

ABUSE WAR PRISONERS.

THE AIRCRAFT SCANDAL.

NO WHITEWASHING JOB.

WIERSE TO PRISON.

DEMOCRATS PLEDGE LOYALTY.

HUN U-BOAT SUNK.

FRENCHMAN TELLS OF AMERICAN'S CONDITION.

Soldier Captured Unwounded Loses More Than Thirty Pounds in Weight in Germany.

With the American Army in France, May 6 (By the Associated Press).—American prisoners of war are being shamefully treated in German prison camps if they all have the experience of an American interviewed by a French soldier, also a prisoner in Germany, just before he escaped. The Frenchman's story, as told to American officers, follows:

A short time before I left Hameln, Hanover, I was able to have a few minutes' interview with an American soldier who was taken prisoner several months ago on the French front. Being unwounded, he was assigned directly to a prison camp. Weakened by excessive work he was forced to do in the salt mines and being unable to stay longer, he was sent to Hameln.

"I do not remember the name of the man or the number of his regiment but he had been among the first Americans in the trenches and his home was in New York. He told me that during the three months he was in the Harz mines he had lost 33 pounds. He was a man who was solidly built and it could be easily seen that he had been vigorous and healthy but when I saw him he was incredibly thin and so weak that he could hardly cross a room without stopping repeatedly, leaning on pieces of furniture or supporting himself on boxes piled there.

"Englishmen also are badly treated in the mines. I found out that three of seven who were sent back to Hameln died. Package service does not exist in the mines and the prisoners receive practically nothing. Their only nourishment is from thin soup made of barley or cabbage, sometimes salted codfish eggs and those of other fish which it is impossible to eat. There are few potatoes and very little bread. It is impossible for a man to work without becoming sick or weakened to the point of falling down.

"The men are struck with rifle butts and the flat side of bayonets and are placed in dark cells on bread and water. These cells are known to the mine prisoners as 'hot chambers' as they are heated by steam to a high temperature. After the men are held in these cells they are turned out in the snow where they are required to stand at 'attention' for a certain time. Needless to say deaths are frequent.

"This American had been punished several times in this way and told me all that I am relating to you. I am able to confirm his story because other Englishmen and Frenchmen I saw at Hameln did not have the strength even to hold a cigarette."

AMERICAN STEAMER SUNK.

The American Steamship Tyler Torpedoed and Sunk March 17th—Eleven Lost.

New York, May 7.—The American steamship Tyler, of 3,900 tons, formerly an Old Dominion freighter, was torpedoed and sunk off the French coast March 17th. Eleven members of the crew were killed or drowned. Of these five were navy gunners.

AMERICAN TROOPS AT FRONT.

Large Numbers of Americans Arrive at the Front Daily.

Paris, May 7.—American troops continue to arrive at the front in force, Premier Clemenceau told the Echo de Paris on returning today from a two days visit to the front.

FIGHT WITH SUBMARINE.

American Steamer Defeats German Submarine on March 17th.

Washington, May 7.—A fight between the American steamer Tidewater and a German submarine on March 17 in which the submarine was defeated and probably sunk, was reported today by the navy department.

The Tidewater encountered the U-boat at night, barely missing collision as she submerged. The second shot from the Tidewater apparently made a clean hit.

AUSTRALIANS GOOD FIGHTERS.

Steadily Push Germans Back in Amiens Sector.

With British Army in France, May 8.—The Australians last night made another advance, pushing their line forward five hundred yards on a front of six hundred yards near Sully-le-Sec, east of Amiens. They also pushed back the Germans three hundred yards along a front of five hundred yards west of Morlancoirt, just above Sully-La-Sec. Notwithstanding a heavy barrage the Germans were unable to prevent their advance.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO USE EVERY MEANS TO PROBE CHARGES OF DISHONESTY.

Coffin Had Asked for Investigation and Squier Had Demanded Military Inquiry.

Washington, May 6.—Talk of graft and mismanagement in the national airplane construction heard for months in senate debate and capitol lobby gossip culminated today in a presidential order for an investigation of the department of justice. Almost simultaneously it became known that Major Gen. Squier, chief signal officer, and until recently in direct charge of army aviation, had demanded a military court of inquiry.

