

U-BOAT MENACE LOOMS BIG.

SIR ERIC MAKES APPEAL IN BEHALF OF ENGLAND.

Says Allies Must Not Relax Efforts in Anticipation of Early Peace.

New York, Oct. 14.—An appeal from the British Government to America to expedite the construction of destroyers and anti-submarine craft and appliances was made here tonight by Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty after he had asserted that the U-boat menace to-day is "greater than it ever was."

Speaking at a dinner given by the Edgmont Society, Sir Eric said that within the past few days he and Vice Admiral Ludovic Duff, of the British navy, had discussed the naval situation in all its bearings with Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson and that "complete unity of views" had been reached.

"It is with Mr. Daniels' full concurrence that I now make this statement, that there is no greater service that can be rendered by the civilians of the United States today charged with the privilege and duty, than to expediate the output of destroyers and submarine craft and appliances of every description, Sir Eric said.

"Your Secretary of the Navy is pressing upon contractors and workmen the naval order 'full speed ahead' in this work of paramount importance and it is a pleasure for me to join with him in telling America how great is the importance that speedy construction be accelerated.

"No country within my knowledge responds like America to an appeal, and perhaps it is seldom that a minister from another, though an Allied country, is permitted to make an appeal, and it would be possible only with the fullest consent and authority of the responsible minister of the country of which he was a guest.

Discussing Germany's submarine menace, Sir Eric declared that while "most men say today that it is a thing of the past," it is the British admiralty's opinion that the menace is one that "comes and goes" and that in fact it is today not dead.

"Indeed it is greater today than it ever was," he warned. "That is to say, the effort is greater than it ever was. I think now we are approaching a point where submarine warfare is again the weakest front of the alliance."

In opening his speech, Sir Eric said that while he must resist the temptation to allude to the present political situation, there were two things which he was convinced had not changed.

"One is our absolute loyalty to those nations who are associated with us," he said, "and the other is our determination to continue the war and not be diverted from our purpose until we have secured the only peace which could justify all this terrible suffering and destruction which has been and is being brought about by the iniquity of our common enemy."

"Of one thing I am clear. We must not relax the muscles of our fighting arm nor our war effort in any anticipation of any early peace. To do so would be the surest way to render any discussions which may take place prolonged and less satisfactory."

ADVANCE ON RETHEL. French Driving Forward Against German Line of Communication. Paris, Oct. 15.—The French today made an advance toward the important town of Rethel and captured the town of Nanteuil-sur-Aisne, two and a-half miles west of Rethel, it is officially announced.

In the Argonne the French reached the Aisne west of Grand Pre, and captured villages of Ollizy and Termes. Nearly eight hundred prisoners were taken.

MORE FRIGHTFULNESS PLANNED. American Shipbuilders Called on to Speed up Work on Destroyers. Washington, Oct. 15.—American shipbuilders were called upon by Secretary Daniels today to speed up the output of destroyers to meet the menace of a new and greater submarine effort that Germany is known to be planning.

The Health Survey. Hon. J. E. Swearingin, State Superintendent of Education writes to Mr. E. I. Reardon regarding the movement to raise two thousand and five hundred dollars for the proposed twelve month health campaign of education among the rural schools of Sumter county, and the complete county health survey, that the movement meets with his hearty approval.

is in full sympathy with the movement. In one part of his letter Mr. Swearingin says: "I consider health as the basis of education, and I congratulate you on your having succeeded in securing the five thousand dollars additional offered, and I trust you will succeed in raising the \$2,500 required from your county."

Dr. F. M. Dwight, of Wedgefield, one of Sumter county's most substantial and patriotic as well as progressive citizens and a physician of repute has voluntarily written the following letter and contributed his money without solicitation from any one:

Wedgefield, Oct. 10, 1918. Dear Mr. Reardon: Enclosed please find check for five dollars to be applied to the County Sanitary Survey Fund. Sorry I cannot make it very many times greater. I deem education necessary, and there are no more important lines to educate our people on than preventive medicine, health and sanitation, which mean contentment, happiness, and prosperity.

With personal regards, very truly yours, (Signed) F. M. Dwight, M. D. Something Like It. (Cleveland Leader.) American soldiers are demanding more dill pickles. Now we know they mean business—these cries for jam and chocolates didn't sound natural.

