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PRESIDENT URGES CONGRESS TO DECLARE STATE OF WAR EXISTS WITH GERMAN EMPIRE

Vindication of Peace and Justice Against Autocratic Power

President Wilson delivered to Congress his message on Monday night of this week amid applause and enthusiasm.

During the delivery of his message news came of the sinking of an American steamer with seventeen Americans in the crew, by a German U-boat.

The full text of the superb message of the President follows:

I have called the Congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made, and made immediately, which it is neither right nor constitutionally permissible that I should assume the responsibility of making.

On the first of February last I officially laid before you the extraordinary message of the Imperial German government that on and after the first day of February it was its purpose to sink all merchant ships of law or humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach either the ports of Great Britain and Ireland or the western coast of Europe or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany within the Mediterranean. That had again to be the object of the German submarine warfare earlier in the war, but since April of last year, the Imperial government had somewhat restricted the commission of this deadly craft in conformity with its promise to give to us that peace negotiators should not be sunk and that other vessels would be given to all other vessels which its submarines might seek to destroy, when no resistance was offered or escape attempt made and care taken that their crews were given at least a fair chance to save their lives in their open boats.

The precautions taken were meager and haphazard even as was proved in distressing instances after instance in the progress of the cruel and unmanly business, but a certain degree of restraint was observed.

The new policy has swept every restriction aside. Vessels of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom without warning and without thought of help or mercy for those on board, the vessels of friendly neutrals along with those of belligerents. Even hospital ships and ships carrying relief to the sorely bereaved and stricken people of Belgium, though the latter were provided with safe conduct through the proscribed areas by the German government itself, and were distinguished by unmistakable marks of identity, have been sunk with the same reckless lack of compassion or of principle.

I was for a little while unable to believe that such things would in fact be done by any government that had hitherto subscribed to the humane practices of civilized nations. International law had its origin in the attempt to set up some law which would be respected and observed upon the seas, where no nation had right of dominion and where lay the free highways of the world. By painful stage after stage has that law been built up with meager enough results, indeed, after all was accomplished that could be accomplished, but always with a clear view, at least, of what the heart and conscience of mankind demanded. This minimum of right the German government has swept aside under the plea of retaliation and necessity, and because it had no excesses which it could use at sea except these which it is impossible to employ as it is employing them without throwing to the winds all scruples of humanity or of respect for the understandings that were supposed to underlie the intercourse of the world.

I am not now thinking of the loss of property involved, immense and serious as that is, but only of the wanton and wholesale destruction of the lives of non-combatants, men, women and children, engaged in pursuits which have always even in the darkest periods of modern history been deemed innocent and legitimate. Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people cannot be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

It is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken in ways which it has stirred us very deeply to learn of, but the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk and overwhelmed in the waters in the same way. There has been no discrimination. The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it. The choice we make for ourselves must be made with a moderation of counsel and a temperateness of judgment befitting our character and our motives as a nation. We must put excited feeling away. Our motives will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might of the nation, but only the vindication of right, of human right, of which we are only a single champion.

When I addressed the Congress on the 26th of February last, I thought that it would suffice to assert our neutral rights with arms, our right to use the seas against unlawful interference, our right to keep our people safe against unlawful violence. But armed neutrality, it now appears, is impracticable.

Because submarines are in effect outlaws when used as the German submarines have been used against merchant shipping, it is impossible to defend ships against their attacks as the law of nations has assumed that merchantmen would defend themselves against privateers or cruisers, visible craft giving chase upon the high seas. It is common prudence in such circumstances, grim necessity indeed, to endeavor to destroy them before they have shown their own intention. They must be dealt with upon sight, if dealt with at all.

The German government denies the right of neutrals to use arms at all within the areas of the sea which it has proscribed, even in the defense of rights which no modern publicist has ever before questioned their right to defend. The intimation is conveyed that the armed guards which we have placed on our merchant ships will be treated as beyond the pale of law and subject to be dealt with as pirates would be.

Armed neutrality is a practical impossibility in such circumstances, and in the face of such a proposition it is more than impracticable to endeavor to produce what is a mere formality, it is practically certain to draw us into the war without either the choice or the advantage of being the party to the outbreak of hostilities. There is no sense in our making war, we are incapable of making it. We will not choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of our nation and our people to be ignored or violated. The wrongs against which we now array ourselves are not common wrongs; they cut to the very roots of human life.

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragic character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem my Constitutional duty, I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German government to be in fact nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it and that it may take immediate steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense, but also to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the government of the German empire to terms and end the war.