The White House in announcing President Wilson's action made public a telegram received Saturday from Howard Coffin, former chairman of the chief board, urging an official inquiry "that reputations of innocent men may not be ruined," and a series of letters and telegrams exchanged between the president and Guston Borglum, the sculptor, to whom is attributed responsibility for statements that corruption in the expenditure of funds and pro-German intrigue has hindered airplane production.

There also was a letter written by the president today to Senator Thomas, of Colorado, a member of the senate military committee, assuring him that every instrumentality of the department of justice will be used to pursue charges of dishonesty or malversation of any kind if Mr. Borglum's allegations are found worthy of serious consideration. Senator Thomas laid before the president last week assertions made to members of the committee by the sculptor.

The exact status of Mr. Borglum as an investigator, which until now has been more or less of a mystery to the public, is cleared up by the correspondence. It develops that after the sculptor had written to Secretary Tumulty last November in regard to alleged defects in the aircraft organization and the desirability of having certain experts called in, the president asked him to present his ideas. Later on January 2, the president wrote a letter to Mr. Borglum, asking him to come to Washington and lay the matter before the secretary of war, and with the aid of a member of the secretary's personal staff discover the facts by personal investigation. Borglum did this and on February 1 the president sent a preliminary report from him to Secretary Baker with this note:

"Here is Mr. Borglum's preliminary report. Is not there some one entirely disconnected from aeronautics and from those who are prominent in carrying out the airplane program whom you can ask to go over this thing with an unbiased mind and give us his native impressions of it?"

"There may be something worthy of consideration, and suggestions worthy to be adopted."

On March 29, after an exchange of telegrams with Borglum, the president wrote that he had placed the material the latter had furnished at the disposal of men to whom he had committed the task of making a systematic inquiry into the whole aviation system. These were the special committee headed by H. Snowden Marshall, of New York, whose preliminary report preceded the recent reorganization of the army aviation service and the appointment of John D. Ryan as director general.

Apparently the sculptor resented not being allowed to carry out the inquiry himself. In response to a complaint that he had not been supplied with suitable expert assistance, the president on April 15 informed him that he feared he had been under a serious misapprehension of his status. "I never at any time constituted you an official investigator," wrote the president. "I merely gave you the right to look into the matter of your own motion, and I am sure the letter which the secretary of war provided you with, he gave you with the same purpose and idea."

The president closed by expressing the hope that Mr. Borglum would feel it his duty to turn over to official investigators any evidence in his possession. It has been reported that since the sculptor refused to deal with the Marshall committee.

Mr. Borglum had a conference today with members of the senate military committee and gave them a list of witnesses he desired summoned if the committee reopens its investigation as a result of his disclosures. He reiterated his assertion that criminal liability could be established.

Exactly what the Borglum charges are, never has been revealed publicly, though they have been broadly hinted at in senate debate and freely discussed in cloak rooms. Whether the senate committee will consider them has not been determined, but a majority opposes action and acting Chairman Hitchcock has stated that an inquiry involving possible criminal

SENATE WILL MAKE DRASTIC INVESTIGATION OF AIRCRAFT GRAFT.

Senator Chamberlain Tells Senate What His Committee Has Undertaken to Do and Asks for the Support of Senators.

Washington, May 7.—Chairman Chamberlain of the senate military committee, announced in the senate today that with the support of the senate his committee would investigate the aircraft situation. He declared his committee proposed "to put its fingers on the men responsible" for conditions in aircraft production. He added that the "committee does not propose to engage in any whitewashing process either."

Replying to questions Senator Chamberlain unreservedly declared that not one American built battle plane had yet been sent to Europe although material in large quantities has been shipped abroad for assembly.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ON JOB.

President Wilson Has Ordered Hunt for Grafters.

Washington, May 7.—Attorney General Gregory, acting at President Wilson's directions, began today planning an investigation which is to disclose if there has been malfeasance or misuse of the great \$450,000,000 appropriation for aircraft production.

BLACK WALNUT IS SCARCE.

President Asks Boy Scouts to Find Trees.

New York, May 7.—Scarcity of black walnut timber for the making of gun stocks and airplane propellers has resulted in President Wilson addressing an appeal to the 350,000 Boy Scouts of America, asking them to communicate to the war department the location throughout the country of black walnut trees, their sizes, the names of the owners and the price at which they can be purchased.

