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AMERICANS TELL OF APPALLING CONDITIONS IN GERMANY

Fall of Bagdad Will Restore British Prestige in the East

London and Paris Newspapers Express Gratification Over General Maude's Victory---Hun's Proud Vision of an Eastern Empire is Dissipated.

LONDON, March 12.—The fall of Bagdad, in the opinion of the London press, is of even greater significance for the effect it is expected to have on German aims than for its value in restoring British prestige in the eyes of the Mohammedan world and the East generally.

While it is recognized that the British misfortunes in Mesopotamia have had a serious influence on the prestige of the ruling power in India and Egypt, and while it is claimed that the capture of Bagdad will restore the balance, the chief gratification expressed is that the success of General Maude's expedition "has shattered the dream that Germans have indulged in for more than twenty years." As one typical comment puts it: "The Germans' proud vision of an eastern empire is dissipated before their very eyes, the German road to the east is blocked and the existing terminus of the Berlin to Bagdad railway has passed into British hands. To Orientals it will seem to sound the knell of German aspirations."

PARIS, March 12.—The morning papers comment at length upon the fall of Bagdad and dwell upon the political importance of the British success. The Figaro says: "In respect to the European war as a whole, perhaps, it does not matter much that the Turkish army has sustained a serious check in faraway territory. Nevertheless, the political effect of the event will be deeply felt in Germany. The Hamburg-Bagdad line, the last of the dreams cherished by German meglomania, must remain a dream in the face of the realities. It is certain that hopes of its fulfilment were fostered by the government and contributed largely to keeping up the spirits of the people of the German empire."

Enver Pasha Tells the Turkish Parliament

That the Military Situation is Improved

LONDON, March 12.—Enver Pasha, who has just returned from Asia Minor to Constantinople, has informed the Turkish parliament that the military situation is better than at any time since Turkey's entrance into the war, according to a Reuter despatch from Constantinople by way of Amsterdam.

Enver Pasha is quoted as saying: "We and our allies await with calm confidence any offensive which the enemy may attempt in the coming spring. The Chamber will pardon if I preserve silence regarding the action which we on our part propose to take. The safety of the Turkish coast and the Dardanelles is better assured than ever before. Even on the Sinai front the situation is unchanged. On the Mesopotamia front we retired northward for military reasons. For similar reasons we have drawn in toward Kermanshah, on the Persian front. The situation on the Caucasus front is unchanged."

"To sum up, the whole outlook justifies confidence in the future. Thanks to the Almighty, we shall obtain final victory."

Berlin Paper Says Arming of U. S. Merchant

Vessels Will Add to Difficulties of the Huns

AMSTERDAM, via London, March 11.—The Kolnische Volks Zeitung, a copy of which has been received here, admits that the arming of American merchantmen will make Germany's position more difficult. It expresses the belief that the Americans will not find it easy to provide guns and gun crews, and says it does not believe the danger to German submarines will be increased.

"We have always maintained," says the newspaper, "that a victory over England would be impossible unless we also determined to face America. The moment has now come. If an American declaration of war arrives, the German people will accept it with the same determination and confidence that they have accepted all previous declarations."

THE FRENCH MAKING GAINS.

PARIS, March 12.—The French continued their offensive operations in the Champagne last night. Further gains in the region of Maisons de Champagne are reported in today's official announcement. Prisoners were taken in raids and patrol encounters at different points on the front.

ARTILLERY CAPTURED BY BRITISH

London, March 12.—After announcing the fall of Bagdad in the House of Commons today, Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that there was every reason to believe that two-thirds of the Turkish artillery had fallen into the hands of the British or had been thrown into the Tigris.

Nationalists Are Back on the Job

London, March 12.—The Irish Nationalists made their re-appearance in the House of Commons this afternoon and assured themselves of another early debate on the subject of home rule for Ireland by securing from the government a promise that the Irish estimates would be introduced some day next week. The estimates will prove an occasion for a debate on the whole Irish administration.

American Ships Will be Armed

Washington, March 12.—Formal notice that American ships traversing the German submarine zone are to carry "armed guard for the protection of the vessel and the lives of persons on board," was sent by the State Department today to embassies and legations of all foreign governments in Washington.

Successful Supper.

The supper held in the K. of P. hall Saturday evening under the auspices of the Women's Volunteer Reserve, was very successful. The net proceeds amounted to \$50 which will be expended in providing comforts for the military hospital here.

