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GERMANS BLAMED FOR BLAZE

THREE DEAD, 26 MISSING IN MUNITIONS FIRE PLOT

British Steamship Is Sunk and Warehouses Are Destroyed, In Baltimore Fire.

Baltimore, Oct. 31.—Chief Gunner Brown and two sailors of the British steamer Kerry Range are known to be dead and twenty-six sailors and employes on the piers of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad which were wrecked by fire are missing. It is believed that some of these made their escape and the number of dead probably will not be definitely established today, but officials of the railroad are convinced that more than fifteen persons lost their lives when the big piers burned.

The fire was of incendiary origin has been established beyond a doubt, and one suspect has been arrested and turned over to the United States authorities. He is John Witterman, said to have been seen running away from the pier a few moments before the blaze. The federal authorities expect several other arrests this afternoon.

All doubt as to the origin of the fire was removed by statements from the Baltimore and Ohio's guards and firemen stationed at the pier. A few seconds before the flames broke out in five sections of the pier these men saw what appeared to be rockets going up from half a dozen places on the pier. These were followed by muffled explosions and the flames came immediately. Less than five minutes before the entire structure was in flames the chief had made a complete round of the pier.

Officials of the Baltimore and Ohio this morning fixed the loss at \$5,000,000. This is covered partly by the railroad's replacement fund and policies with insurance companies.

Declarations that the fire was of incendiary origin, probably started by German spies, were made by secret service men and the police. Huge quantities of American munitions were destroyed.

While secret service operatives this morning were pushing their probe into the disastrous blaze that last night and early today destroyed vast quantities of grain and munitions of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad piers at Locust Point, another blaze broke out in the Baltimore and Ohio shops at Riverside Park, about a mile from the scene of the first blaze. The blaze this morning was promptly checked.

Latest estimates place the loss in excess of \$5,000,000.

Vice President J. M. Davis, of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, said it was the belief of the railroad officials that the blaze was of incendiary origin, as credible witnesses stated that they saw flames leap from piers 8 and 9 at five points almost simultaneously.

The total loss will be over \$5,000,000. Of this, which is said to be a conservative estimate, the piers represented a value of \$1,500,000, the goods stored on them \$3,000,000, and the steamer and cargo \$500,000.

The steamer, which docked yesterday afternoon, had on board eighty anti-submarine shells from a British port. These exploded with loud reports when the ship took fire. The ship was scuttled and sunk.

Chief of Police Leigh, of the Baltimore and Ohio, began an investigation immediately of the report of the pier watchman that he saw five or six men jump from pier 9 just as the flames broke out. The piers have been under guards for a number of months.

Several months ago a quantity of dynamite was found in a loaded grain car in one of the elevators of the railroad at Locust Point. The grain was intended for one of the allies. The car was traced to its loading point in the central west and found to have been loaded by Austrian stevedores.

Pier 10, loaded with wheat for export, was in danger of being burned early today, and only a fire wall stood between the fire and this pier and two others. Baltimore and Ohio officials felt confident of saving these piers.

A number of departments of jus-

A GLANCE OVER THE COUNTRY

SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST

The News in Condensed Form to Be Read Easily By the Busy Reader.

Seven alien enemies have been sent back to Ellis Island for talking too much.

The birth rate in Germany has fallen below normal with a decrease of more than forty per cent.

Florence is to have a Tobacco Stemmer to be ready for operation by the time the next crop comes in.

Plans are being made for adequate housing accommodation for the thousands of workmen employed by the government.

The lumbermen have been warned that Uncle Sam can seize their plants to use for shipbuilding, only giving six days notice.

A wealthy widow of Salem, Mass., left \$100,000 to Tuskegee, (Ala.) Institute. Other institutions were also remembered.

On the pilot fender of an Alabama Coast Line train the mangled body of a boy eight or nine years old was found. Neither the engineer nor the fireman knew when the child was struck.

