

WEATHER FORECAST
Generally fair, slightly cooler.
Light west to northwest winds.

CHINA REFUSES JAP DEMANDS

NOT OF REFUSAL PRECLUDES ANY FURTHER CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT

IS PREPARING FOR DEFENSE OF PEKING

One Hundred Thousand Troops Concentrated at Peking— Japanese Subjects to Leave City.

SENDER POSITIVE REFUSAL TO JAPANESE DEMANDS

London, May 4.—A Times Tokio dispatch says: "We are authoritatively informed that the tone of the Chinese reply to Japan precludes further conversations, or China not only refuses to concede an article five, but does so in language distinctly provocative."

London, May 4.—A Central News Tokio dispatch says it is learned the cabinet in special session, decided to send an ultimatum to China. The dispatch stated the ultimatum will accord a brief time limit for China's compliance with the Japanese demands.

Preparing to Defend Peking.

Peking, May 4.—Military preparations are being made for the defense of Peking, as a result of the report that Japan will send an ultimatum to China. According to Chinese officials, whose statements are corroborated in other circles, the government is making no defense preparations elsewhere, considering that the Chinese will be able to oppose the Japanese should they attack. It is asserted in high quarters that one hundred thousand troops have been concentrated within the environs of Peking, but with sufficient ammunition for only a brief resistance. Special police and military precautions have been taken throughout the city, especially around the winter palace where the president resides.

The Japanese legation is said to have notified all Japanese to prepare to leave Peking. Telegrams from Mukden say Japanese reservists have been called to colors. American Minister Rehnach expressed the opinion that missionaries and other Americans are in no danger. Considerable surprise was caused by the report that Japan intended to issue an ultimatum as the outgrowth of China's refusal to concede to all the Japanese demands.

Tokio, May 4.—Minister of Justice Ozki is quoted by the newspapers as saying that the cabinet has decided to send an ultimatum to China, urging a reconsideration of the decision to make no more concessions to the Japanese. In official circles it was explained that the Japanese do not desire to resort to force but China must be made to realize that Japan is determined on the acceptance of its program for solidifying Oriental peace.

The Japanese press has approved the ultimatum. The belief is expressed in some circles that China may send word at the last minute that it will accept the ultimatum.

ITALY GETS NEW PROPOSAL THROUGH GERMAN ENVOY; SITUATION IS CRITICAL

Rome, May 4.—The publication, this morning of the note issued after yesterday's cabinet meeting, saying that in view of the international situation, the king and his ministers can not leave the capital to attend the unveiling of the Garibaldi monument at Quarto Sestiere produced a profound effect on the public opinion.

The abandonment of the plan for the king and his officers to participate in the unveiling is believed to be a result of the call on the foreign ministry by the German ambassador Saturday night. The ambassador made new proposals to the foreign minister. They will be submitted to the cabinet today.

Early Participation.

Washington, May 4.—Advice reaching the United States government within the last few days indicate that Italy's preparation clearly tend to show participation in the war at an early date.

THREE STORES BURN TUESDAY

EARLY MORNING BLAZE CONSUMED BUILDINGS ON SOUTH MAIN ST.

WERE OCCUPIED BY NEGROES

Property Valued at Twenty Thousand—Total Insurance About Nine Thousand.

Fire destroyed the McGown Jenkins storerooms on South Main street at an early hour Tuesday morning. The loss is estimated at \$20,000 and the insurance on everything amounts to \$8,800.

How the fire originated is not known. At 5:30 o'clock someone rang the fire bell, and the firemen responded to the call, to find the blaze was just across the street. A hydrant is located just in front of the city hall, but this was put out of commission when the first attempt was made to attach the hose. The fire quickly spread and was hard to fight. The storerooms were burned to the ground in a very short time, the flames completely gutting all three stores.

The stores were built in 1906 and were in good condition. They were occupied solely by negroes. In the corner building, the property of Henry McGowan, a cafe and barber shop occupied the ground floor and a hall, with a pressing club and restaurant were on the second floor. The basement was occupied by a shoe shop. The loss in this building was large. The building was valued at \$5,000 and carried only \$20,000 insurance. There was no insurance on the goods contained in this room.

