

To Deal With Submarine Menace

Washington, May 3.—That the submarine menace and ways to combat it by increased shipping rate selection and naval co-operation is the main interest of the British mission became certain today from many different sources. The issue was focused by Premier Lloyd George's statement in Parliament recently that the need was for ships and still more ships. Lord Percy's explanation here that destruction was outrunning construction, and the declaration of Secretaries Lansing and Lane that the submarine situation is grave. It is now evident that the other matters before the British commission, however vital, are being subordinated.

The British naval officers in coming to this country hoped to get a considerable number of small boats to use as submarine chasers, but they have been disappointed to discover that the few available are needed here. The British shipping experts, however, have found encouragement in the emergency efforts of the shipping board and

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the availability of many German ships.

Proposed curtailment of non-essential freight now being carried to Europe would give increased tonnage for necessary supplies. The American Government has agreed not only to restrict imports, as the British do, but to impose export restrictions authorized by the bill now pending in Congress.

One of the greatest uncertainties of the situation is a total ignorance of the number of U boats Germany is building. Admiral De Chair has estimated this at two or three a week, but many officials here believe it possible to turn out many more on standard plans.

200 Banquetters Ill, Suspect Plot

(Boston Advertiser, Tuesday.)
Nearly two hundred members

and guests who attended the joint banquet by the Dorchester, Edison Encampment and Azar Lodge, I. O. O. F., in celebration of the 90th anniversary of Old Fellowship, held in Old Fellows' Hall, River street, Dorchester Lower Mills, Monday night, are sick in bed today from ptomaine poisoning, caused by chicken salad. Many of the men and women are in a serious condition.

The caterer's name is being withheld by the lodge authorities. A plot is suspected and an investigation is being made. Assistant District Attorney Gallagher on the telephones last night denied that his office had received any official word of the matter. It is thought that the lodge officials prefer to make the investigation themselves.

Dr. Richard Schmidt, a prominent Old Fellow, attended the banquet with his wife and sister-in-law. All three were taken sick immediately on reaching home.

The news did not become generally known until last night. The entire district is alarmed.

Among the Old Fellows at the banquet were Rev. A. A. Rideout, Albert B. Hoxie, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Spargo, and many others prominent in the community.

(Rev. A. A. Rideout is well known in New Brunswick.)

Haig's Nippers Working Well

The British have burst through the Oppy line and are fighting the bloodiest and sternest battle of the present offensive in a great effort to smash the famous Wotan line before its organization is completed. The Hindenburg line, outflanked and pierced in places, has failed to stop the forward surge of the British armies, and the Wotan positions are the last great barriers barring the road to Douai, Cambrai and Germany's richest prize in France, the great coal and iron fields north of Lens. The Wotan line runs from Drocourt to Queant, a stretch of fifteen miles running north and south about five miles west of Douai and Cambrai. Around Queant, the southern extremity of the line, General Haig has formed a great human nipper and is striving with all the power at his command to close the jaws of the nippers. Realizing the menace of the situation the Germans are fighting with a grim desperation which reckons no cost in blood too high if it halts their advancing foe.

The renewed fury into which the great battle of Arras has flamed has diverted attention from the possibly more significant events which are shaping behind the battle front.

The German censorship has lifted

as far as to allow newspapers and mails from Germany once more to reach the outer world, but here is little information as yet as to what has transpired within the borders of the German empire during the last week.

The German Chancellor is once more reported to be about to make a pronouncement on peace before the Reichstag, and has apparently been forced by the junkers. These reactionaries, enraged and alarmed by the apparent dominance of the Socialist party with its program of peace without annexations or indemnities, have presented an interpellation to the Chancellor in the Reichstag demanding that he clarify his position. The junkers are still clamoring for the annexation of Belgium, and all reports indicate that the government must very shortly take a definite stand both on the question of the war and internal reforms.

A Berlin despatch says that during a discussion of the Belgian question in the Reichstag main committee the spokesman of the Progressive party declared that the annexation of Belgium must be regarded as an accomplished fact and discussion concerning it was undesirable.

RHEUMATISM CONQUERED

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Hardy Plums

(Experimental Farms Note.)

There are great areas in Canada where the European plums, such as Lombard and many others, do not succeed, either the fruit buds or the trees being injured or killed by winter. There are two species of wild plum, however, in Canada, the cultivated varieties of which enable one to grow the fine fruit in very cold regions. In Eastern Canada the common wild species is the Canada plum, PRUNUS NIGRA, while in Manitoba the common native species is the America plum, PRUNUS AMERICANA. It is surprising that trees of these plums are not planted by everyone having a garden when there is room enough to have a few trees, as they bear young and bear abundantly, and the fruit of the best cultivated varieties, while not as good as the best of the European sorts, is excellent when eaten raw and makes very good jam when properly cooked.