President Wilson's letter containing this call was made public here today by James E. West, chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

ANOTHER LOAN TO BRITAIN.

England Gets \$75,000,000 More—Total \$2,795,000,000.

Washington, May 7.—An additional credit of \$75,000,000 was extended to Great Britain by the treasury today, bringing the total of American loans to that nation to \$2,795,000,000, and the total of credits to all cobelligerents to \$5,363,850,000.

Constantine Very Low.

Paris, May 7.—Former King Constantine, of Greece, is seriously ill at Zurich, Switzerland, according to a dispatch to The Temps from Zurich.

Those at the bedside of the former monarch, according to the correspondent, regard a fatal termination of his illness as not improbable.

Washington, May 8.—A report on the future needs of the Allies will be presented to the treasury today by Oscar T. Crosby, president and American member of the Inter-Allied Council of Finances and Purchases, on his return from Europe, where he has been since last September.

New Orleans, May 8.—The Southern Pine Association announced today that it had been notified that five large wooden steamers for the government merchant fleet will be launched from shipyards on the Gulf coast this week.

proceedings should be conducted by the department of justice. A meeting will be held in a few days to settle the question.

Gen. Squier's request for a military inquiry to clear up the matter so far as he and his subordinates are concerned, is before Secretary Baker and there has been no intimation of what action the secretary will take.

Mr. Baker is making a personal study of the situation but said he had not arrived at any determination as to whether there was grounds shown for prosecution of any official.

The only element of the situation not as yet in Mr. Baker's hands, so far as known, is the final report of the Marshall committee, which will be submitted to the president when completed.

If a military court is convened, it will have authority to subpoena with and also to require the production of books or other papers. Army officers prefer to have such a court instead of a congressional committee conduct the inquiry. Those involved, it is said, propose to be ably represented by counsel and to seek not only to disclose the facts in connection with aircraft production, but to look into the motives of those behind the critical agitation against their work.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT AFFIRMS SENTENCE IMPOSED AT AIKEN TERM.

His Counsel Censured by Court—Effort to "Drag in Name of The Trial Judge" is Denounced as "Reprehensible."

Richmond, May 7.—Paul Wierse, formerly an editorial writer on the Charleston American must serve two years in the Atlanta federal prison and pay a fine of \$1,000 for conspiring to sink and causing to be sunk the German merchant steamship Liebenfels in Charleston harbor, January 31, 1917, so decided the federal appeal court here today in an opinion written by Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, affirming the lower court at Charleston.

Sentence of six months in prison and \$100 fine meted out to Capt. Johann Klattenhoff, master of the steamship, charged similarly, was also upheld.

"It rarely occurs where parties are charged with conspiracy," said the opinion, "that the prosecution is able to establish their guilt by positive and direct testimony. From the very nature of things, conspiracy is a crime that is entered into secretly, and as a general rule in the prosecution of cases of this character the government must rely upon inferences to be drawn from the facts and circumstances surrounding the transaction."

Efforts of the defense to "drag the name of the trial judge into the case in a personal way," were denounced as "reprehensible in the highest degree." In ordering references of that character stricken from the brief, the court described them as "irrelevant, scandalous and impertinent."

It was suggested that if the defense doubted whether it could get a fair trial at the hands of Judge Smith it could easily have had the case transferred to another judge for trial.

"This court will not permit one of the high character and standing of the learned judge who tried this case in the court below to be assailed in one of its records in such an unjust and unwarranted manner," said the opinion.

In summing up the salient facts in the case, as they appeared to the appellate court, the opinion went on to say: "It should be borne in mind that Wierse, a naturalized citizen of German birth, had been connected with a German newspaper; that he had been an intimate friend of the German consul at Atlanta, and that he was well acquainted with Capt. Klattenhoff, the master of the Liebenfels.

"According to his own admission he had handled business and correspondence for Capt. Klattenhoff. It further appears from the evidence that he had been corresponding with W. Mueller the consul at Atlanta, and that Mueller had telegraphed to Wierse that he was in accord with his proposition.