NEW BATTLE STARTED.

PEACE TALK SILENCED BY RAR OF GUNS—HUNS BADLY MAULED.

Having Cleared the Laon Salient, Gen. Foch Orders Drive in Lys River Region Toward Ghent—Americans in Hot Battle.

Peace talk pervades the air, but it is falling on deaf ears as far as the armies are concerned. Instead of a relaxation in the intensity of the fighting, new hostilities, which seemingly are on a major scale, are being carried out by the British, French and Belgians in Belgian Flanders.

Having cleared out the old Laon salient and made advances northward in Champagne which are menacing the retirement of the Germans eastward toward the Valenciennes-Mezieres-Metz line, Gen. Foch has ordered a drive in the Lys river region of Flanders toward Ghent, which threatens to break entirely the grip of the Germans in Belgium all the way from the frontier to the coast and likewise to eliminate the big bulge in the line with Lille as its apex.

While the latest official communication from Field Marshal Haig announces that only local actions have taken place in the new theater and that prisoners have been taken in the fighting, dispatches from headquarters assert that Roulers has been captured and that Courtrai, the junction point on the railway leading to Ghent has also been outflanked. The French troops alone are said to have taken 3,000 prisoners, while the Belgians have captured several complete batteries and guns and numerous prisoners. Just how wide the new front of attack is has not become apparent.

It is stated that the new advance has brought the allied troops within the range of the enemy coast, but guns from them have offered no opposition. Meantime to the south the Germans are offering stiff opposition to the British southwest of Valenciennes in an endeavor to prevent them from closing on the Lisle sack and the capture of this important town and also Valenciennes, which are in precarious positions if a pincer movement gets under way.

At last reports the Germans were still falling back from the region of Laon, that town and the entire St. Gobain massif being in the hands of the French. In Champagne the French have been enabled to make further crossings of the Aisne and to materially better their front eastward, notwithstanding the stoic defense of the enemy, who realizes it is of the greatest importance to check the French and Americans driving northward, as a breach in the southern line and a swift advance would imperil the entire German force inside the sack from the Oise river west of Flavigny to Sissonne, east of Laon.

Probably the greatest resistance of all is faced by the Americans on both sides of the Meuse river. Vicious counter attacks are being delivered against the men from the United States, the fierceness of the assault indicating that fresh forces have been brought into the fray to halt their do or die efforts to proceed up the river valleys and thereby compel the Germans in case of a retreat to wend their way obliquely northeastward, instead of eastward, toward the German border. Concentrations of artillery are being used against the American positions at various places. Gas shells are not being spared by the enemy in his efforts to hold the Americans in check.

All the counter attacks of the Germans thus far have been successfully withstood by Gen. Liggett's men, and the American artillery is answering the German guns shot for shot.

Navy Needs Engineering Officers. Engineering officers for the transports and supply ships is now one of the pressing needs of the navy, and the supply is far short of the demand for capable men. To meet the need the Navy Department has established the U. S. Navy Steam Engineering School, at Hoboken, N. J.

The school is open to men who meet the physical requirements of the navy, who are of thorough ability and officer-like material and have completed the mechanical, electrical or civil engineering course at any recognized University, or possesses an equivalent education and experience. The course consists of approximately five months, viz:

One month at Pelham Bay Training Station, Pelham Bay, N. Y. One month technical instruction at the U. S. Navy Steam Engineering School, Hoboken, N. J. Two months training on sound steamers, ferry boats and a trip across the ocean.

One month final technical instruction at the U. S. Navy Steam Engineering School, Hoboken, N. J. The graduates of this school will be assigned to duty as engineering officers on the transports and supply ships. They will be commissioned as ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve Force. The salary of an ensign at sea is \$155 per month, or \$185 if he has dependents.

This is a wonderful opportunity for men who are steam engineers to continue in their profession and eventually perform services for Uncle Sam.

Men interested and who can qualify will call or write to the Naval Mobilization officer, 101 West Main St., Norfolk, Va., or the nearest recruiting station.

MANY PERISH IN EXPLOSION. Fearful Blast in T. N. T. Factory in Canada. Toronto, Oct. 14.—Nearly 100 lives are reported to have been lost tonight in an explosion at an explosive plant at Trenton, near here.

