

VOL. XXVIII TO ATTACK BRITISH LONDON LOOKS FOR GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN THE WEST RUSSIANS IN PRUSSIA

Cross Frontier of East Prussia and Take Several Villages—Germans Destroyed and Threaten Reprisals on Scale of Three for One.

London reports Friday: The apparent failure of Field Marshal Hindenburg's various attempts to reach Warsaw, the rearmament of Russia over the East Prussian frontier, near Tilsit, and the allied offensive in the west has, according to British observers, put Germany in a position where she dare not shift any substantial force from either the east or the west.

Although there are rumors of reinforcements being hurried from Poland to France or Belgium to meet the French and British thrusts, military writers in London hold to the opinion that Germany must maintain her present armies in both areas to fighting practically intact. This will necessitate the finding of new forces for both the east and the west if she would effectually meet the increasing strength of her enemies.

It is pointed out that the plan to deliver a crushing blow in one theater and then march across the country to the other, has miscarried on both fronts. This was seen first in the dash to Paris, second in the rush for Calais, third, in the battle of Ypres and then repeatedly in the east as Field Marshal Hindenburg's attempt to break through the Russian lines to the Polish capital.

Considerable mystery surrounds the next move of the Germans, although the prevailing belief here is that it will be a big offensive in the west, probably against the British front.

Berlin reports Friday: "In the Champagne district, further French attacks have failed. One of these was to the north of Reims and the other to the north of Beaumont. We took prisoner two French officers and 70 soldiers. After heavy losses the French retreated under our effective fire to their former positions.

"To the southeast of Verdun the French have made two advances. In the plain of the Woerpe French attacks have been repulsed, while on the east side of the heights of the Meuse the fighting continues.

"The situation in the vicinity of Memel, in East Prussia, is not very clear. It would appear that minor Russian detachments have entered Memel. Counter measures have been taken.

"All the Russian attacks between the river Pissa and river Orze to the northeast of Przasnys have been repulsed. In some of these engagements the enemy lost heavily.

"The situation south of the Vistula shows no change.

London reports Friday: A Star dispatch from the province of East Prussia shows 80,000 houses have been destroyed in East Prussia by Russian troops. Three hundred thousand people are said to be unable to return to East Prussia because they have no means of livelihood.

A Berlin dispatch Thursday night described these 80,000 houses as private apartments and said they had been completely pillaged and their furniture removed to Russia.

"Northern Poland isolated actions are being fought from the Niemen river to Przasnys, the big battle which was expected having apparently been called off or postponed, says a London dispatch, by Field Marshal Hindenburg. The Russian thought to have attained his object when he extracted his forces from the forest of Augustowo.

Meanwhile the Russians have once more invaded the East Prussian frontier in two places. The German frontier in the extreme north Russians attacked Lauszargen, which is German soil. A Petrograd dispatch reports that the largest German force in the north has been followed to the retreat across the frontier below the middle group of the Mazurian lakes.

AUSTRIA ASKS PLEDGE WANTS GUARANTEE OF FUTURE ITALIAN NEUTRALITY.

Dual Monarchy Apparently Resisting Germany's Efforts to Find Way to Keep Italy Out of War.

Rome, Italy, reports in a dispatch to Paris Friday that purports to be an outline of Austria's attitude which relation to the cession of territory to Italy is contained in a dispatch to the Tribune, dated Vienna, but telegraphed to Rome from the frontier.

The statement is made that Austria, without relying on Italian faith, contends it is only natural that the dual monarchy, if she is ready to grant territorial compensation, should wish to insure Italian neutrality.

For this reason, the dispatch says, Austria feels she should carry out the part of the proposed agreement only when an Italian pledge of neutrality is fulfilled, especially in view of the fact that the cession of the province of Trent would imply a weakening of Austrian military resources with regard to Italy.

Commenting upon this report, the Tribune says the condition which Austria demands is absolutely unacceptable and if maintained would make impossible any friendly agreement. No ministry would accept a satisfaction of national honor to be carried out at the end of a war, the results of which no one can foresee, the newspaper argues.