"It should also be borne in mind that the crew of the Liebenfels at first refused to obey the order of Capt. Klattenhoff to sink the vessel, whereupon Capt. Klattenhoff went to the office of Wierse and had a conference with him, after which he returned to the ship and the orders were promptly obeyed and the vessel sunk.

"If Wierse knew nothing about the purpose of Klattenhoff and was not connected with the transaction, why was it necessary for Klattenhoff before giving the final orders to sink the ship to go to Wierse for another conference?"

"The fact that after Wierse reached his office he wrote a telegram containing the word 'congratulations,' which was immediately dispatched to the German consul at Atlanta, is very material. The defendant, through his counsel, insists that this telegram referred to the fact that some time before that date he had received a letter from the consul at Atlanta informing him that he was engaged to be married.

"There are two remarkable facts about this explanation when considered in connection with the telegram. One is that he should have delayed sending his congratulations until that particular time and the second is that he should have sent the telegram 'collect.' This, to our mind, is a most extraordinary circumstance."

Wierse and Klattenhoff were tried in Aiken last October. Mueller was reported to be out of the country. Wierse was defended by John P. Grace, who, on the appeal, argued the case at Richmond January 29, Assistant United States District Attorney J. Waties Waring appearing for the government. About two weeks will elapse before the opinion is officially received in Charleston and soon thereafter the court's mandate will be operative. October 12, 1917, Wierse made bond in the sum of \$10,000, the following being the bondsmen: Paul Wierse, H. G. C. Hackemann, Walter F. Livingston, Henry Meier, William H. Behrens and Julian V. Brandt.

STRONG RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN EVERY COUNTY IN STATE AT CONVENTIONS.

No Attempt to Draw Division Between Two Factions in Majority of Counties.

Columbia, May 6.—Democrats in every county of South Carolina met in their respective county seats yesterday and elected officers to conduct the primary elections this summer, and named delegates to the State convention which meets in Columbia May 15.

Resolutions pledging the loyalty of the people of this State to the national administration were adopted in practically every county.

Orangeburg Democrats advocated the disfranchisement of all German sympathizers, while others, notably in Spartanburg, urged drastic action to stamp out disloyalty.

Senator Tillman was endorsed in many counties of the State, while Mr. M. B. Dial was endorsed by his home county, Laurens.

The anti-Blease faction appears to be in control in practically every county with the exception of Aiken, Newberry and Clarendon. Factional lines are drawn in but few counties, and the outstanding feature of the day was the quietness with which the conventions passed off.

KEEP OCEAN HIGHWAYS.

For Troops and War Commerce to Allies.

New York, May 7.—"The hour has come to subordinate every activity, every project, every aim to the supreme duty of keeping the ocean highways open to our troops and to our war commerce," declared Bainbridge Colby, a member of the United States Shipping Board, in addressing a luncheon here today attended by A. E. Filene, chairman of the war shipping committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, members of the Merchants' Association and ship builders of this district.

The meeting was the first of a series to be held at ship building centers throughout the country at which Messrs. Colby and Filene will urge the carrying out of a resolution adopted at the recent convention in Chicago of the National Chamber of Commerce, which called upon American business to make the nation's ship building program the primary consideration and put the nation's ship building program ahead of private interests.

ADMITS SUCCESS OF RAID.

German Paper Comments on Attack on Zebrugge.

London, May 7.—That the recent British attack on the German submarine base at Zebrugge was successful is admitted by the Frankfurter Zeitung in commenting upon the affair. The newspaper urges that the German navy take measures to deal "with an antagonist of remarkable boldness."

"It would be foolish to deny," it says, "that the British fleet scored a great success through a fantastically audacious stroke in penetrating into one of the most important strongholds over which the German flag floats."

"However unpleasant it may be, we must frankly admit that the enemy ships actually entered the port of Zebrugge. That being so, there is no reason why they should not achieve a similar feat at other times. It, therefore, behooves our navy command to be alert, for we have to deal with an antagonist of remarkable boldness."

TWO AVIATORS KILLED.

Were Practicing Gunnery on Florida Aviation Field.

Miami, Fla., May 7.—Lieut. Melvin E. Sullivan and Sergt. Calvin E. Cronk, of the marine corps, were killed about 4 o'clock this afternoon at the Curtiss Marine Flying School. They were practicing gunnery about 700 feet in the air. The machine was started down on a tail spin and the aviator lost control and could not right the machine before it struck the ground. Lieut. Sullivan was instantly killed. Sergt. Cronk lived only a few minutes after striking the ground.