The second storeroom was occupied by the Star theatre. This place was valued at \$600 and there was no insurance on it. The upper story was occupied by the offices of Dr. Jenkins and others and there was a large hall there too. The basement was occupied by a pool room. The pool room was in two sections, half of it being under one of the buildings and the other under the second. The last room contained the stock and fixtures of the Jenkins Pharmacy. This was valued at \$3,800. The soda fountain alone was valued at \$1,800.

The total loss was estimated at \$19,950, and insurance on the whole amounts to \$8,800, leaving a loss of nearly \$11,000.

This fire was very hard to fight, on account of the construction of the walls. In two storerooms, the wall were made of concrete blocks and these are very dangerous when heated. The fire chief would not risk the lives of his men by sending them into the corner building in a very short time, and then seemed to settle down in the places where it was impossible to get a stream of water and burned the entire interior of the buildings.

The walls of the burned buildings are still partly standing and are in very bad shape. They are weak and

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MOST DISASTROUS FIRE IN YEARS DESTROYS PROPERTY WORTH \$70,000

GERMAN VICTORY IS CONCEDED BY RUSSIA

ATTACK WAS RESULT OF ELABORATE PLANS BY AUSTRIANS AND GERMANS—AUSTRIA FOLLOWS VICTORY WITH UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON MONTENEGRINS—RUSSIANS AVENGED SOMEWHAT BY DEFEATING TURKS.

London, May 4.—The reported Russian reverse in western Galicia today overshadowed all other developments in the war situation. Striking an average between the various official accounts London newspapers agree that the Russians must have been pushed back a considerable distance.

Petrograd express little concern but admits that the Austrian-Germans have made strong attacks along the front on which they claim great victory. Vienna reports that a sudden attack on the Russians was the result of an elaborate plan, and was made by large army of fresh Austrian and German troops.

Simultaneously with the new attack on Russian front, Austria has resumed operation against Montenegro. Official Montenegro statements says the Austrian attacks all along the front were repulsed. It is also reported at Berlin that a new Austrian army has been prepared to resume the campaign against Serbia.

German official advices concerning operations in the west confirm French and British reports of German attacks on St. Julien, but nothing is said about alleged assertion that Hill No. 60 is again the object of the German offensive.

No further official news has been received concerning Dardanelles operations, but the publication of a long list of casualties gives ample evidence of the stubborn opposition with which the Turk meet the landing of troops. Russia is again cooperating in an attack on Constantinople by renewing bombardment of Bosphorus forts. Italy still occupies the center of diplomatic stage but there is little in the way of authentic news from Rome.

London, May 4.—The Russians took partial revenge for their defeat in

West Galicia by badly defeating the Turks and invading Persia. The Turkish defeat took place after a three day battle near the frontier. Petrograd reports the Russians inflicted heavy losses. The battle was a small affair compared with what Germany and Austria claim to have done to the Russians in Galicia. Their reports state that thirty thousand prisoners and many guns were captured. While details are meagre, British military critics believe if the Russians were driven far back, a general Russian retreat will be imperative and the whole Carpathian offensive will be nullified. Fighting in Belgium is thus far confined to the Ypres region.

rumors concerning the operations against the Dardanelles was confirmed tonight when the British war office and admiralty issued reports stating that after beating off Turkish attacks, the allies took the offensive on the Gallipoli Peninsula and are now advancing into the interior. The Turks continue to report the defeat of landing parties and damage done to allied warships, which are keeping up a live bombardment of Turkish positions both in the Dardanelles straits and in Smyrna. Unconfirmed reports said the Vail of Smyrna was negotiating with the allies for the surrender of his territory.

A German submarine today sank the British steamer Minterne and two maulers.

German schools suspend in celebration of victory. Berlin, May 4.—A school holiday was ordered in Germany today in celebration of the victory which the German general staff and the Austrian war department claim their forces won over the Russians in west Galicia. German military critics emphasize the

importance of the Austro-German successes, particularly in connection with the German advance to the eastward of Menel through the Baltic provinces.