What this will involve is clear. It will involve the utmost radical co-operation in counsel and action with the governments now at war with Germany, and, in incident to that, the extension to those governments of the most liberal financial credits, in order that our resources may so far as possible be added to theirs. It will involve the organization and mobilization of all the material resources of the country to supply the materials of war and serve the incidental needs of the nation in the most abundant and yet in the most economical and efficient way possible. It will involve the immediate full equipment of the navy in all respects, but particularly in supplying it with the best means of dealing with the enemy's submarines.

It will involve the immediate addition to the armed force of the United States already provided for by law in case of war at least 500,000 men, who should in my opinion, be chosen upon the principal of universal liability to service, and also the authorization of subsequent additional increments of equal force so soon as they may be needed and can be handled in training. It will involve also, of course, the granting of adequate credits to the government, sustained, I hope, so far as they can equitably be sustained, by the present generation by well conceived taxation.

I say sustained so far as may be equitable by taxation because it seems to me that it would be most unwise to base the credits which will now be necessary entirely on money borrowed. It is our duty, I most respectfully urge, to protect our people so far as we may against the very serious hardships and evils which would be likely to arise out of the inflation which would be produced by vast loans.

In carrying out the measures by which these things are to be accomplished we should keep constantly in mind the wisdom of interfering as little as possible in our own preparation and the equipment of our own military forces with the duty—for it will be a very practical duty—of supplying the nations already at war with Germany with the materials which they can obtain only from us or by our assistance. They are in the field and we should help them in every way to be effective there.

I shall take the liberty of suggesting through the several executive departments of the government for the consideration of your committees, measures for the accomplishment of the several objects I have mentioned. I hope it will be your pleasure to deal with them as having been framed after very careful thought by the branch of the government upon which the responsibility of conducting the war and safeguarding the nation will most directly fall.

While we do these things, these deeply momentous things, let us be very clear and make very clear to all the

CONCORD TOWNSHIP TO VOTE ON BOND ISSUE

Citizens of Concord township came to Asheboro on Tuesday after the first Monday in March to present a petition to vote on an issue of \$25,000 bonds for the Carolina and Yadkin River Railroad Company, but the representative of the railroad had left here Monday night, and the petition was not presented until Monday of this week. An order for the election was granted, to vote on the issue of \$25,000 bonds to construct a railroad from some point on its present line from Thomasville to Denton, connecting near Gordonton and to go through Concord township to Mount Gilead or some other on the Norfolk Southern, the line to pass through Farmer or within half a mile of Farmer, and is to be completed on or before January 1, 1920. The election is to be held May 15, 1917, with the usual provisions as to judges. C. H. Hill and S. W. Kearns are judges.

Prof. W. P. White, of Rameur, Dead

Superintendent of graded school for ten years.

Prof. W. P. White died at his home in Rameur Tuesday evening following a stroke of paralysis last week. Mr. White seemed as well as usual on last Thursday morning when he went to school. He was stricken there and no hopes for his recovery were entertained. His condition seemed serious from the beginning. Mr. White has been superintendent of the Rameur school for the past ten years and he was highly respected by the entire community. He was born and reared in Alamance county. He was the son of J. B. White who was a member of the state clerk of superior court of Alamance county.

Mr. White joined the Presbyterian church in early boyhood and was an elder in his church for some time. He joined the M. E. church after coming to Rameur and remained a consistent member until his death. He married Miss Ingle, daughter of Rev. W. T. Ingle of Alamance county, to this union five children were born, four of whom with their mother survive. Mr. White was fifty-two years of age. Funeral service is to be held today in the M. E. church of Rameur, Rev. H. C. Byrum conducting the service after which the body will be laid to rest in the local cemetery.

Board of Education of Randolph County Met Tuesday April 2nd

The board of education of Randolph county met at the court house Monday April second, with Dr. C. H. Phillips, Jas. T. Wood and T. W. Ingram present.

Forty dollars was given to Shady Grove school district to complete the school building, recently erected. It was ordered that a class room be built at Oak Grove, New Hope township, plans to be submitted later.

The board decided that it was unnecessary for the public good to make two districts out of the Gray's Chapel district. Petitions having been sent in requesting division of same.

It was decided to move the school building from the present site, one-half mile further south, and two rooms to the house and continue to employ two teachers.

A petition was presented asking for a consolidation of a district composed of territory in Chatham and Randolph counties, same was deferred in order for the superintendents of both counties to make investigation.

A petition was presented asking for local tax election in Seagrave district. Owing to irregularities in petition election was not recommended.

