below. The fighting has been of the most desperate character and while the enemy has paid dearly for its success the Italian losses also have been very heavy.

An eye-witness from the scene of operations gave the correspondent details of the extent and bloody nature of the carnage. Enemy reserves were poured in until the Italians were far outnumbered. They continued to struggle desperately, however, and in one case a small detachment of Bersaglieri met the shock of an entire Austrian regiment. Austrian kaiserjagers displayed unprecedented ferocity, using stilettes as well as bayonets in fierce hand to hand fighting.

Bravery of Bersaglieri. But the greatest single instance of heroism and loss was in the case of several detachments of Alpini, which held Monte Castelgomberto against overwhelming odds until surrounded. Thus encircled, they made repeated charges, but the heavy surrounding

REFULSE AT VERDUN. Paris, Dec. 7.—Two attempts were made by the Germans to attack the French lines east of the Meuse in the Verdun region last night, after a heavy bombardment. The attacking forces, the war office announced today, were driven off by the French.

BATTLE STILL RAGES. Rome, Dec. 7.—"On the Asiago plateau the battle is continuing without interruption," says today's official report.

WAR'S CARNAGE PALES BESIDE HALIFAX HORROR

Persons Under Debris Battered Beyond Recognition; Parents in Mad Frenzy Rush to Find Little Ones.

(By Associated Press.) St. John, N. B., Dec. 7.—Every public school student in the city was asked to bring to his school today a bit of clothing for some destitute child of Halifax. Tonight 10,000 pieces of clothing were counted as representing the response of the city's youth.

A St. John distributing depot has been opened in the devastated city and frequent trains will keep it supplied with donations collected here. RECOVER 1,600 BODIES.

Persons arriving here on steamships from Halifax added to the story of death and suffering. Thomas Trainor, a pilot, said that 1,600 bodies had been recovered. He had seen several steamers in the harbor that had been damaged and said that the number of seamen killed was large.

C. P. Frizzil reported having seen 50 charred bodies in Campbell road. While walking from Halifax to Needham, he counted 169 bodies scattered in the fields.

Another arrival said that in a school at Richmond 200 children had met death.

The battlefields of Europe do not provide a parallel to the scenes witnessed at Halifax, in the opinion of Duncan Grey, who arrived today. This is his story:

Worse Than War's Carnage. "I have been in the trenches in France. I have gone over the top. Friends and comrades have been shot in my presence. I have seen scores of dead men lying upon the battlefield, but the sight that greeted me yesterday was a thousand times worse and far more pathetic.

"I saw people lying around under debris; some battered beyond recognition and others groaning in their last agonies.

"Rushing here and there I struggled to assist them and as near as I can remember, pulled 22 men and children from under the wreckage. As I was right in the affected district, I witnessed the full horror of the situation. Partly blinded by the smoke from burning dwellings, I grope around assisting some of the poor mothers and little ones who were running about screaming and searching vainly for lost ones. Death was everywhere.

A Living Hell. "Flames were sweeping a wide pathway for themselves. Doomed structures were belching forth great volumes of smoke from doors and windows. The district was a living hell. Some of the bodies were without clothing. Many were so mutilated that it was difficult to realize that they were human. Some men were virtually demented.

"Thinking only of their wives and children they dashed about in the burning debris, hazarding their lives with the single thought of rescuing their own.

Parents in Frenzy. "I shall never forget how I felt in that hour. I saw little children running along, some with blood streaming from their faces. All were crying for their parents while fathers and mothers raced about in frenzy. I have never seen anything so pathetic even on the battlefield.

Right Rev. E. A. Leblanc, the Catholic bishop here, today received word that all the children of the Sacred Heart convent and at St. Mary's school in Halifax, escaped.

Most of Actaeon Crew Reach Shore Safely

New York, Dec. 7.—All but four or five of the entire crew of the American steamship Actaeon, sunk by a submarine on November 25, have reached European ports safely, according to authentic reports received here today.

The crew of the Actaeon, formerly the German merchantman Adamstrum, included 26 American citizens and five naturalized Americans.

Madrid, Dec. 7.—Twenty-one survivors of the American steamer Actaeon, which was torpedoed and sunk on November 25, have arrived here. They are suffering severely from exposure.