"The Austro-German point of view," the Tribune says, "is wrong because they think Italy is asking compensation for neutrality. The problem is totally different. Austria provoked the war through aggression against Serbia, partly against repeated Italian warnings and partly without Italy's knowledge. This action was entirely contrary to mutual obligations and conflicted with the fundamental interests of Italy. Thus the European equilibrium was upset and radical changes in the map of Europe are inevitable.

"Italy sacrificed her national aspirations by adhering to the Triple Alliance for the sake of preserving the European equilibrium. Since Austria shattered it Italy can no longer postpone the realization of those aspirations."

Paris reports Friday: The Austrian government is resisting energetically pressure exerted by Germany to induce Austria to accept a Geneva dispatch to the Petit Parisien.

Count Andrássy, former premier of Hungary, and several other statesmen representing the dual monarchy, are reported to have gone to Vienna to discuss with the Austrian Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg and Foreign Minister von Jagow.

It is reported at Geneva that if other negotiations fail the German chancellor contemplates a trip to Vienna in the hope that the Austrian Emperor, Joseph, that it is necessary for Austria to consent to the sacrifices asked.

TIRED WHOLE FORESTS.
German Artillery Touched Off Trees Loaded With Gasoline.

How the Germans employed both fire and water to destroy the Russian line in the campaign in the Mazurian lake district, East Prussia, is related in a communication received in London from Gathenberg.

"German strategy counted not only on water and mire, but even fire," the correspondent says. "Their engineers have, for many years, been equipped with a peculiar kind of auger for excavating the trunks of soft trees such as the Mazurian firs.

When the Russian army first advanced into East Prussia, German engineers hastily excavated numbers of trees.

"When Russian troops reached the Mazurian district, German engineers at once opened the canal locks, drowning the Russian troops. Like fires, the Russians reached the forests, but of course, they had no idea that many trees had been charged with gasoline. It was an easy task for the German artillery to set a match to this bonfire and burn up the Russian regiments they had entrapped."

NOTES MADE PUBLIC WASHINGTON GIVES OUT DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE ALLIES REJECT OFFER

Great Britain and France Make Final Reply, Setting Forth the Scope of Their Blockade of German Ports—Notes of United States and Replies Are Published.

The state department has made public all the notes exchanged between the United States, Great Britain and Germany in regard to the treatment of neutral sea commerce by the belligerents.

The publication includes (1) the original note sent by the United States to Berlin and London in which this government sought to secure concessions relating to neutral trade, the burdens and dangers of the war.

(2) The German reply which offered to call off all submarine activity against mercantile ships if food supplies were allowed to come into Germany.

(3) The British reply, which recounted and denounced German piracy, and at the same time declared that France and Great Britain, in concert, would shut off all supplies from Germany.

(4) The second note of the American government to Great Britain, sent also to France, in which this country asked the allies to explain the purpose of instituting and maintaining their embargo on all commerce to Germany.

(5) The reply of Great Britain.

(6) The reply of France.

The general tenor of the replies of Great Britain and Germany to the first American note are well known as their contents have been published. So to-day we print the two notes sent by Great Britain and France to our second note.

The following identical note was sent by the secretary of state to the American ambassadors at London and Berlin:

"Washington, Feb. 20, 1915.
"You will please deliver to Sir Edward Grey the following identical note to be sent to the British and German governments. In view of the correspondence which has passed between this government and Great Britain and Germany, respectively, relative to the declaration of a neutral zone by the United States and the use of neutral flags by British merchant vessels, this government ventures to express the hope that the two belligerent governments may, through reciprocal concessions, find a basis for agreement which will relieve neutral shipping of the burden of the blockade of the great oceans which they will incur in the high seas adjacent to the coasts of the belligerents.

"The government of the United States respectfully suggests that the following might be entered into:

"Germany and Great Britain to agree:

"1. That neither will sow any floating mines, that neither will plan on the high seas anchored mines except in common ranges of mines for defensive purposes only and that neither shall be so constructed as to become harmless if separated from their moorings.