The first explosion, said to have originated in the chemical plant, was followed by several other explosions, which set fire to some of the buildings of the plant. Large stores of T. N. T. were endangered by the fire.

AMERICAN TRANSPORT SUNK.

BIG LINER GOES DOWN AT HOBOKEN PIER.

Details of Sinking Withheld But it is Stated That Troops Aboard Were Removed in Safety—Ship Was Former German Liner.

Hoboken, Oct. 15.—The American transport America sank at her pier here early this morning. The troops aboard are reported to have been taken off in safety. The details are withheld. The cause of the sinking is unknown, but it was said the ship was undergoing repairs and that may, in some way have had to do with the entrance of water into the hold. The vessel was formerly the Hamburg-American liner Amerika, 22,600 tons and was 669 feet long.

Reports at noon indicate no loss of life. The earliest reports said between thirty and forty of the crew perished when trapped in the boiler room. The ship was scheduled to sail today for Europe. Troops were aboard asleep at the time of the sinking.

AMERICA'S WAR BILL. Some Items of the Cost of Maintaining Our Army. Washington, Oct. 15.—Why does it cost the United States so much more to make war than it costs any of its co-belligerents?

What is being done with the tens of billions being raised from Liberty Bonds and taxation? One often hears these questions.

The answer is not difficult. It is, simply, that it costs an American more to do anything that it costs anyone else in the world. That is the best reason why Americans should buy Liberty Bonds.

The American army is composed of workmen. The American workman demands a higher standard of everything than any other workman in the world. When he becomes a soldier he carries that standard with him, and, comparatively, gets it. Napoleon said, and everybody else, since has repeated, that an army travels on its stomach. So naturally the substance of the American soldier comes first in the long bill which rapidly runs to \$50,000,000 a day.

The regular ration list of the American army calls for forty-nine different items of food. It includes many things which are luxuries to the soldiers of the foreign armies. A that, it only costs 32 cents a day to feed a soldier. The figure is low because the government has the advantage of dealing in billions and ton-where the individual deals in dollar and pounds. Even so, the army has felt the increased cost of living because it cost only 12.81 cents a day to feed a soldier during the Spanish war.

Take into account the almost staggering sums the government has spent for food alone since the war began \$37,000,000 worth of flour; \$14,000,000 worth of sugar; \$43,000,000 worth of bacon; \$12,000,000 worth of beans \$9,000,000 worth of canned tomatoes; \$3,000,000 worth of rice. It sounds almost like a food bill for a nation.

Without any disparagement whatever of the rationing system of the co-belligerents it may be said that while the food of the British soldier compares favorably with that of his American cousin, the French ration is less acceptable to the American and that of the Italians would get a very cold reception.

The equipment of the American soldier is no less up to standard than his food. Since the beginning of the war the government has spent \$126,000,000 for shoes. Only recently a contract was let which is intended to keep every soldier with two pairs—one for marching and one for general wear. The price in quantity of millions was well over \$5 a pair. Old soldiers of the regular army can remember when the government issued "brogans" far removed in quality from the army shoes of today.

The American soldier's clothing so far has cost around \$500,000,000. For his blankets the government has spent \$150,000,000. Every thing else is in proportion for in every particular of his equipment the government has supplied the soldier with the same relative high standard he was accustomed to at home in civil life. The extra cost of maintaining an army on foreign soil has entered into the huge bill because it has been found that it costs \$423.27 to equip and maintain a soldier a year abroad as against \$327.78 at home. Of this sum \$251.85 goes for food. The rationing expenses at home is \$189.90.

The high standard has been carried to the soldiers pay. For all practical purposes of estimate the American soldier is the highest paid fighting man in the world. He actually gets more than the average German officer. To the \$33 a month a private receives from the government is added a sum for his dependents, depending upon their condition and number. Canada and the other British colonies more nearly approximate the pay of the American soldier than any others of the co-belligerents.

Taking into consideration all these items it is not strange that America's war bill is greatest.

