

ALLIES WOULD NOT FAVOR U. S. BUYING SHIPS

Great Britain, France and Russia Advised Government They Would Look with Disfavor Upon Such Purchases Here.

WORD RECEIVED HERE INFORMALLY

France Takes Initiative, Ambassador Jusserand Carrying His Objections to President Wilson in a Recent Interview.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—Great Britain, France and Russia advised the United States informally they would look with disfavor on the purchase by this government of German merchant steamers to relieve the conditions growing out of the European war, to build up the American merchant marine. While not conveyed in any diplomatic correspondence, their position has been vigorously set forth to the president and Secretary Bryan.

France took the initiative, Ambassador Jusserand carrying his objections to the president in a recent interview at the White House. All the diplomats hold that there is no precedent in international law for the purchase by a neutral nation of any great quantity of ships from a belligerent. The chief objection urged is that the transaction would establish a large gold credit in the hands of Germany.

The diplomats point out that the German steamship companies are closely affiliated with the German government and that to buy their ships now marooned in American ports would be tantamount to furnishing Germany with a large loan. Should the American government, however, distribute its purchases of ships equally among the belligerent nations they do not believe there would be objection from any quarter.

Considerable difficulty would arise, however, it is asserted, if for instance, the crew of a German vessel purchased by the United States was maintained on it, as the English and French governments would not allow the nationals of any belligerent to land from neutral ships at their ports. Aside from the question of possible financial aid to Germany and the complications over the crews of the vessels, European diplomats who are opposed to the plan believe difficulties would arise as to cargoes on the American ships. Their effort in the present war has been to sweep the German commerce from the seas, and they look upon any means to supply food to Germany or Austria as an unneutral act.

Administration officials here declare the new ships would carry no articles which are specifically defined as contraband of war, but it is the belief of the diplomats that their government would object to even conditional contraband, thus restricting considerably any commerce with the belligerents.

The European diplomats endeavored to point out they desire in no way to interfere with the upbuilding of the American merchant marine and wish it success in neutral countries, but they think the American government's ships could not be available for commerce with the belligerent countries of Europe.

RESIGNS TO RUN AGAIN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—President Charles Melendez of Salvador, has turned over the government to Vice President Alfred Quinones Molena, according to reports today to the state department. Since Melendez intends to offer himself as a candidate at the election March first, his resignation was forced by the constitution prohibiting the election of a presidential candidate who has held that office within six months prior to election.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—The removal of German or Austrian subjects from neutral vessels bound for the scene of war is the privilege of the belligerent powers according to Robert Lansing, counselor of the state department. Vessels flying the American flag with foreigners aboard might be stopped and such passengers removed, he said.

FRENCH WAR OFFICE ADMITS CHECKS BUT ANNOUNCES ADVANCES

Official Statement Tells of Difficulties Troops Encountered, Crossing Campaign of Weeks as a War of Sieges.