Petrograd, May 4.—Official communications issued tonight admit the Austro-German forces have crossed the right bank of the Danajee river in Galicia. The statement declares desperate fighting continues.

Athens, May 4.—Bombardment of Turkish forts on the Gulf of Smyrna has been resumed, according to messages from Mytilene and the allies warships continue shelling of forts on the Dardanelles. Allies are reported to have effected a landing near the site of ancient Ephesus. The location is 35 miles southeast of Smyrna.

London, May 4.—An Athens dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says Smyrna has entered new negotiations with the allies for the surrender of the town.

Berlin, May 4.—The Russians lost 21,500 prisoners in the Dardanelles and Austrians in recent heavy fighting in western Galicia, according to official statement of the German war office today. Large quantities of war material were captured, also many guns.

London, May 4.—British troops are now advancing into the interior of Gallipoli Peninsula, according to official statement issued here this evening.

Basel, Switzerland, May 4.—Fortifications at Altkirsch, Upper Alsace, was heavily bombed by French artillery Saturday and Sunday. Result unknown.

WAR COSTS ENGLAND \$10,500,000 DAILY

Figures Submitted by Lloyd George, Chancellor of Exchequer.

London, May 4.—David Lloyd, chancellor of the exchequer, speaking in the house of common today, said the war is costing Great Britain ten and a half million dollars daily. He added that if the war continued a year Great Britain's bill will be upwards of five billion dollars. He said the country's debt was already almost doubled. The chancellor declined to predict the length of the war. The speech was taken to indicate the chancellor intended to propose a huge loan to finance war for a further period of six or twelve months.

NEGRO LYNCHED BY ALABAMANS

Assaulted White Woman Near Mobile—Sheriff and Possee Overpowered.

Mobile, Ala., May 4.—Jesse Hatch, a negro, held on the charge of attacking a white woman, was lynched by a mob near Fulton late yesterday. The news of the hanging reached here today. The sheriff and posse were overpowered while they were taking the negro to jail. The negro is said to have been identified by the victim of his attack.

COL. ROOSEVELT AGAIN ON STAND

Famous Libel Suit Proceeding Slowly—Barnes Did Not Take Stand Yesterday.

Syracuse, May 4.—Theodore Roosevelt again took the witness stand in the supreme court today after many witnesses, including son and former secretary of senator Platt, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt had testified in his behalf. Roosevelt intended to offer testimony designed to show he harbored no malice for William Barnes, who is suing him for alleged libel.

GULFLIGHT INCIDENT IS DISCUSSED BY CABINET; NO POLICY FORMULATED

Washington, May 4.—President Wilson discussed briefly with the cabinet today the torpedoing of the American steamer Gulflight, but in the absence of a detailed report on the incident no policy was formulated. Official messages added little to what is already known.

It is definitely known only that a submarine was sighted by one of the Gulflight's officers shortly before the attack and that the submarine submerged immediately. No proof has been reported to establish the fact that this submarine attacked the ship, nor was its nationality learned. United States wants direct information.

Washington, May 4.—President Wilson is considering the preliminary report from United States Consul Stephens at Plymouth regarding the torpedoing of the American steamer Gulflight, in the English channel on Saturday, which resulted in the death of the captain, and two members of the crew. The report was submitted

to the president by Secretary Bryan, who has directed Stephens and Ambassador Gerard at Berlin to make a thorough inquiry into the steamer's loss.

Although state department officials who have looked into the matter's legal phases believe the attack on Gulflight was inexcusable, Bryan reiterated the statement that no decision regarding the United States' policy in the matter would be reached until the inquiry is ended.

Investigation Under Way.

London, May 4.—The United States embassy today began an investigation of the torpedoing of the American steamship Gulflight and examination of the ship as well as the crew will be made. It is probable the inquiry will be carried on principally at Plymouth, where the crew landed. London newspapers comment only very briefly on the incident. The Westminster Gazette asks whether President Wilson "will make good his words last February, and hold the government to strict accountability."

PULLMAN COMPANY HELPS NEGRO RACE

Chairman of Board of Directors Says Employment is Great Racial Uplift.