"2. That neither will use submarines to attack merchant vessels of any nationality except to enforce the right of visit and search.

BAITING FAIR ITALY BOTH SIDES SEEK TO SECURE ITALIAN SUPPORT.

Germany Offers Austrian Territory an Free Hand in Albania—If Entente Wins There is Nothing.

Political pressure upon Italy to pledge its support either to the empires of central Europe or to the allies has been increasing for some time and is believed to have reached its climax.

According to thoroughly reliable sources, Prince von Buelow, German ambassador, has given formal assurances that Germany will be able to induce Vienna to yield to Italy certain territorial concessions.

In addition the central empires would further Italy's ambition in the eastern Mediterranean. The German diplomats pointed out that the marine supremacy of Great Britain and France would have the effect of crushing Italy.

Representatives of the allies were present at the meeting in which it was said that the defeat of Germany and Austria was inevitable, and that without participation of Italy in case Italy refrained from taking part, it would secure nothing from the allies when settlements are made.

Shortly thereafter, they argue, the separation of Hungary from Austria is to be expected.

This would lead to the absorption of the Austrian provinces of German persons in Germany and the consequent retention of German dominion of Trieste which would forever be lost to Italy. In addition Italy would be forced to abandon Avion and the Adriatic sea.

What is believed in high quarters to be an authoritative outline of Italy's territorial demands and Austria's position regarding them was obtained recently. The difference of views, as thus indicated, appears to be that Italy is informed persons can see no likelihood of an adjustment.

It is said Italy wants a sweep of territory north and east which would extend her boundary around the northern end of the Adriatic sea to the coast. That would include the Austrian naval base at Pola, and the provinces of Trent and Trieste. Concessions which Austria is believed to be willing to make are insignificant as compared with the demands of Italy.

It is regarded as probable that under pressure from Germany Austria may be induced to grant larger concessions, but the belief is generally held that Austria's resources will be insufficient to satisfy Italy.

Italy's demands are set forth as follows: To the north, she desires the entire province of Trent, bringing her frontier to Venoste, Parnire and Breole, including the districts of Rovereto, Meran, Bressanone and Bruneck; to the east, she wants to extend her frontier to the Julian Alps, including the provinces of Gorizia and Istria, with the districts of Trieste, Udine, Treviso, Pordenone, Udine, Trieste, Pola and the Dalmatian Islands.

The only rectification of the frontier which, according to this information, Austria is willing to grant is the United States government of Lake Garda with the town of Riva and the valleys of Chiese and Adiger, including the towns of Rovereto and Tione, but excluding Trent and Trieste, the valleys of the Isonezo and the districts of Gradisca and Udine.

It is understood also that for such territory as she is willing to yield Austria asked a large amount of money and other concessions. In return for these concessions by Italy, Austria is willing to make certain territorial concessions, including the establishment of an Italian university at Trieste.

Ports Sink Ship.
French Submarine Comes Up and Turk Forts Destroy Her.

London reports: The loss of a French submarine boat, in an attempt to run through the Dardanelles is described by Read Admiral Guerpette, of the French Dardanelles fleet, in a dispatch to the correspondent. The attempt apparently was made some time ago although no announcement has been heretofore made.

PROTEST TO JAPAN AMERICA AND OTHER POWERS HAVE SENT NOTES JAPS ARE SURPRISED

Russia and England Have Warned Japanese That If Demands Were Excessive Allies Could no Longer Treat Diplomatically—United States Looks After Her Interest.

Official information is credited in Peking that the Russian and British ambassadors at Tokyo called upon Baron Kato, the Japanese Foreign minister, last Saturday, and informed him that if Japan persisted in pressing upon China demands beyond those contained in her original communication to the powers it would be difficult for Japan to negotiate diplomatically with her in the future.

It is understood that on the same day the United States, acting independently, although possibly after consultation with another power, informed the Japanese government of certain of the Japanese demands were in consonance with treaty agreements between China and the United States.

American and British opinion throughout China are in accord in this matter, as voiced privately, semi-officially, and by British and American ambassadors at Tokyo. The Japanese demands have been discussed and protests have been sent to their respective governments by both American and British ambassadors.