First Offensive Then Defensive

PARIS, Aug. 31.—The following official statement was issued by the war office this evening: "The situation is actually as follows: First—in Vosges and in Lorraine, it must be remembered that our forces, which had taken the offensive at the beginning of operations and driven the enemy outside of our frontiers, afterwards underwent checks. "Before Sarrebourg in the region of Morhagne where they encountered very solid defensive works our forces were obliged to fall back and re-form, one part on Courronne De Nancy and the other on the French Vosges. The Germans then assumed the offensive, but our troops after having thrown them back upon their positions resumed the offensive two days ago. This attack continues to make progress, although slowly. It is a veritable war of sieges as each position occupied is immediately fortified. This explains the slowness of our advance, which nevertheless is characterized each day by fresh successes. "Second—The region of Nancy, in Southern Waver. Since the beginning of the campaign this section between Metz on the German side and Toul, and Verdun on the French side, has not been the theater of important operations. "Third—in the department of Meuse between Verdun and Mezières, it is to be remembered, the French took the offensive in the beginning toward Longwy, Neufchateau and Palisul. Troops operating in the region of Spincourt and Longwy have been able to check the enemy's army under the command of the German crown prince. In the regions of Neufchateau and Palisul certain of our troops received partial checks, which obliged them to retire upon Meuse without having their organization broken up. This retiring movement compelled our forces operating in the neighborhood of Spincourt to withdraw also toward Meuse. "During the last few days the enemy endeavored to spread out from Meuse with considerable forces, but by vigorous counter-offensive movements, they were repelled with great losses. In the meantime fresh forces of German soldiers advanced to the district of Rocroy, (in Ardennes) marching in the direction of Reulthel. Now a general action is taking place between Meuse and Rocroy, and it is still impossible to see definitely the issue of this. "Fourth—The operations in the north. The French took up a position in the Meuse and Charleroi country and Mons. They endured several repulses, and the forcing of the Meuse defenses by the Germans near Givet upon our flank, compelled our troops to retire. "The Germans seek continually to move toward the west. It is under these conditions that our English allies, attacked by the enemy in greatly superior numbers in the region of Lezardre and Cambrai, have withdrawn toward the south, at the moment that our forces are operating in the district of Avesnes and Chimay. The retiring government was prolonged during several days. "In the meantime a general battle took place in the region of St. Quentin, and Verdun and at the same time in the Hem-Peronne district. This battle was marked by the important success by our right, where we have thrown back the Prussian guard of the tenth army corps into the Oise. "Owing to the progress of the German right wing, where our adversaries united their best corps, we had to mark a new retirement. "On our right after partial checks, we have taken the offensive and the enemy is retiring before us. "In the center we have had alternate checks and successes. "From our left by a series of circumstances which turned in favor of the Germans, despite lucky counter attacks, the Anglo-French forces were obliged to give way. As yet our armies, notwithstanding a few incontestable checks, remain intact. "The morale of our troops is excellent in spite of considerable losses which are also being rapidly filled from regimental depots."

WILL ORGANIZE COURTS TO DISPOSE OF SEA PRIZES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—The British embassy officials are in constant communication with the state department with a view of expediting the organization of English prize courts and simplifying the machinery for their operation. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, was at the state department today. The government is anxious to have the court begin sittings so that neutral people owning parts of cargoes may have them restored to them promptly. The American government favors simplicity and expedition. In the case of capture at sea, according to international law, the first duty of the captor is to convey the prize to its own or an ally's port for adjudication by special tribunals which will sit in ports of the belligerents and their allies but not in neutral ports. The function of these courts is to determine whether the capture was legally made, taking into consideration all treaty obligations which they are bound to respect.

CARDINALS RETIRE TO CHOOSE NEW PONTIFF

ROME, Aug. 31.—Cardinal Della Volpe, the papal chaplain, closed the inside door of the conclave hall in which the college of cardinals is gathered in order to elect a successor to the late Pope Pius at 7:30 o'clock tonight. Outside stood the governor and marshal of the conclave. Not until a new pope has been chosen by ballot will the doors be opened or any intimation of the procedure inside be known. All telephone wires leading to the edifice have been cut and communication with the outside world severed. Tomorrow at 11 o'clock great crowds will gather in the square outside St. Peter's. Every eye will be focused on the chimney of the Sistine chapel. If smoke arises it will indicate that no pope has been elected. The smoke will be from the burning ballots, mixed with straw. Should a pontiff be elected, workmen will immediately break in the doors and the cardinals will repair to the balcony to proclaim him. If the custom is followed, the pope will appear and bestow blessings.

MAY REMOVE SHIP'S PASSENGERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—The removal of German or Austrian subjects from neutral vessels bound for the scene of war is the privilege of the belligerent powers according to Robert Lansing, counselor of the state department. Vessels flying the American flag with foreigners aboard might be stopped and such passengers removed, he said.