A petition asking for consolidation of the lower Why Not and western end of New Center districts. This was not granted because of certain territory left out, which should have been included. However, both the requests from Richland township were left open for investigation.

As there will be no county commencement this year, superintendent Bulla is mailing certificates to all pupils in the county who have completed the seventh grade work.

Mrs. Roddy Fields, of Cimax, Dead

Mrs. Mary Fields, wife of Roddy Fields, died at her home near Cimax Saturday, following several years of ill-health. Mrs. Fields' death was a shock to the community as her condition had not seemed any worse than it had been for some time. To this union seven children were born, all of whom with their father survive. They are: C. R. Fields, W. H. Fields, Mrs. W. A. Hackett, Mrs. Floyd Allred, Mrs. Cary Kirkman, Mrs. J. F. Brown and Mrs. E. C. Young and 31 grand children. Deceased was sixty-three years of age. Funeral was held at Tabernacle church Monday, Rev. T. M. Johnson conducting the service, assisted by Rev. C. F. Sherrill, of Pleasant Garden.

Both Troy Teams Were Successful

The annual high school debate was held Friday night by representatives from the high schools of Biscoe and Troy.

At Biscoe, the Biscoe affirmative and Troy negative was upheld by Fred Monroe and Claude Wright; Misses Della Deaton and Robert Hayes, respectively. At Troy, the Troy affirmative and Biscoe negative were upheld by Charlie Reynolds and Bertie Allen; Kelly Maness and Clement Monroe, respectively.

The question debated was "Resolved, That the Federal government should own and operate the railways." At both places, large crowds of people heard the debates. Troy won the debate both at home and at Biscoe.

LIEUT. DIXON WANTS RECRUITS FOR COMPANY K

Benjamin F. Dixon, who is first lieutenant of Company K, is a native of Cleveland county, and now lives in Raleigh. He is a son of the late Dr. B. F. Dixon, who was one of North Carolina's most distinguished citizens, a soldier, a scholar, a statesman and a gentleman without a blemish. He was at one time president of Greensboro Female College, and was elected state auditor in 1900, and held that position until his death, and was succeeded by Col. W. P. Wood. Upon his father's death young Dixon was appointed to fill the position until the election, but owing to his youth and for other reasons, he did not desire the nomination. He inherits in a large measure the eminent abilities of his distinguished father. His mother was the widow of Plato Dixon, who was well known throughout the State as a soldier, scholar and gentleman and who died soon after the Civil war.

Lieutenant Dixon is now first lieutenant of Company K, and was in Asheboro the first of the week arranging to secure recruits for the company. He was accompanied by former Captain Coleman, who has arranged to go to Arizona to engage in the practice of law and expects to form an official connection with the National Guard of that state. Lieutenant Dixon has not yet been elected captain, but it is stated he will be the captain, and second lieutenant Everett Leck will be first lieutenant. Those boys of Company K whom we have consulted all testify to the many qualities of gentleness and soldierly bearing and high character and integrity of Lieutenant Dixon, and they express the desire to retain him as their captain.

First Sergeant Hal Walker will no doubt be advanced to the grade of second lieutenant. Sergeant Walker obtained several recruits this week in this county. Their names are: J. M. Pugh, B. F. McKinney, T. L. Lowdermilk, E. J. Frown, Randleman, and C. L. Grimes, Spers.

Sergeant Walker served three years in the navy and made a fine record and stood high when he completed his term of enlistment.

Another American Vessel Sunk

Simultaneously with the appearance of President Wilson before Congress on Monday, came news of the sinking of the American ship Aztec by a German submarine off the coast of France, near Brest, on April 1. The Aztec was owned by the Oriental Navigation Company, and sailed from New York for Havre March 18, with a full cargo of general supplies and foodstuffs, valued at \$500,000. She was in command of Capt. Walter O'Brien and carried a crew of 59. A French patrol picked up 19 of the crew. The balance are listed as missing, and are supposed to have perished. The Aztec was armed, and carried guns of 12 caliber men of the navy under command of Lieutenant William F. Greenham. All of the marine guard are accounted for.

Executive Committee of the County Sunday School Association Meets

The Central Executive Committee of the Randolph county Sunday school association met in special session Monday afternoon, April 2nd, Mr. Hugh Parks, chairman of the committee being absent, the meeting was called to order by D. M. Starpe. The purpose of the meeting was to outline plans for the association's work during the summer. At a meeting of the committee last September a special committee was appointed to arrange for the employment of a field worker for full this spring. This committee reported favorably and the present secretary is to take up the field work at an early date.