The opinion is expressed by both Chinese and foreign diplomats that a substantial proportion of her demands will be withdrawn by Japan because of the attitude of the powers, who have called China's attention to the fact that she has no right to make unilateral demands during the war.

At various foreign diplomatic establishments in Washington doubt was expressed as to the correctness of the report from Peking that the Russian and British ambassadors at Tokyo had informed the Japanese foreign minister that if the excessive Japanese demands on China were persisted in the Allies might find it difficult to negotiate diplomatically with Japan in the future.

Surprise was expressed at the Japanese embassy, and it was said with reference to another portion of the Peking dispatch, that it was not known to the embassy that any representations had been made by the United States government to the Japanese government concerning the Japanese proposals in China.

In another quarter it was said that the Japanese demands on China had been formulated in such a way as to avoid any conflict between them and the existing treaties between Japan and other powers with respect to China.

"We have the matter in mind," is as far as Secretary Bryan has been willing to go in answer to inquiries apparently have led to the occupation of Memel, an important Baltic port at the northern tip of East Prussia. The German official report of to-day indicates that Russian forces have entered the city.

Petrograd believes von Hindenburg has decided to launch a new attack on Warsaw from the west. Russian military authorities assert that the Germans have abandoned their attack in the north and are concentrating forces south of the Vistula, where heavy artillery fighting already is under way.

The developments of Thursday on the western front were a repetition of the local engagements such as have been usual during the winter months. The successes are claimed by the French in northwestern France and in the Argonne. The German statement mentions several attacks by the allies, but asserts they failed.

The Russian army which is invading Turkish Armenia is said to have won another victory, capturing a Turkish base on the Black sea near the Russian border. Petrograd asserts that the Turks retreated in disorder.

Two more British steamers have been destroyed by Germany's submarines. They were torpedoed in the English channel.

While Allied Fleet Rest Bombardment Defenders Are Busy.

Paris reports: An Athens Havas dispatch says the allies' naval operations in the Aegean are being continued. The Turkish batteries at the Dardanelles and on either shore of the Sea of Marmora, are being shelled by the allied fleet. The Anglo-Russian governments are working to attribute reports of the joint Anglo-Russian representations to the Japanese minister for foreign affairs and the premier are reported to have disclaimed any purpose on the part of the Japanese government to infringe upon the existing rights of other nations in making demands upon China. These were regarded as pertaining to matters that were at issue between China and Japan only.

TURKS SINK BATTLESHIP REPORT DESTRUCTION OF THE BOUVET OF FRANCE.

German Submarines Secure Two More Victims in the English Channel on Friday.

Constantinople reports by wireless to Berlin and London Friday in an official statement issued from Turkish headquarters:

"Our fleet early Friday bombarded the ship yards and maneuvering places of torpedo boats west of Theodosia (on the Black Sea in Crimea, a part of Russia) and set the buildings on fire.

"An allied fleet heavily shelled the forts of the Dardanelles, which replied by firing, sinking the French battleship Bouvet.

The Bouvet, 12,000 tons, was laid down in 1892. Her complement was 621 men and her armament consisted of two 12-inch guns, two 10.8 inch, eight 5.5 inch, eight 3.9 inch, ten 3-pound and ten 1-pounders, besides two torpedo tubes.

Paris reports Friday: "An artillery duel in the Dardanelles and Turkish shore batteries and warships protecting allied mine sweepers last night until 9 a. m. yesterday, says an Athens dispatch to the Havas agency, based upon information from Tenedos.

The warships are reported to have been struck by several shells, but the damage done was slight. Two shore batteries were silenced."

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Paris or London. The Constantinople statement indicates the Turkish fleet, whose location has been unknown for some time, again is engaged actively in the Black Sea. It is said to have attacked a Russian naval base on the Crimean coast, inflicting considerable damage.

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Italy desires to assure herself that Italy will adhere to her promise of neutrality in return for the grant. This attitude is described in Rome as unsatisfactory. 9 Paris dispatch says Austria is resisting German pressure in the matter.

