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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Strong winds or *
* moderate gales from westward, *
* local snow but mostly fair and *
* somewhat colder again. *

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WAR PREPARATION GOING ON IN THE UNITED STATES

Washington is Anxiously Awaiting Developments.

An American Seaman Said to Have Lost His Life When the British Steamer Evestone Was Sunk---Congress Will Endorse the Action of the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—With prospects for another day of waiting for development of the ruthless submarine campaign that may bring war between the United States and Germany, immediate interests here centred today upon the destruction of the British steamer Evestone, in which an American seaman lost his life. Apparently officials are confident that this incident will not prove to be the overt act that will cause hostility, but nevertheless complete reports are awaited with grave anxiety.

Earlier in the week the State Department received several similar reports of the shelling of vessels by submarines and the injury of passengers or crew in lifeboats, but investigation in each instance led to the conclusion that the vessels were resisting or trying to escape. If this is found to be the case with the Evestone, the act will not be regarded as illegal.

Meanwhile, a conference of neutral nations is being discussed, on suggestion of one of the European neutrals most severely affected by the war, and although it is believed the idea has been favorably received by President Wilson, there is no definite indication that the plan will mature.

Relations with Austria are not on a sound foundation, owing to the known adherence of the dual monarchy to Germany's submarine war programme, but differences in her announced intentions make it uncertain just what the United States government may decide to do.

The Senate today was ready to adopt a resolution endorsing the President's action in breaking relations with Germany, and the House is expected to place itself on record in a similar way.

The War and Navy Departments continue to formulate plans for mobilization in the event of actual hostilities.

Action of the U. S. Regarded in Switzerland as a Terrible Blow to the Germans

GENEVA, via Paris, Feb. 6.—President Wilson's special note to the Swiss government, inviting it to join the United States in action regarding Germany, was discussed today at an extraordinary meeting of the federal council. The text of the Swiss reply has been telegraphed to Washington, and will be published here as soon as received by President Wilson.

Swiss opinion continues to strongly support President Wilson's action. The Journal, Geneva, says: "We understand that the United States could not tolerate this threat, this humiliation. We believe that other neutrals should also refuse to submit to it. There is no reason why neutrals should suffer hunger because it pleases Germany to sow the seas with mines and torpedoes. No neutral government can submit to the threat which Germany wants to impose. We await a further declaration from President Wilson, but whatever it be, the effect of his decision is to add another member to the Entente, who, though unarmed, is invincible and whose voice will preponderate in the future peace Congress. It is a terrible blow to Germany."

Many Anxious Americans are Crowding The United States Embassy at Berlin

BERLIN, Feb. 5, via London, Feb. 6.—The scene at the United States Embassy this morning recalled the memorable days of August, 1914. Crowds of anxious Americans blocked the corridors and secretarial rooms seeking the renewal of passports, and above all advice for their future course, and in regard to the possible routes back home.

Several secretaries and attaches of the Embassy were stationed in the corridors to answer questions, and the passport department worked at full speed extending and renewing passports without resorting to the hitherto prescribed reference to Washington.

Plans for the departure of Ambassador Gerard and his staff are still unsettled. It will perhaps be a matter of several days before they will leave Germany.

The ambassador will return directly to the United States.

UNSUCCESSFUL GERMAN RAIDS.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—Two German raids last night on the Verdun front at Louvemont and Eparges gained no success, the War Office reports. An attack on French trenches near Parroy forest reached the first line, but the Germans were ejected immediately by a counter attack. In the region of Aspach in Alsace, three trench reconnoitering parties penetrated the German lines, destroying shelters, and returned without loss.

ALD. McLELLAN WANTS PERMANENT PAVEMENT

Suggests That Bond Issue be Made---
Ald. Lemont Opposed to Proposition.

Ald. R. W. McLellan made a proposition to the City Council last night that a bond issue be made and a start made in permanent paving of streets. Sheet asphalt on a concrete base was what was needed. The only real pavement in the city, said the alderman, was the two blocks of Hassam, and that had been spoiled by placing so-called asphalt on it.

Ald. McLellan said that under the present system money spent on streets was wasted. Enough was spent to produce good results, and yet there was nothing to show for it. He believed that those using the city streets to haul extremely heavy loads should pay special license fees. The proceeds from that, together with an appropriation would make up \$5,000 per year, enough to take care of serial bonds over a period of fifteen years. He felt sure that a start would have to be made soon.

Ald. Lemont strongly opposed the suggestion. The war was the principal activity and until it was ended there should be no expenditure that could be avoided.

U. S. Ambassador Leaves Berlin

London, Feb. 5.—The Central News says it understands Ambassador Gerard departed from Berlin today, and is due in Switzerland in the course of the day. A confirmation of this report has been received.