DRINK MOST OFTEN CAUSE OF AMERICAN INEFFICIENCY

FRANCISCO, Aug. 31.—"Drink is the agent which most frequently brings the American laborer to the stage where he must accept casual employment," F. S. Edinger, a local contractor who deals with large bodies of unskilled workers, testified today before the federal industrial relations commission. His assertion came in connection with the statement that he preferred not to employ unskilled American workmen. "We do not employ many native born American workmen when we can do otherwise," he said. The reason for this is that an efficient American workman usually can get a steady position. The class of Americans who have to take work generally is the kind we do not want. The cause of this inefficiency most often is drink. "The Mexican laborer," added the witness, "is the best man with whom to trust a team in such lines as grading work." What is the minimum amount required for actual living expenses? was a question that caused much discussion by the different witnesses today. Mr. Edinger said his firm found it impossible to meet expenses in boarding employes at \$5.25 a week. F. M. Andreani, a member of the local Italian consulate testified that food board and room could be obtained here for \$4 a week. W. S. Wollner, of the Northwestern Pacific railway, said many seasonal workers wintered here on forty cents a day, paying ten cents for lodging and thirty cents for food.

30,000 CZAR'S MEN TAKEN BY GERMAN FORCES

German Ambassador Receives Messages Concerning Capture of Russian Soldiers Including Many High Officers

GERMANS SUFFER IN LOUVAIN

Rotterdam Correspondent an Eyewitness of the Attack By the Population of Louvain on the German Troops

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—Count Johann Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, received from Berlin two more messages which were made public. One of them told of the capture of 30,000 Russian soldiers and many high officers as previously announced by the German embassy at Washington. The other message read: "A Rotterdam newspaper correspondent was an eye witness of a perfidious attack by the population of Louvain on the German troops. An officer of the German staff was found with his throat cut. In Longwy machines for the fabrication of dum-dum cartridges were discovered—here the text of the message became so garbled as to be unintelligible. The words, 'evacuated, French garrison and fifty thousand' appeared. Discussing the conflict the ambassador said it was a 'war of the German nation, man for man.' "Germany did not begin the war," he said, "she did not want war; she is, and always has been willing to have peace." The ambassador declared that France and Great Britain defeated on land, have only recruits or volunteers to send against the Germans. "We cannot be beaten," he said. "That's why we have taken about 40,000 men from the western border to the eastern to hunt them against the Russians."

GERMANS ARE ADVANCING

LONDON, Aug. 31.—Taken at its face value, the French official announcement this afternoon which mentions that the progress of the German right wing has forced the allies to yield further ground would seem to indicate that the Germans, notwithstanding repulses, are making daily advances toward Paris. The statement Sunday of Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British troops, however, spoke of fighting on the French left, but this according to one report, resulted in the German right being slightly turned. Austrian invasion of Russian territory in the Lublin district, which aroused the apprehension of the allies, has, if Russian dispatches are to be relied upon, been blocked. The Muscovites claim to have turned the Russian defensive into offensive action. There is no confirmation of the report that the Russians are in Koenigsberg. If silence means that nothing is happening, Sir John French's statement on Sunday that the British have not been molested since Wednesday still holds good. Nothing is known by the public in London of new fighting either in northern or eastern France. From Canada, India, Australia and South Africa, the British army at the front will soon receive large reinforcements. Some of these troops are reported to have already landed in France. In England the recruiting fever has not abated. In Liverpool today a battalion of 1900 business men was filled within an hour and there was such an overflow that it was decided to enroll a second battalion. The British government has started negotiations, through the American consul at Berlin, for the exchange with Germany and Austria of non-combatants held as prisoners. According to the Times' St. Petersburg correspondent, Russia's appeal to the Poles to reunite against the Teutons has had an extraordinary effect among the Slav soldiers in the German service. Information received in St. Petersburg, it is said, indicated that Polish soldiers belonging to the sixth Brusilov army corps serving on the western frontier, mutinied and killed their officers. The Slav regiments in the Austrian service are also declared to be notoriously disaffected. The Novoe Vremja states that one whole Austrian regiment went over to the Russian side. A correspondent of the Express at The Hague wires his paper that Emperor William has gone to the Russian front.