The first German merchantman seized by the United States at the beginning of the war has been sunk in Mediterranean waters by the Germans. Clara Mennig was under charter to the Italian government and homeward bound from Italy. No lives were lost.

The sheriff collected the license money \$500 from a carnival company for holding its shows for five days at Camden. It seems the Camden Fire Department and Krause shows entered into an agreement to show together for a week, the Fire Department was to furnish the license and will have to pay the \$500 according to the contract with the show people. It was a satisfactory arrangement with most of the citizens and the action of the sheriff came as a surprise.

London, Oct. 31.—Fourteen British merchantmen of over 1,600 tons were sunk by mine or submarine in the last week according to the admiralty report tonight. Four vessels under 1,600 tons also were sunk but no fishing craft.

The British losses of merchantmen for the current week show a considerable decrease as compared with the previous week when 17 vessels of over 1,600 tons and eight under that tonnage were sunk.

FEWER SHIPS SUNK.

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GERMANY'S LOSS

6,000,000 MEN

Washington, Oct. 31.—Germany lost six million men in three years of war, according to the declaration made in the Reichstag by the Independent Socialist Ledebour. A report of his speech reaching Washington through Switzerland states that, contemplating the prospects of a fourth winter campaign, the socialist leader said:

"You have not evidently, gentlemen, an exact conception of what war means. We have had 1,500,000 dead; three or four million of whom 500,000 are crippled for life, and two million absolutely invalidated. That makes it altogether six million men lost during the three years."

It is stated that official information confirmatory of these figures have been in possession of American officials for some time.

Secretive operatives were reported to be on the scene several hours after the fire was discovered.

The customs house authorities saved their records on pier 8, but those on pier 9 were destroyed.

What Food Saving Involves

Sign the pledge and enroll as a member of the United States Food Administration, and you will be asked to do these things:

Eat plenty, but wisely, and without waste.

Buy less; cook no more than necessary; serve smaller portions.

Whenever possible use poultry, game and sea foods in place of beef, mutton and pork.

Use potatoes and other vegetables freely.

Save wheat by substituting, in part, corn meal and other cereal flours for wheat flour.

Save butter and lard. Use butter on the table, but substitute vegetable oils for cooking.

Save sugar. Use less candy and sweet drinks and less sugar in tea and coffee.

"This is a duty of necessity, humanity and honor. As a free people we have elected to discharge this duty, not under autocratic decree, but without other restraint than the guidance of individual conscience."

—Herbert Hoover.



CLAIMS REVERSED AND AFFIRMED

THE DISTRICT BOARD ACTS

Number of Cases Reversed and Number Affirmed. Abbeville Men to Report for Duty

The District Board for the Western District in session at Greenwood on Wednesday acted on appeals by the government from exemptions granted by the local board. In cases which are reversed the parties will report for duty on notice. The cases affirmed mean that the exempted persons will not report for duty.

The following are the Claims Reversed

- C. L. Evans
- W. L. S. Douglas
- Lorenzo Belcher
- C. S. Osborne
- M. R. Campbell
- Robert D. Wilson
- William E. Bowen
- W. F. Benton
- Thomas Washington
- George W. Mundy
- W. D. Purdy
- Jesse E. Morrison
- H. J. Martin
- R. H. Carwile
- John T. Cheatham
- L. P. Powell
- L. G. Botts
- C. A. McClelland
- W. L. Stevens
- L. C. Brinkley
- P. C. Ellis
- L. H. Wilson
- Robert Carter
- F. Clinkscales
- L. W. Ayres
- Lace Calhoun
- Arthur Cunningham
- J. L. Bowie
- F. L. Sizemore.

The following are the Exemptions Affirmed

- W. J. Cook
- C. M. Magaha
- H. Bratcher
- W. Fisher
- Horace Allen
- William Brownlee
- J. B. Branyon
- C. V. Ashley
- J. B. Temple
- S. A. Cochran
- G. T. Burton
- Cain Elmore
- Wiley Coleman
- A. B. Hollingsworth
- Horace Martin.

