

pected that the strong defenses of Antwerp will enable the city to stand a long siege, even if it should ultimately be captured. There remain still two lines of fortifications to be captured, and the territory in which the Germans must operate is of such a nature as to make their movements very slow. It is the hope of the Allies to relieve Antwerp by getting in behind General von Kluck's army, and so compel the Germans to call all their men to the chief scene of action.

Japan.

Reports of activities in the far east give no indication of decisive action. The landing force of the Japanese are reported to have occupied the Chinese city of Wei-Hsien, and to have taken possession of the railroad extending to Kiao-Chau. Light engagements have taken place between the invading forces and the Germans, followed by the retreat of the latter, until now Kiao-Chau is completely invested. The Japanese fleet is reported to have shelled the fortifications, but without apparent effect. The Chinese have protested without avail against the invasion of their territory by the Japanese, and have blown up the railroad bridge six miles west of Wei-Hsien. The Japanese have also seized the railroad from Tsing-tao to Tsi-nan, against the protests of the Chinese government, and give as a reason that it belongs to the Germans, and that it would be dangerous to allow the road to remain in German hands while the Japanese were operating before Kiao-Chau.

On the Sea.

Reports of merchantmen sunk by cruisers in various parts of the world continue. The cruiser Emden is reported to have sunk five British ships in the Indian Ocean; and a dispatch from Berlin claims that the German cruiser Karlsruhe has sunk seven British ships in the Atlantic. A most important announcement is that the British Government has yielded to the American contention for free commerce between neutral countries. Britain was at first disposed to stop food products going to Holland, or other country similarly situated, on the ground that these food products would be re-shipped to Germany. Denmark had attempted to relieve the situation by prohibiting the shipment of food stuffs to Germany; but now that England has yielded to the American contention, no further friction is expected.

Mexico and the United States.

The convention of Constitutionalist generals and governors called by General Carranza to meet in the City of Mexico, met in the Chamber of Deputies on the 1st. General Carranza placed his resignation as First Chief of the Constitutionals in the hands of the delegates at eight o'clock

of the evening of the 3d, and there was acrimonious debate till after midnight, when it was voted that the resignation be not accepted. General Carranza then addressed the convention. After thanking the delegates for their vote of confidence, he charged that the opposition to him had been instigated "by the so-called científicos and our conquered enemies," and declared that he would not submit "to a group of chiefs who had forgotten the fulfillment of their duty and to a group of civilians to whom the nation owes nothing." It was his duty, the General said, to "fix the responsibility of the rebellion of General Villa, which is nothing but a plot instigated by the so-called científicos and some of the conquered factions." The delegates from Oaxaca left the chamber, declaring they would fight in the name of civilization against brutal military aggression.

Representatives of General Carranza and General Villa are to meet in a general peace conference at Aguas Calientes on the 10th, where an effort will be made to reconcile the differences of the two generals. Little importance is attached to the refusal of the first conference to accept General Carranza's resignation, since to do so would have left the government without a head. An agreement is looked for at the coming conference.

Meantime, desultory fighting has been going on in the state of Sonora between the forces of Governor Maytorena and the Carranza troops under General Benjamin Hill. Few casualties have been reported, which indicate that the engagement has not been of serious proportions.

A delegation representing the Federation of Catholic Societies of America, called upon President Wilson on the 30th, asking that the United States recognize no government in Mexico that does not grant religious liberty. Representations were made by the delegation that priests and nuns, some of whom were Americans, had been robbed and murdered by Constitutionals.

Fowlds in New Zealand.

A cable message on September 25 from Auckland told of the safe arrival there of Hon. George Fowlds from Vancouver, whence he had sailed on September 3. The fact that war conditions rendered the steamer on which he sailed liable to capture had caused his friends some uneasiness. [See current volume, page 754.]

Dr. Gorgas Honored.

Dr. William C. Gorgas, United States Surgeon