AUSTRIANS SUFFER DEFEAT

ROME, Aug. 31.—The Messagero published a telegram from Sofia, Bulgaria, which says that the Austrians have suffered irreparable defeat at Zamoj in Russian Poland, fifty miles southeast of Lublin. Canadians to Bermuda HALIFAX, N. S., Aug. 31.—Eight hundred British regulars will be withdrawn from service in Bermuda and will be replaced by an equal number of Canadian volunteers. Later the Canadians may also be sent to the front in Europe.

WIRELESS AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, August 31.—Both Germany and Great Britain accepted the first of the two alternate proposals suggested by the United States in a recent note to the belligerents regarding the censorship of wireless communication in Europe and France and Russia are expected to follow Great Britain, while Austria is understood to be in harmony with Germany's views. Prompt adjustment is believed in sight.

FRENCH CAPITAL SHAKY PREPARING TO DEFEND

IN LIEGE AND VISE DESOLATION REIGNS

(Associated Press Dispatch.)

LONDON, Aug. 31.—A dispatch to the Reuter Telegram company from Ostend says that a small party that returned from Liege describes the destruction wrought by the war as appalling. "All along the road to Vise," said one of the party, "there was nothing to be seen but walls blackened by smoke, remains of burned factories, and mounds of freshly dug earth, sepulchres of the first Germans to fall. "And then comes Vise. What a painful sight for those who knew the proud city, so typical of Walloon gaiety! Now nothing but a mass of ruins, while many inhabitants lie all over the place, their chests riddled with bullets. I was told here that natives were put to work building the roads for the invaders from Vise to Aix la Chapelle. "On the way to Argenteau we met a procession of able-bodied men, marching four abreast, commanded by a non-commissioned officer, all carrying implements for road or trench building. These men have to submit to severe discipline. "The inhabitants of Liege stood at the thresholds of their homes, silent, anxious, but afraid to speak. The streets in the middle of the town wore a deplorable aspect. Many houses were abandoned and others were in ruins."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—France is considering the advisability of moving the seat of government from Paris to Bordeaux as a precautionary measure, according to official advices. Thousands of Residents of Paris, in Anticipation of Siege Try to Leave but Railway Facilities Are Lacking. While Rumor Has It That French Are Considering Removal of Seat of Government to Bordeaux, Soldiers Are Arriving. FORTIFICATIONS BEING MANNED. PARIS, Aug. 31.—All night long troops from the south and west of France have been arriving at the capital and passing by rail around the city to locations in the encircling fortifications to which they have been assigned. There is great activity on the part of the municipal military administration in completing the details of plans for the defense of Paris. Lines of people stretched for blocks from the railway stations today. The lines were those so anxious to leave the city that they thus early took their positions waiting for the ticket office tomorrow morning. All the places on trains departing today have been sold, and whole families with their hand baggage camped in the lines where they ate their meals and slept as best they could. The Quai d'Orsay station was closed at noon. The crowd of perhaps 1,000 persons then in line were told that no more tickets would be sold today. Only a few left their places. The others resigned themselves to a wait of 18 hours. Seven hundred wounded soldiers arrived today at Vichy from Lorraine. Some of them say the fighting in Lorraine was most violent. In reply to the question whether the United States embassy would leave Paris in the event of the investment of the city by the Germans, Myron T. Herrick, the American ambassador said: "The American embassy will remain here. My government offered me the choice of returning to the United States or remaining. I chose to remain because many Americans (Continued on Page Three)

CARRANZA HAS ORDERED VERA CRUZ CLOSED

General Funston Sends a Long Report on Complications That Will Result, But Officials Do Not Regard It as Unfriendly.