Information from Bucharest is that the Austrian forces in Bukovina have been reinforced and are undertaking a strong offensive movement.

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WHERE U. S. STANDS POSITION OF THIS NATION ON ALLIED BLOCKADE

Substantial Position of the United States to be Set Forth in Note Which State Department Officials Are Now Preparing to Send to the Allies.

In preparing the protest to be sent to Great Britain and France the position of the United States substantially is as follows:

1. If the action of the allies is a blockade, all commerce directly with Germany can be halted by making the blockade effective, a certain "radius of activity" being allowed for the blockading warships off the German coast, because of the newly developed activities of submarines. But there can be no legal blockade of the coast of neutral countries of Europe contiguous to those at risk, under any circumstances, and commerce between the United States and neutrals, especially in non-contraband, should be free from interruption, irrespective of ultimate destination.

2. If the action is not a blockade then there exists no legal right to the detention of contraband or non-contraband cargoes, even when consigned directly to German ports. Nor can foodstuffs or conditional contraband be justly interrupted unless proven, through a consignment to Germany, to be destined for the use of its belligerent forces and not its civilian population. Under the same circumstances, too, there is no legal basis for detaining cargoes consigned from the United States to neutral countries, if containing cotton or non-contraband goods, irrespective of ultimate destination. Similarly the allies can not under the previously accepted principles of international law interrupt shipments of foodstuffs or other conditional contraband en route between the United States and neutral countries, unless clearly proven to be going eventually to the belligerent forces of Germany and not its civilian population.

3. Neutral countries of Europe may declare embargoes on re-exports of contraband or non-contraband, thus preventing supplies from reaching Germany. With this sovereignty right the United States does not take issue, but it will insist on its rights to ship to neutral countries cargoes without restriction of further progress on the latter nations themselves.

In considering the foregoing propositions officials realize that Great Britain and her allies have set up the claim that their actions constitute retaliatory measures against Germany. The United States government, does not affect the status of international law as between the United States and the belligerents.

The American attitude has not been changed materially as a result of the German invasion of Poland. Notes with Great Britain and France, after inquiring what would be the disposition of various kinds of shipments the American government asked, "upon what principles of international law would it rest?"

"And upon what rule if no blockade is maintained and declared," it continued, "could the cargo of a neutral ship sailing out of a German port be condemned? If it is not condemned, what other legal course is there but to release it?"

Great Britain's answer has indicated that the cargoes diverted into British ports and owned by neutrals be restored to their owners, but this will not affect the insistence of the United States on the legal rights of its subjects to ship cargoes to and from neutral countries without interruption and regardless of their destination.

During the civil war the United States enforced a rigid blockade of the Southern waters by stopping cargoes while lying in the neutral ports, but if the famous Matamoros cases, finally ruled upon by Chief Justice Chase, of the Supreme Court of the United States, the rule of blockade and continuous voyage in shipments between England and Mexico would be held to extend to goods of a non-contraband character.

State department officials, recalling the case, pointed out that non-contraband goods were released and permitted to be forwarded to their destination in the Constantinople Statement. These cases have formed the precedent for American practice ever since the decisions were accepted by Great Britain at the time as equitable.

High officials said no communication would be given until the state department that, although the word "blockade" is used by Great Britain in describing the object of her new measures, the American government considers that the blockade activity given limiting the area of operations, the announcement merely confining it to "European waters, including the Mediterranean."

The belief of high officials is that Great Britain to continue her activities would be obliged finally to admit that there is no legal basis for her action, and that it is solely a retaliatory measure resulting from the exigencies of war.

Highwaymen Shoot Agent.
Highwaymen operating along the West Shore railroad near Highland Falls, N. Y., last week, shot and killed Omar Hotelling, the night telegraph operator, and escaped with a small sum of money.

Shot in Both Legs.
While trying to take a shortcut from her brother, who had returned from hunting Miss Eula Gallagher of Graniteville was wounded in both legs by the discharge of the weapon. The wounds are serious.

FIX SECOND PROTEST

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