YARROWDALE PRISONERS TELL OF ROUGH TREATMENT

Party Released From German Prison Camp Are Now in Switzerland--Say That the Yarrowdale Was Captured by the Ritz of Bremen.

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 11, via Paris, March 12.—The American sailors from the Yarrowdale, who were released from a German camp last Thursday, arrived in Zurich today. There were 59 in the party. They had arrived at the German frontier at Lindau yesterday after a continuous trip of 52 hours from the prison camp at Brandenburg. The sailors, although emaciated from their imprisonment and serious lack of food since their arrival in Germany on December 31, are in fair condition and confident that with a normal amount of food they will soon be themselves again.

The sailors said that they were convinced that the raider which captured their vessel was the Ritz, of Bremen. They describe her as a brand new vessel of about 3,000 tons, capable of 18 knots, equipped with one funnel, two masts, one false funnel, four torpedo tubes, seven rapid firing guns and a wheelhouse which was hidden by the sides of the ship.

The funnels had a device by which the stripes could be changed at will and the ship's doors were so constructed as to cut off all light when they were open. The ship's sides were so constructed that portions of them could be automatically dropped and raised. Although looking like an old tramp, the vessel was really a new armored cruiser.

The Yarrowdale men told of severe treatment to which they had been subjected in the German prison camps at Neutriltz, Dulmen and Brandenburg, where they had been successively interned, and where they, as Americans, they said, were apparently singled out from all others.

During their stay in Germany, they reported, they had subsisted on one allowance of soup daily, and had made their long journey to the border on one such "meal."

There was hardly one of them who at one time or another, they declared, had not felt the fist of a German camp guard.

GERMAN PEOPLE ARE THROTTLED BY IRON HAND OF PRUSSIANISM

Members of Former Ambassador Gerard's Party Now in Cuba Tell of Appalling Conditions in Germany---People Now in a Stoical Stage.

NEW YORK, March 12.—A despatch to the Herald from Havana Sunday says:

The appalling conditions prevailing throughout Germany were revealed today when James W. Gerard, the recalled American Ambassador at Berlin, and his party arrived here from Spain.

While Mr. Gerard refused to make any statement before he sees President Wilson at Washington, for which place he starts tomorrow, several men and women who left Germany with him said the people were starving and had reached that stoical stage where they did not care whether victory or defeat came. What they want is food.

Weakening Courage of the German People Bolstered Up by False Reports of Victories

The iron hand of Prussianism still throttles the people of Germany, keeping them in ignorance of true conditions, hiding from them the strength of their enemies and bolstering their weakening courage with false reports of victories.

The last straw will break the camel's back before another year, when harvests must fail for lack of men and fertilizers, when starvation must be even more acute than now, when even the troops may not have sufficient food, and when the people must know and realize the failure and the futility of Prussia's last desperate chance—the ruthless submarine atrocity.

Reports of the Ill Health of the Kaiser are Confirmed; Being Kept Up by Powerful Drugs

The passengers confirmed the reports of the ill health of the Kaiser, saying that in official circles it is well known, but that the people are not permitted to know of it. Several said that it had been necessary for a long time to administer powerful drugs to the Kaiser constantly, that he cannot sleep, and always is in the hands of physicians.

CHINA MAY SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH HUNS

Government's Policy Approved of at a Secret Session of the House of Representatives---Opposed to Germany's Unrestricted Submarine Policy

LONDON, March 12.—A Pekin despatch to Reuter's says that the House of Representatives, at a secret session, approved the government's diplomatic policy, including a rupture with Germany.

The Chinese foreign office announced on February 9th that it would sever diplomatic relations with Germany if the unrestricted submarine warfare decree was put into effect.

On March 4th the Chinese cabinet agreed that relations should be broken, but President Li Yuan Heng refused to accept the decision of the ministers and Premier Yuan Chie Jui resigned his post as leader of the government.

Reported That the Chinese Government Contemplates an Alliance With the Entente

Three days later, however, the Premier resumed office after President Li Yuan Heng had agreed to give the cabinet full power to frame the country's foreign policy, also on condition that parliament should vote on the question of a breach with Germany. There have been reports from numerous sources that China was contemplating not merely the severance of relations but an actual alliance with the Entente.

A despatch from Pekin on March 8 stated that the Chinese foreign minister was sounding the ministers of the Entente as to the condition under which the Allies would be willing to accept China as a partner.