This dispatch probably refers to the survivors reported on November 27 to have landed at Cape Finisterre. Sixty-three others in three boats were reported missing.

Count Czernin Says Peace Will Follow Armistice

Amsterdam, Dec. 7.—The Vienna correspondent of the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger says that Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, alluding to a newspaper report that the delegations would adjourn owing to the peace negotiations, told a committee of the Hungarian delegation that the government desired that peace negotiations should follow the armistice, and in that case "my departure to participate in them would be necessary and nobody will deny that it is my duty to be there."

SNOWFALL COOLS BURNING RUINS IN STRICKEN CITY

Havoc Wrought by Great Explosion Not Fully Estimated; Dead Number Thousands; Property Loss Runs Into Millions; American Sailors Patrol Streets; Red Cross Dispatches Relief Train.

(By Associated Press.)

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—Five thousand casualties—2,000 dead, 3,000 others injured.

This is tonight's official estimate of the toll exacted in human lives and suffering by the explosion and fires of yesterday.

CONDITIONS APPALLING. Exact conditions in stricken Halifax are more appalling than was indicated by last night's reports.

This message was dispatched to Governor McCall this morning by A. C. Ratchesky, manager of the Massachusetts special relief train, after a night spent in gathering bits of information from trainmen and others as the train sped eastward.

The dead are everywhere, said these reports. There is immediate need of a great staff of surgeons and scores of nurses. Supplies and help of every kind will be welcome. It has not been humanly possible to take care of the hundreds of injured and many perished during the night.

In improvised morgues the dead are piled high and unidentified. Scores of these bodies never will be claimed.

Stunned by the magnitude of the disaster which has overwhelmed the "garrison city by the sea," the people of Halifax today bent all their energies to relieving the injured, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and gathering their dead.

A heavy snowstorm set in today, and while this in a measure impeded the work of relief and rescue, it served to aid the firemen in fighting the flames which still burned fiercely in many places among the ruins in the devastated district.

Estimate Two Thousand Lives Lost. Reports from the improvised morgues and from hospitals, churches, schools and private residences seemed to bear out last night's estimate that at least 2,000 lives were lost when the Belgian relief steamship Imo collided with the French munitions steamer Mont Blanc, causing the detonation of 4,000 tons of trinitrotoluol, one of the most powerful explosives manufactured.

Help from outside began to reach the stricken city today. Doctors, nurses and medical and food supplies arrived on special trains from Truro and Windsor, N. S., and from Moncton, N. B. Other trains were expected to reach here during the day. The special train sent from Boston by direction of Governor McCall of Massachusetts will arrive this evening.

Virtually all business is suspended and the schools are closed, while the inhabitants generally are turning their attention to relief work. Soldiers and sailors, including seamen from an American warship, which rushed to the port when it received word of the disaster, are patrolling the stricken district and aiding in the rescue work.

Fire Still Burning. The snowfall, however, comes as an aid to the firemen in quenching the flames in the ruins.

Special trains, bringing doctors, (Continued on Page Three, Column One.)

Find German Clique Here for Defense

New York, Dec. 7.—Letters indicating the existence in this country of a "German military organization for defense" were seized by agents of the naval intelligence bureau today when they examined the effects of Otto Julius Merkel, a German writer and lecturer, who was arrested last night and interned on Ellis island on orders from the government authorities. According to these communications, Merkel was at the head of this German body.

The Road To Wealth

Economy is the road to wealth. Particularly true in War Times. All things that are not absolutely essential to your welfare should be sacrificed.

If you have any articles of furniture, clothing, office fixtures, musical instruments or personal effects that have ceased to be of value to you

Trade Them for something you actually need by putting a small ad in

The Swappers' Column of The Bee. You can count on a rapid exchange.

Swappers' column rates are 25c for a 3 line advertisement 3 times, and 3c for each answer you receive

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Table with columns for Hour, High, Low, and Precipitation for various times of day.

Comparative Local Record.

Table with columns for Station and State, Temp, High, and Rain-fall for various locations.

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Table with columns for Station and State, Temp, High, and Rain-fall for various locations.