It was decided that in the township convention this year more institute work should be done, and wherever possible that two day conventions be held. The county president and secretary were named as a special committee to consult with Mr. J. W. Wright Long, State secretary upon a definite course to be carried through all the townships.

It was moved and carried that an effort be made to raise funds for the purchase of a stereopticon to be used in giving illustrated lectures throughout the county.

The library committee reported that twenty-two additional books had been purchased and placed in the hands of the librarian. These books are now available for distribution as listed in the catalogs sent out some time ago. Upon motion of L. F. Ross the meeting adjourned with prayer by J. W. Welborn.

Coast Artillery Corps Called Out—Mr. Herndon Moffitt, an Asheboro Boy, a Member

The coast artillery corps of Charlotte and Raleigh was called out yesterday. Work of equipping the two organizations began at once and they will doubtless be assigned to interior guard duty. Mr. Herndon Moffitt, an Asheboro boy, who lives in Charlotte is a member of the Charlotte company.

Mr. J. H. Mason Again Has Auto Accident in Davidson County

J. H. Mason, traveling representative of the News and Observer of Raleigh, was painfully injured Tuesday afternoon, when the eight roadster he was driving turned turtle throwing him with force to the hard paving of the highway just beyond the Davidson county line. A number of bruises and cuts were sustained about the head, but no bones were broken.

RANDOLPH SUPERIOR COURT

Randolph superior court convened Monday of this week with Honorable M. H. Justice, of Rutherfordford, presiding.

The following persons compose the grand jury:

J. B. White, foreman, A. R. Kindy, E. C. Hinchshaw, W. M. Wood, G. W. Varner, C. B. Cox, D. E. Cox, B. Z. Routh, A. S. Myers, John M. Christen, M. M. Bouldin, N. M. Thayer, W. M. Parrish, W. M. Allen, D. A. Christen, A. L. Hammonds, G. W. Berry, and George Langley.

Petit jurors as follows: J. A. Miller, J. M. Hendricks, M. E. Sewell, James A. King, J. M. Brown, J. H. Elder, C. M. Brown, T. B. Rush, J. B. Hammond, G. C. Moore, Isaac Phillips, B. F. Moffitt, J. A. McKinzie, N. M. Burrow, W. D. Curtis, Stanton King, W. C. Cox, Cleveland Williams.

Trial jurors as follows: Noah King, T. W. Bingham, J. E. Craven, W. D. Loflin, M. N. Morgan, C. T. Hughes, Madison Hammond, J. E. Leach, Martin Williams, E. H. Hill, E. A. Lineberry, Ezekiel Hammonds, C. G. Frasier, Henry Lawlison.

Judge Justice delivered one of the clearest and ablest charges heard by a Randolph jury in many years. Solicitor Clement is prosecuting the criminal docket with his usual vigor and ability.

The case of most importance tried was that of State vs. Alfred Stuts, charged with murder of his twelve year old brother Boyd Stuts the 6th of January last in Richland township.

There was no eye witness to the killing which the defendant claims was done accidentally, while he was sitting up in a chair to put it in a rack over the door, when the chair slipped and the gun fired inflicting a wound which produced death within a few hours. The deceased was brought to the Asheboro hospital where Drs. J. F. Miller and Dr. Asbury performed an operation, but the shot had so perforated his bowels that no operation could save him. Dr. Miller testified that the wound was not made as Dr. Johnson said by entering the side, but entered below and a little to one side of the navel and the load went upward as if fired by the gun near the floor.

Dr. Asbury and Miss Bally, a nurse in the hospital, both testified that the deceased said before his death in a dying declaration that the shooting was done by and in the way the defendant swore it was. Roxanna Patterson, a colored woman, who lives in sight of the Stuts home, testified she went to the house on hearing the gun fire and that the deceased made a similar statement to her as to how the shooting was done.

The father of the defendant made a similar statement. Others testified that the deceased made dying declarations that the deceased and the defendant were engaged in shooting with a bow and arrow and fell out and the shooting was done in anger and with the intention of killing, but after hearing all the evidence Judge Justice held the evidence was of such a conflicting nature that it was insufficient to convict and then a verdict of not guilty was entered.

Another case of some local importance was the case of State vs. John Cranford for the larceny of baking powder. Cranford was acquitted.

The case of State vs. J. M. Yow for resisting officer was disposed of upon payment of costs.

State vs. John Cranford for larceny, not guilty. Adjudged to be frivolous and malicious and not warranted by the public good, and the prosecutor E. G. Morris taxed with the costs.