At the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, over 100 varieties of these plums have been tested during the past twenty-eight years. The outstanding or most widely useful variety of the Canada plum has been found to be the Cheney, a red variety of fairly good quality which cooks well. The Assiniboine, a new variety, is very promising. On account of its earliness, the Cheney is particularly useful

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in the prairie provinces where many of the varieties are too late to ripen. Few of the American sorts usually offered for sale are sufficiently early for the prairies, most of them having been originated in the states of Minnesota and Iowa, where earliness is not so important. Seedlings of the native Manitoba sorts are now being grown at the Experimental Farms on the prairies to obtain other and better ones. The Major plum, which has been brought to notice by the Brandon Farm, is a very early sort.

At Ottawa, where the season is long enough for most of the American varieties, the Brackett, Terry and Admiral Schley had proved to be three of the best. Other sorts more generally known are De Soto, Wolf, and Hawkeye. The wood of the American plums being brittle does not stand the heavy snow in Eastern Canada very well, the result being that the trees are often badly broken unless they are headed back each year to make them stocky. The Canada plum, however, makes a very strong tree, hence the Cheney is additionally valuable on this account. The earliest varieties of the Canada and American plums are ready for market, before the European ones, hence it has been found at Ottawa that the prices obtained for them are nearly always quite remunerative, and the profits probably greater than from plums in the best plum districts.

Another hardy plum is the Omaha which experiments at Ottawa have shown to be one of the best for that part of Canada, and, it is believed, for districts having a somewhat similar climate. This is a hybrid between the Japanese plum and the American, and has combined in it the good points of both, being, like the American, hardier than the Japanese, but having the thin skin and firm flesh of the latter. The Omaha ripens about the middle of August, a time when there is usually a good market for plums.

It is desirable to have more than one variety of these hardy plums if the best success is to be obtained as they are more or less self-sterile and each variety requires another near it blooming at the same time to ensure a good crop for both.

Wild plums in some parts of Canada do not usually develop well owing to disease, but it has been found at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa that thorough spraying every year will usually ensure good fruit.

Plan To Deal With Submarines

New York, May 5.—A special despatch to the World from Wash-

ington says: British and American naval experts are understood to have discussed at their conference yesterday three specific measures designed to put an end to German submarine warfare. One is the bottling up of the narrow strait between Sweden and Denmark, the second the mining of the entire North Sea, which would shut off entirely the trade of Holland, Denmark and Sweden, and the third, storming the German naval base at Kiel and destroying Heligoland, Germany's Gibraltar. The third proposal has been discussed only as a last resort, naval experts being agreed that it would be a most hazardous undertaking. If the British fleet were brought out of its protected harbors it doubtless would be assisted by American and French naval craft. Many naval officers believe Kiel could be taken but at frightful cost.

Washington, May 5.—Arthur James Balfour, British foreign secretary, was to appear before the House shortly after noon today as the first British official to be so honored. Mr. Balfour was invited shortly after his arrival here by Speaker Clark. He will appear before the Senate Tuesday in acceptance of an invitation extended by Vice-President Marshall.

Mr. Balfour had prepared a brief address expressing England's welcome to the United States in the common struggle against Germany and his own appreciation of the honor conferred upon him. The House will take a short recess to allow members to meet him personally. Afterwards Mr. Balfour was to pay his respects to the Supreme Court and lunch with Chief Justice White.

Restricting Power of Germany's Ruler

Amsterdam, May 5, via London.—A restriction of the power of the Emperor of Germany has been decided upon by the Constitution Committee of the Reichstag, according to a despatch from Berlin.

The committee has decided to alter article XVII. of the Imperial Constitution as follows:

"Ordinances and decrees of the Kaiser will be issued in the name of the empire and will require for validity the counter signature of the Imperial Chancellor or his representative, who thereby assumes responsibility to the Reichstag."

The decision of the committee was in accordance with a joint proposal by the socialists, national liberals and the progressives.

Four conservative members voted against the change.

The committee also adopted a resolution by the same proposers demanding a bill fixing the chancellor's responsibility for any violation of his official duty and the verification of such violation by a senate tribunal. Dr. Karl Hefferich, secretary of the interior, told the committee that a definite statement in regard to his attitude could not be expected from him. He said that it would only be possible after the federal council had defined its position.

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