(Associated Press Dispatch.)

WASHINGTON, August 31.—Carranza has ordered the port of Vera Cruz closed, according to official advices to the American government. General Funston transmitted a long report on the complications which will result, but the department of officials are not inclined to regard it as an unfriendly act. Carranza's decree would prevent Mexican ships from putting in at Vera Cruz and if enforced in an unfriendly way might exact heavy penalties for foreign vessels entering any Mexican port after they touched at Vera Cruz. Funston called attention to the possibility that foreign ship owners desiring not to incur the displeasure of the Carranza administration might hesitate to send cargoes to Vera Cruz, diminishing the food supply of the city. In some quarters there was a disposition to regard Carranza's attitude as one of resentment against the continued occupancy of Vera Cruz by American troops, but state department officials did not share this view. Interruption in railway traffic between Vera Cruz and Mexico City recently occurred, but as soon as General Funston announced that he would keep all rolling stock in Vera Cruz until traffic was resumed, the Mexican authorities explained that they were using the trains to transport troops, and immediately adjusted the schedules. Paul Fuller, personal representative of the president, is due in Mexico City tomorrow to discuss with the government there questions regarding the American occupancy of Vera Cruz as well as the differences between Carranza and Villa. Although administration officials have not announced their position in any formal way, it is generally understood that recognition will be withheld until a complete agreement between the two chieftains has been reached and arrangements made for a constitutional election.

RAILROADS SAY THEIR DEMANDS NOT IMPORTANT

Carriers Conducting Organized Campaign to Minimize Meaning of Their Request—Phoenix Shippers Meet Today.

(Associated Press Dispatch.)

That an organized campaign is being carried on by transcontinental railroads to minimize the importance of the demands they will make to the interstate commerce commission in October is the statement of Corporation Commissioner F. A. Jones, who returned yesterday from the conference held at Denver between representatives of the intermountain states. "Efforts are being made by representatives of the railroads to convince the board of trade and commercial organizations in the territory affected that the commodities on which the carriers are asking for a raise in rates do not exceed thirty or forty, and that these are of minor importance," said Mr. Jones. "It is even argued that it would be to the interests of the shippers to support the railroads in their demands, with the result that some who have not investigated and do not realize the extent of the proposed changes have already been won over to a position of acquiescence. "At the request of the railroads, a number of their representatives met with the commissioners at which the carriers outlined their demands, stating that they were only asking that exceptions be made in the case of some thirty or forty commodities, and that these were of minor importance. After they had presented their case, the commissioners produced the list of tariffs showing 197 general items on which they are asking for changes, and exactly what is being demanded in each case. In reply, the railroad men stated that their demands as outlined to the commission, might possibly be modified in some (Continued on Page Three)

PROPOSE STAMP TAX TO OFFSET TREASURY LOSSES THROUGH WAR

WASHINGTON, August 31.—A stamp tax on soft drinks, as well as on beer and patent medicine is contemplated by the members of the house ways and means committee, which is preparing an emergency internal revenue bill to offset the treasury losses due to the curtailment of imports. It is urged that soft drinks are as much a luxury as beer and that a more equitable distribution of the tax burden among the consumers will be accomplished thus. Another suggestion is a tax of five or ten per cent on railroad tickets, admission to baseball games, theatres and other amusements. It is estimated that from fifty to eighty millions can be raised in this manner. Doubling the present tax on beer will produce \$65,000,000 according to the estimates of treasury experts. Some committee members feel that a tax on other commodities other than beer and patent medicines would cause less popular friction. There is some opposition among the democratic members to any tax now, contending there is enough money for present needs.

AN UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCY

WASHINGTON, August 31.—Dedgerio Arias, leader of the powerful Dominican rebel faction, does not approve of the provisional presidency of Prof. Don Ramon Baez, according to a report received today at the state department. Otherwise the factions are in complete agreement that Prof. Baez shall direct the new presidential election.