Washington, May 4.—Robert T. Lincoln, chairman of the board of directors of the Pullman company told the United States Commission on Industrial Relations today he believed the system of paying Pullman porters should be changed and the wages of conductors increased. He declared these questions would be considered later by the directors. Discussing tips, on which porters are compelled to rely for a living, Lincoln insisted that the employment of the Pullman company offered to negroes has been one of the most uplift opportunities the race has had.

AIDED BY STRONG BREEZE, FIRE SWEEPS AREA OF SEVERAL ACRES, DESTROYING MANY BUILDINGS IN REMARKABLY SHORT TIME

BARTON AND ANDERSON SUFFER COMBINED NET LOSS OF \$23,750

Piedmont & Northern's Handsome New \$20,000 Freight Station, Anderson's Horse Collar-Pad Factory, Barton's Building Material Warehouse, Dwelling, and Several Smaller Buildings Consumed by Flames—Fire Supposed to Have Been started by Sparks From Engine on Blue Ridge Railway.

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE DONE BY FIRE			
Losers	Gross Loss	Insurance	Net Loss
J. E. Barton	\$12,350	\$ 400	\$11,950
T. Q. Anderson	17,500	5,700	11,800
Blue Ridge Ry. Co	3,300	covered	None
P. & N. Railway	32,000	covered	None
G. E. Turner	1,000	600	400
David Drennan	1,000	500	500
Chero-Cola Co.	300	covered	None
Total	\$68,250	\$43,600	\$24,650

Fire which broke out last night shortly before 7 o'clock when a spark from a Blue Ridge locomotive is supposed to have fallen among jute in one of the warehouses of T. Q. Anderson's Horse Collar-Pad manufacturing plant in the Blue Ridge freight yards, was swept by a stiff wind over an area of several acres in the direction of the heart of the city, licking up property conservatively estimated to be worth \$68,000, the most valuable of which was the elegant \$20,000 freight station of the Piedmont & Northern Railway and contents valued at about \$12,800. The gross loss is placed at \$68,250, with insurance of about \$43,600, making a net loss of \$24,650.

Those Who Lost. The heaviest losers as a result of the fire are Messrs. J. E. Barton and T. Q. Anderson, the loss of the former being estimated at \$11,950 and that of the latter about \$11,800, these figures representing the net amounts.

J. E. Barton lost one large two-story sheet metal warehouse, in which he had stored over \$10,000 worth of fine building material. The structure was valued at \$600, making the loss on this \$10,600, with not a cent of insurance.

Mr. Barton also lost a smaller warehouse in which he stored lime, cement and plastering. The building was valued at \$250 and the contents at \$800. Only \$400 insurance was carried on this property, making the net loss about \$650.

He also lost about \$700 worth of rough lumber which was stacked in the path of the fire, there being no insurance on this.

Mr. Barton figures his gross loss at \$12,350, and with insurance on the whole of only \$400, his net loss is \$11,950. He is particularly hard hit, as practically his entire stock of building material is wiped out and he has in hand already contracts for furnishing material for some four or five houses. He feels that the taking of nearly \$12,000 out of a business under present conditions is a rather serious situation, and naturally he is considerably upset over his losses.

Anderson Wiped Out.

T. Q. Anderson, who has been burnt out three times in the past 30 days, suffered the loss of his entire plant, consisting of about four warehouses and his main building where the manufacturing of horse collars was carried on. This building was burned completely down about a month ago, and a few days since caught fire again, but the flames were extinguished before serious damage was done.

Mr. Anderson's plant was worth about \$15,000. In addition to this he had something like \$250 worth of coal and wood burned up, making his gross loss \$17,500. He carried on his plant insurance to the amount of \$5,700, which makes his net loss \$11,800.

Blue Ridge Railway. The Blue Ridge Railway suffers considerable loss. Two freight cars standing on the tracks opposite Mr. Anderson's place were completely destroyed. The cars are valued at about \$800 each. One of them was filled with jute, valued at about \$200. In addition to this, the Blue Ridge suffers the loss of a dwelling on Murray avenue

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