TRIES TO EXPLAIN GERMANY'S LATEST SUBMARINE NOTE

German Ambassador to Spain Confers With Former Premier---Situation at Canary Islands Considered Desperate---Safe Conduct for Fruit Ships.

MADRID, via Paris, Feb. 6.—Prince Max Von Ratibor, the German ambassador to Spain, personally called today on former Premiers Maura and Dato, and former Minister of the Interior Juan de Lacy, and explained to them Germany's submarine note, with the object of convincing them of Germany's good intentions, says the newspaper El Pais.

"This direct communication by the German ambassador with the leaders of the opposition," says the newspaper, "is a lack of respect both to the government, which alone is qualified to judge the German note and reply to it, and to the opinion of the country, which has given to the government its full confidence."

Submarine Blockade is Serious Matter for The Port of Las Palmas, Canary Islands

The situation in the Canaries, which was grave before the declaration of the blockade, is now desperate; the port of Las Palmas is paralyzed. Certain articles of first necessity are entirely lacking and the prices of kerosene, soap and flour have increased 150 per cent.

The population is without resources or work and is reduced to begging alms. The government has been approached with a view of having transatlantic liners going to America call at Las Palmas and complete their cargoes with local produce.

Germany Has Consented to Allow Safe Conduct for Several Spanish Fruit Ships

LONDON, Feb. 6.—A Reuter's despatch from Madrid says that the Correspondencia de Shana announces that Germany has consented to all of the Spanish fruit ships, now on the way to England having safe conduct to their destinations, but cannot allow them to return to Spain.

The Correspondencia learns that the Spanish note to Germany has been drawn up and shown to the leaders of the opposition. The note will be read at a cabinet meeting and made public today.

MACHINERY ON INTERNED SHIPS WAS DESTROYED

LONDON, Feb. 6.—Two German wireless despatches intercepted by the British Admiralty are regarded here as instances of German subtlety in the working of the propaganda in neutral countries. One wireless message, which it is believed was intended for consumption in Holland, Switzerland, Scandinavian and other neutral countries to whom Germany has been promising "concessions" in regard to the so called blockade, suggested that Germany would cede from her declared submarine policy in so far as it affected neutral rights.

The second wireless, consisting of an Associated Press despatch from Berlin intended for consumption in America, spoke of Germany's inability to withdraw from the position she has taken. Here this difference of statement is taken as an evident indication of a German effort to prevent the European neutral nations giving support to President Wilson's attitude.

INTERNED STEAMERS DAMAGED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—According to the Sun this morning, engines in every German and Austrian ship imprisoned in New York harbor by the British navy have been deliberately wrecked. Officers of German blood who know the truth estimate that \$30,000,000 worth of irreparable marine machinery was smashed or made useless in the few hours before Count Von Bernstorff delivered to the government of the United States the defiant message from Germany. Sabotage in a scale so magnificent is without parallel in history.

BELGIAN RELIEF STEAMER WAS SUNK BY PIRATES

No Word Yet Concerning the Crew—Captain and Crew of a Spanish Steamer Have Been Landed at Brest—Norwegian Bark Believed to Have Been Sunk.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—Nothing is yet known regarding the fate of the crew of the Belgian relief steamer Lars Kruz, which was sunk by a torpedo or mine near the Belgian coast yesterday. The ship touched at Las Palmas on January 20th and in the ordinary course would have made some British port before arriving at Rotterdam, where she was due about February 4th. The Lars Kruz carried the flag of the Belgian Relief Commission and was marked as arranged by the commission with the German government. It had not received a safe conduct from Germany as passports had been refused the relief ships by Berlin.

Spanish Sailors are Victims.

BRESTE, Feb. 6.—The captain and twelve men of the Spanish steamer Algorta, which was sunk by a submarine, have been landed here by a steam trawler. They were adrift for 46 hours before being rescued, and two sailors, Bartholme Paregan, and Jose Urves, died as a result of their privations soon after being taken aboard the trawler.

The other refugees had their hands and feet frozen and are in the seamen's hospital, several in a grave condition.

Lloyds announces that the Norwegian bark Lamara, 453 tons, is believed to have been sunk. The Lamara sailed from Black River, Jamaica, on Dec. 6, for Fleetwood.

Made a Big Hit.

The production of Robinson Crusoe at the Gaiety Theatre yesterday made a decided hit. Nearly a thousand children saw the matinee performance in the afternoon and were delighted with it. In the evening the theatre was packed at both performances. Manager Fenety certainly displays excellent judgment in the selection of his plays.

Late Douglas Hoben.

The funeral of the late Douglas Hoben took place this afternoon from his late residence, George street, and was largely attended. The service was conducted by Rev. J. E. Wilson, assisted by Rev. Dr. Kierstead and Rev. T. Marshall. Interment was made at the Rural cemetery.