CARSON AGAIN WARNS.

Tells Government of Danger of Home Rule Policy.

London, May 7.—Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster Unionist leader, in another forcible letter to the press, warns the government of the danger of its home rule policy, expresses doubt as to whether the government really intends to apply conscription to Ireland and urges the Unionist party to compel reconsideration of the government's policy.

DUTCH ACCOUNT OF SINKING OF GERMAN.

Commander of Pirate Who Was Intimate of Prince Killed by Gun Fire.

London, May 6.—In connection with the German unrestricted submarine warfare, of which the sinking of the Lusitania is one of the most striking examples, an account has just reached London from a Dutch correspondent of the destruction of the German submarine U-C-39 and the capture of 17 of her crew by a British destroyer. (The German submarine U-C-39 was captured in the North Sea in March, 1917.)

The U-C-39 was commanded by Otto Ehrentraut, who was a close friend of Prince Henry of Prussia and a frequent visitor to Prince Henry's castle at Kiel. Before he left Kiel in command of the new mine laying submarine 39, Prince Henry came to the pier to wish the boat bon voyage.

The submarine left its base at midnight carrying several torpedoes and a large quantity of gun ammunition but no mines, as this was her first trip and in the nature of a shakedown for the officers and men. All of her personnel had seen service in other submarines.

The submarine's first victim was the Norwegian steamship Hanskinck (formerly the American Satilla), the crew of which escaped in boats. Next midnight the 39 sank with bombs the British steamer Hanna Larsen after her captain and chief engineer were taken aboard the submarine as prisoners.

The next morning the Norwegian steamship Ida was sighted, and although the Ida stopped immediately, Ehrentraut gave personal orders to continue firing.

When the Germans finally ceased firing, one of the Ida's boats came alongside and announced that two wounded men had been left aboard the boat. The submarine commander sent a boat over and found that both men were dead. The Germans sank the ship by bombs.

Two hours later the 39 opened fire on a steamer and trawler, but on dying lost them in the mist. About 1 p. m. the 39 came to the surface again and sighted a steamer on which she opened fire but was answered almost immediately by a salvo from a British destroyer. The 39 dived, but was too late.

A depth charge struck her, causing a leak in the conning tower. Water poured into the control room and the crew became panic stricken. The submarine rose sharply to the surface, only to receive a volley of shells from the destroyer. Ehrentraut and six others of the crew were killed.

The destroyer hailed the submarine and ordered her to halt. This being done, fire ceased and 17 survivors were taken off, as well as the two British prisoners who were uninjured.

THE FOUR YEAR LIMIT.

Methodist Conference May Change Long Established Rule.

Atlanta, May 8.—When the debate over the removal of the four year limit on preachers was resumed in Southern Methodist general conference today, Rev. A. J. Lamar, of Nashville, urged an amendment to the majority report committee on revisions providing upon request of a quarterly conference the Bishop can appoint a preacher for more than four years.

A compromise measure on the removal of the four year time limit was adopted today by the Methodist general conference when it passed the amendment to the majority report of the committee on revisions allowing the law to stand as at present with additional paragraphs providing that upon request of a quarterly conference and the majority of the presiding elders, the bishop may appoint a preacher for more than four consecutive years.

BIRMINGHAM HEADS LIST.

Heaviest Subscriber for Liberty Bonds Among Cities of Its Class.

Washington, May 8.—In an announcement by the treasury today of cities which made the highest subscription percentages of their quotas in their respective population classes Birmingham, with one hundred and eighty-six per cent, led all cities between one hundred and two hundred and fifty thousand population.

Other honor cities included Macon, Ga., 141 per cent; Augusta, Ga., 119 per cent; Jacksonville, 171 per cent; Tampa, 115 per cent.

DISCORD IN AUSTRIA.

Another Plan to Divide the Empire. London, May 8.—The latest separatist program in Austria, according to quoted advices from Vienna, is to create a state to be named Greater Moravia, which will include Silesia and the Slovene districts of Hungary, with the capital at Olmutz.