COTTON STOCK STATISTICS. Census Bureau Announces Amount Consumed and on Hand. Washington, Oct. 15.—Cotton consumed in September amounted to 490,779 bales and 96,512 bales of lint, the census bureau announced. Cotton on hand at consuming establishments September 30th totaled 1,186,649 bales. Cotton spindles active September 30th, 1,524,275.

BRITISH COUNCIL MEETS. Special Session Held to Consider Wilson's Reply to Germany. London, Oct. 15.—The text of President Wilson's reply to Germany was received through press channels and placed in the hands of members of the British government early this morning. The council met shortly after eleven to consider the response.

EIGHT THOUSAND PRISONERS.

ALLIES MAKE BIG BAG IN BELGIUM.

Yesterday's Drive on Northern Front Was a Striking Success—Belgians Advance Five Miles.

London, Oct. 15.—More than eight thousand prisoners were captured in the offensive in Belgium yesterday, according to the official report last night. An advance of five miles was made by the Belgian army, while the French and British made practically the same gains.

Six complete batteries with teams were captured before they could be withdrawn by the Germans.

SECOND ARMY IN BATTLE. Germans Attack Gen. Bullard's New Army. With American Forces Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 15, 12.12—Units of the second American army which began operations on October 12, under Gen. Bullard today repulsed a German raid on their positions.

WITHDRAW FROM ZEEBRUGGE. German Boats Loaded With Troops Leave Belgian Port. London, Oct. 15.—Several of the largest German torpedo boats recently left Zeebrugge, loaded heavily with troops, and proceeded to Germany, a Dutch frontier message says.

TANKS BREAK THROUGH. Americans Smash German Wire Entanglements West of Romagne. With Americans Northwest Verdun, Oct. 15 (Noon)—Tanks were in action today and broke their way through enemy wire entanglements west of Romagne. Early reports said the progress of the Americans was satisfactory.

An Interesting Letter. The following letter has been received by Mrs. J. H. Chandler, and as it contains a very pleasing reference to Lieut. W. Norman Chandler of this city, it is published for the benefit of his numerous friends in Sumter. Norman Chandler is the youngest son of the late Jas. H. Chandler of our city:

Dear Madam: I think you will be pleased to have news from your son, Norman, who left us three days ago.

I am a French married lady, mother of three little children, and as a wife and a mother I feel very much for the ladies and mothers who are in America, whilst the men of their country are fighting so bravely to defend our soil and the liberty of France.

Your son has been in this little village for three weeks, and as I told you above, has left for another place. Whilst he was here he was very keen on learning French, and asked both my husband and I to give him lessons.

I am so sorry he could not continue, he was getting on so splendidly. I am very happy to be able to say he was looking so well, so bright. He is such a splendid officer, looking so well after the men. We got to feel quite friendly with him.

Both my husband and I are French, but before the war we were living in Belgium, in Brussels. My husband had a factory over there, and we were ruined by the Germans. I came here with my children about eight months ago, but my husband, being a civil prisoner, was kept by the Germans. He escaped two months ago, and is now living here, until better days come.

When your son left us we told him that when he gets a leave of absence, that is seven days every other four months, we were hoping he would consider us as sincere friends and make our home his home, and come and spend them with us. He would not feel so lonely being in a family he knows, and where English is spoken fluently.

I should be very pleased if you would favor me with a reply and if you have any message for himself, which I could deliver. Awaiting your good news, I am dear Madam, very sincerely, Marguerite Roumaet. Maison Aubin, La Chapelle vieille Foret par Floguy, Youne.

Iceland a Free Sovereignty. Stockholm, Sept. 25.—Iceland would become an independent sovereign State on December 1, next, under an agreement between that country and Denmark made public here. Heretofore Iceland has been a dependency of the Danish crown but the island had its own constitution and legislature. The head of the Iceland administration has been a minister appointed by the King of Denmark.

The new agreement which is intended to become effective December 1, provides that Denmark shall acknowledge Iceland as a sovereign state but it stipulates also that the two countries shall continue to be "bound together by common ties of kinship," indicating that King Christian X, of Denmark, will continue to be King also of Iceland.

The Icelandic parliament had demanded a separate flag but this is not included in the agreement. Denmark agrees to notify the powers that Iceland is neutral in the war.