The following cases re-opened were acted on and action taken as follows:

- Cases Re-opened and Discharges granted: Lonzo Evans, serial No. 107.
- John G. E. Loftis, serial No. 726.
- Cases Re opened and discharges refused: John B. Thomas, serial No. 692.

AMERICAN STEAMER GETS U-BOAT BEFORE SINKING

Luckenbach Officers Express Surprise That Exploit Was Unknown In the United States

An Atlantic Port, Oct. 31.—Three hours before the American steamship Lewis Luckenbach was torpedoed and sunk by an unseen submarine on October 11, naval gunners aboard the vessel planted a shot between the twin periscopes of an enemy submarine and sent her to the bottom, according to an officer of the Luckenbach who arrived here today.

The officer expressed surprise that the fact had not become known in the United States, and declared that American naval officers on the other side knew of the incident and conceded the sinking of the undersea boat. The Luckenbach, a steel vessel of 3,906 tons, was sunk while bound for Havre with a general cargo.

HALLOWE'EN PARTY AT HIGH SCHOOL TO-NIGHT

The school children are going to have a Hallowe'en Party at the High School to-night, beginning at 7:30. They are making great preparations and a big time is to be had by all who attend.

The price of admission is 5 cents.

PRESIDENT TURNS TO WAR IN ITALY

WILSON AND ADVISER DISCUSS SITUATION

Furnishing of Supplies, Especially Coal, Believed to Be Part of America Now.

Washington, Oct. 30.—The Italian situation was discussed at length by President Wilson and his advisers at today's meeting, the discussion touching immediate military aspects and the extension of assistance by the allies. Furnishing of supplies, especially coal, badly needed for Italian munition factories, is said to be regarded as this country's particular sphere of immediate action.

Although the administration shares regret and concern over initial successes of the Teutonic drive, high officials here are said to utterly reject the opinion, advanced in some quarters, that even this initial drive can become decisive of the war or even an important turning point. It is felt that setbacks in Italy will act as a spur rather than a discouragement both upon Italy and the other allies. There is no apprehension that Italy will break down or weaken in adherence to the common cause against Germany.

Further advices concerning the retreat are anxiously awaited in official and diplomatic quarters. Army officers as well as officials of the Italian embassy appear to be entirely confident that General Cadorna will be able to hold the Teutonic forces in check.

Word that the British artillerymen with the Italian army had brought their guns through the retirement without the loss of a battery was welcomed today as indicating that General Cadorna's men were holding their organization in the face of the smashing Austro-German assaults. The British guns are all "heavies," big pieces that it takes time to withdraw. If all of them have been saved, American officers think there is every reason to believe that much of the Italian artillery vital to defense in a final stand also has been brought back.

Today's reports are taken to indicate that the artillery losses of the Italians, claimed by the Germans to be enormous, comprise smaller pieces and mounted guns. On the new line, laid out years ago as the Italian defensive front, there are emplacements, charted ranges and factors which will aid in stemming the tide of the enemy advance. The British big guns will become doubly useful there.

Substantial evidence of America's faith in Italy in the hour of her trial was given at the treasury today in the form of a loan of \$230,000,000. This brought the total of credits extended to Italy to \$485,000,000 and the grand total of loans to the allies to \$3,091,400,000. With this money, Italy will pay for vast quantities of coal and other supplies purchased here for her armies and industries. To carry the supplies the shipping board already has agreed to turn over 25 merchant ships.

NO EXCITEMENT FOR AMERICANS

With the American Army in France, Oct. 31.—Conditions in the sector in which the Americans are stationed were normal today. The artillery work continued. The weather was showery and much colder.

For the last two days there has been considerable aerial observation; late yesterday three German planes flew over the American trenches.

So great is the enthusiasm among the Americans to go on patrol that the French commander has ordered that none of the higher grade officers perform other than their regular duties. It is the duty of the junior command officers and the non-commissioned officers to go with patrols, but the officers of higher rank, such as majors, were anxious to go out.