Denmark is to establish a fund of about \$500,000 to develop intellectual relations between the two countries and to encourage exploration and scientific work in Iceland. The fund is to be divided between the Copenhagen and Reykjavik Universities and is to be administered by the King, after consultation with the governments of the two countries and with both universities.

It is provided that the provisions of the new agreement may be revised, at the request of either country, after the year 1940. Whether the agreement has been ratified by the Danish and Icelandic parliaments is not announced here.

PRESS COMMENTS ON REPLY.

NEWSPAPERS APPLAUD STAND TAKEN BY MR. WILSON.

Any Agreement Entered Into With Germany Must Have Sufficient Bond.

The editorial comment below from various papers on President Wilson's reply to Germany is complied by the Associated Press:

Hun Can't Misunderstand. Savannah (Ga.) Morning News—Germany cannot misunderstand. The very spirit of American democracy glows in the president's every word. If the Germans want peace, the way is pointed out to them; it leads only over the shattered throne of the Hohenzollerns. If they wish to continue to be the tools of that degraded family, then American guns will continue to mow them down.

Germany's Fatal Blunder. Columbia (S. C.) State—The German government has made a fatal blunder. We demanded that a free people should deal with the free people of the world in forming a pact of peace. And we are answered by an autocracy. The autocracy must go. Then we shall meet the liberated and regenerated people of Germany.

Demand for Surrender. Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union—The reply is in effect a demand for unconditional surrender and this is all the people of the nations at war with Germany can ask and it is also the least they can do. President Wilson has done what the people of the United States and of the countries with which we are in alliance wished him to do.

Adroit Reply. Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle—If there were those who thought they saw in recent diplomatic incidents an opportunity to put President Wilson in a hole politically, they have reckoned badly; for the president has, with great dignity, as well as adroitness, contrived to uncover the German position to the fullest extent—only to be able to make clearer to the German people and the world at large, that their only hope of peace is to at once and forever, put an end to militarism and enter whole-heartedly and without reservation, if such a thing be possible, into the present day spirit of civilized nations.

Autocracy Must Go. Tampa, Fla., Oct. 14.—Morning Tribune: While the majority of Americans would have liked for the president to have merely told Germany that only unconditional surrender would be acceptable, he goes far toward that point when he informs the German government that "autocracy must go" and that the military advisers of this and the entente governments will dictate the terms of an armistice should one be agreed upon. It means, in the end for Germany—unconditional surrender.

Good Bond Required. Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution: Probably never before in the history of warfare has the proposal by a belligerent of an armistice based upon the enemy's peace terms not been accepted and immediately followed by a true pending future developments, but in his answer President Wilson makes it clear that this will be one conspicuous exception. Any agreement entered into with Germany this time must have good and sufficient bond to bind the international rascal to its terms.

Kaiser's Fate Sealed. Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal: The German empire has sinned its day away. It was born and it must die in the life time of William the second. President Wilson has pronounced its death sentence. If it now up to France, England and the one hundred and ten million people of the United States to execute the sentence. It is a war to the death or an unconditional surrender. But we cannot win this war by abusing the Germans and by boasting. Our first duty today is to back the president by oversubscribing to the liberty loan.

Leaves No Doubt. The Mobile Register: The answer of the President passes the issue to Germany and will leave no doubt of the determined purposes of the Allied governments in the minds of any enemy people whose only conception of wrong is that which a military arm cannot do. Having admitted defeat they will now realize they must suffer the penalties thereof.

Seals Autocracy's Doom. Birmingham (Ala.) Age Herald: In this latest reply to Germany, President Wilson seals autocracy's doom. There is no comfort for the militarists in his words and he offers not the slightest hope that an armistice will be granted to allow the dissolving forces of crime and rapine to reorganize. Armistice and evacuation are matters for Marshal Foch.

Most Complete in History. Nashville (Tenn.) Tennessean: The president's latest note to Germany is the frankest and at the same time the most complete diplomatic document of history. It is so simple and uncompromising in its terms that Germany is left without a leg to stand on before civilization if she fails to surrender promptly and unconditionally.

"Forward, March." Houston (Texas) Post: The president's reply is a command of "forward" to the allied nations and their superb armies in the field, and it is command to the American people to rally with renewed fervor to the support of the war.