The quartermaster now has supplies for several days within reach of the American position as a precaution against any transportation difficulties with the bases.

W. E. Haddon, of Antreville, was in the city yesterday on business and was a visitor to our office while here.

U. S. DECLARE WAR ON AUSTRIA, ALSO

WOULD DECLARE WAR ON AUSTRIA, ALSO

President Urged to Call Extra Session of Congress Soon For That Purpose.

New York, Oct. 31.—President Wilson was urged to call a special session of Congress at an early date to declare war on Austria in a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the American Defense Society at a special meeting here today.

The resolution further urges the transportation to Italy of a contingent of American troops and war material, using all ships possible, including seized Austrian ships, for the purpose. It sets forth that "the complete defeat of Italy's armies will endanger her national existence and imperil the use of the war for democracy" and "that to preserve Italy's existence and maintain her efficiency as a fighting force immediate moral, military and economic aid from her Allies is imperative."

German Agents Busy.

The resolution declares that German agents throughout Italy have steadily emphasized the fact that the United States has never seen fit to declare war against Austria-Hungary. Italy's greatest neighbor and enemy, and that it is patent to the entire world that Germany and Austria are working as a unit for the same end which America has declared she will not endure." A copy of the resolution was telegraphed to President Wilson.

Prior to its adoption the trustees of the society adopted a minute which declares that an inconclusive peace would be an insult to those who have fallen in the war and a betrayal to the living.

Ten Million to France.

The sending of an "overwhelming force" to France, because, it says, "the more men we send the fewer will be slain," is counseled in the minute, which declares that considering the great numbers of men poured into the war in the last three years by England and France, the sending of as many as 10,000,000 from its population of over 100,000,000 would be no more than this country's proportionate share.

The minute urges that Congress, at its next session, be asked to declare that a state of war exists also between the United States, Bulgaria and Turkey.

COTTON MARKET

Cotton ----- 27%
Seed ----- \$1.20

GERMANY PLANS TO CONTROL BRAZIL

TEUTONIC INTRIGUE MORE FULLY SHOWN

Two More Messages From Count Von Luxburg Made Public.

Washington, Oct. 30.—Two more of the notorious Count von Luxburg's messages to the German foreign office from Buenos Ayres were made public tonight by Secretary Lansing. They provide official confirmation of Germany's plan to control Southern Brazil, shed additional light upon Teutonic intrigue in South America generally and reveal that Luxburg appealed vainly for a squadron of submarines with which to awe some Latin-Americans and to flatter others with salutes. These dispatches like others that have gone before, were given out by Secretary Lansing without discussion of their contents. The only comment was in this statement attached to the copies:

"In view of the fact that the substance of certain telegrams addressed by Count Luxburg to the German foreign office has been published, the secretary of state makes public the actual text of the telegrams."

The messages follow:

"No. 63. July 7, 1917.

"Our attitude towards Brazil has created the impression here that our easy going good nature can be counted on. This is dangerous in South America where the people under thin veneer are Indians. A submarine squadron with full powers to me might probably still save the situation. I request instructions as to whether after a rupture of relations legation is to start for home or to remove to Paraguay or possibly Chile. The naval attaché will doubtless go to Santiago de Chile.

(Signed) "Luxburg."

"No. 89. August 4, 1917.

"I am convinced that we shall be able to carry through our principal political aims in South America, the maintenance of open market in Argentina and the reorganization of South Brazil equally well whether with or against Argentina. Please cultivate friendship with Chile. The announcement of a visit of a submarine squadron to salute the president would even now exercise decisive influence on the situation in South America. Prospect excellent for wheat harvest in December.

(Signed) "Luxburg."

After the state department made public the "sink without a trace" messages which caused Argentina to hand von Luxburg his passports, the Argentine government sent to Washington a number of the former German minister's dispatches for decoding. Whether the two now published were among them or were obtained by the United States at the same

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