Voice of America. Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal: Again the president has spoken with the voice of America and for the civilized nations of the earth. The answer of the president is an ultimatum to a defeated power. Its terms are so clear that only two

WILSON'S REPLY SATISFIES.

SENATE HEARS READING OF NOTE TO GERMANY WITH ENTHUSIASM.

Even Henry Cabot Lodge Admits That He Endorses the Position Taken by President Wilson.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Senators were so well pleased with President Wilson's reply to Germany's peace proffer that they broke all precedents and applauded vigorously after the text of it had been read by Senator Hitchcock, chairman of the foreign relations committee. Later senate leaders, both Democrats and Republicans, in formal statements praised the reply as the forerunner of an unconditional surrender by the central powers.

Reading of the note, which was transmitted to the senate through the press gallery, came as the climax to a day of debate during which senators demanded that there be no peace negotiations until Germany had surrendered unconditionally. Before the debate ended, word reached the senate that the president's reply would be made public at 6 o'clock and it was decided to postpone adjournment and wait it.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, who has vigorously criticised the president's course in directing a note of inquiry to Germany after receipt of the peace offer, was among the first senators to issue a public statement commending the president's reply.

"I am very glad and genuinely pleased," said Senator Lodge, "that the president takes the ground which he does. Of course everything he says about the conduct of the German government, the German army and the German navy is absolutely true. Such conduct is quite sufficient in itself to put an end to any talk about an armistice.

"The president's last clause in which he in substance declines to carry on any discussions with the German government is eminently satisfactory and will, I am sure, bring a great sense of relief to the American people, who, I am certain, desire an unconditional surrender won by the armies in the field."

Senator Hitchcock, chairman of the foreign relations committee, said: "My view is that the president has removed all doubts that have been expressed as to the wisdom of his course and provided against all the dangers that critics have seen in the policies he has been pursuing. He says in effect that if an armistice is effected, it must be one in which the generals in the field will approve and which will preserve the existing supremacy of the military forces."

"He lays great stress on the fact that the conditions to be met will mean the downfall of military autocracy of Germany which means radical amendment to the constitution of Germany, which will place the war making and the peace making in the hands of the people."

"To my mind the greatest achievement of the war would be the democratization of Germany; and it is the best assurance of the future peace of the world."

"The note comes up to all public expectation in every way," said Senator Martin of Virginia, the Democratic leader.

"Other senators who issued statements approving the reply included Senators Wadsworth of New York and New of Indiana, Republicans, and Senators Pittman, Nevada; Thomas, Colorado; Sheppard, Texas, and Overman, North Carolina, Democrats.

BRITISH NEAR COURTRAI. Thousands of Prisoners Taken; Heavy Casualties Inflicted. With the British Army in France, Oct. 14.—(By the Associated Press.)—The British in their attack in Flanders today approached Courtrai. Counter attacks by picked Bavarians against the French broke down under a hot fire. Thousands of prisoners have been taken and enormous casualties again have been inflicted on the enemy. The latest reports indicate that the British broke through at one place and are advancing toward the Lys.

The Belgians have signalled from the east and southeast of Roulers that they have captured Hagebrooke Gitsberg and Beverin and that 3,000 prisoners thus far have been counted.

The British have taken Dinaap, Boschmolen, Gullegheem, Wulvehem and Wervicq and are a thousand yards northwest of Menin.

They have captured by early afternoon 1,600 prisoners and had counted eleven field guns.

BOOSTED LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS. Reply to Germany Stimulates Liberty Loan Buying. Washington, Oct. 15.—Liberty Loan subscriptions were stimulated by the president's reply to Germany, according to reports to the treasury today from throughout the country.

FRENCH CAPTURE ROULERS. Take 2,500 Prisoners, According to Official Report. Paris, Oct. 14.—French troops have captured the town of Roulers in Belgian Flanders and also 2,500 prisoners, according to the official announcement tonight.

courses lie open to the Germans—submission, which means present surrender, or resistance, which means ultimate destruction.

Forceful Reply. Chicago (Ills.) Tribune: The president's response to the German proposals rise inevitably from the lips of those noteworthy community and addresses which have our controversy with the German government. It with force and unequivocal connection and purpose American people in this war receive their unhesitating, and enthusiastic approval.