State vs. Ransom Steed, illicit distillery, not guilty.

State vs. Nunery King for illicit distillery—continued. The case against same defendant for assault, not guilty.

State vs. B. H. Moore for illicit distilling, sentenced to 12 months on road. If \$100 fine and costs are paid, and \$200 and costs of forfeited bond, paid, the road sentence to be stricken out.

State vs. Sango Robbins for larceny, not guilty.

State vs. Lilly York, polluting water of spring, not guilty.

State vs. Madison Hammond, assault, guilty—fined \$5.00 and costs.

State vs. Tom Hatwood, wife beating, 40 days on road.

State vs. Elsie Hoover, assault, guilty, to leave Asheboro.

State vs. Walter Walker, assault, 40 days on road.

The magistrate's judgment taxing A. L. Delk with costs was reversed.

Marshall Pender, not guilty of larceny.

Lary Matthews pleaded guilty of stealing eggs, judgment suspended on payment of costs.

State vs. R. O. Parks, incest, not guilty.

James Osborne, the stranger who was found lying on the railroad tracks just west of Charlotte on Saturday last, terribly injured, died from his injuries in a Charlotte hospital. Osborne was a mill operative, but the authorities have been unable to locate his people. On Tuesday a coroner's jury rendered a verdict that Osborne came to his death from "five blows on the head with a blunt instrument in the hands of persons unknown to the jury."

LLEWXAM'S LETTER FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

(By Maxwell Gorman.)

Raleigh, April 3.—This is the week we "Americans" are supposed to find out just where we are and there is much anxiety and some uneasiness over the action of Congress, just assembled in extra session, with respect to our future foreign relations.

The absence of any great amount of "war feeling" in North Carolina has been mistaken for a lack of patriotic spirit—and a superficiality of "criticism" has appeared recently in newspapers. Some "adopted citizens" express surprise that we Tar Heels retain our equilibrium when the "national anthem" is played by bands in the streets or parks and by orchestras in theatres and that we should yell and throw up our hats whenever and wherever the strains of "Dixie" greet our ears. We're that "provisional" demochron.

It is a true bill, but why be surprised—and is anybody named, and if so of what? "Dixie" is good enough for us and we cheer it because in the South it has become more of a "national anthem" to the great majority of people than "America" or the "Star Spangled Banner"—so long may it wave. That's the sentiment "we are" actually feel, and when we feel that way we shout for Dixie and around the song we all shout and love—"for home and native land." Yes sir! Why, a considerable percentage in any crowd don't know what "America" is when the band plays it. Ain't it the truth? But we all know and love "Dixie."

The Mold Was Not Broken

A State without large cities, North Carolina people are more "provincial" than those of most States with their "mixed" population with its large percentage of foreign-born and the children of foreign-born parents—many of them growing up in an atmosphere of home life where English language is not spoken in the family circle—unless visitors are present who make its use necessary.

But the person who for a moment thinks the average North Carolinian is different in patriotism from the rigid sort and real thing doesn't know his subject. The men and women of today are as true Americans of a fighting breed as were their forefathers of Mecklenburg and Halifax who blazed the path of Revolutionary thought and action that secured for us the independence we won under their leadership and now enjoy and appreciate—and of which we are more than jealous.

"Esse quam videri"—to be and not to seem. Some of us may not be as theatrical as we might be and as some others are in "displaying" our patriotic feelings, but when it comes to demonstrating them to more useful effect—the Tar Heel people who do not arise when the air of America is played every time, will never be found lacking. Let some foreign foe start something real ugly, so we can get mad about it. Let an attempt be made to invade the United States by any foreign foe, for instance, and see what happens. It was an invaded land that created the greatest of all fighting soldiers and there is ample material to mold fresh recruits of the same type of Confederate soldiers if occasion demands.

Vacancies in Corporation Commission

The selection of a new chairman and a new chief clerk to the State Corporation Commission is one of the strong probabilities of the near future. It has been understood for some time that Chairman Travis might resign to accept a more lucrative position and with the hope of retaining him an unsuccessful effort was made to increase the salary of the chairman, but the legislature failed to do it—chiefly because other officials were ready to "demand a raise" if any increases were made.

Chairman Travis is worth more money to the State than he is receiving and his retirement would be little short of a calamity. It would badly cripple the corporation commission. And now another misfortune for the commission boils up in the probable loss of the services of its chief clerk, A. J. Maxwell, who has been there so long that he knows more than a new man can learn in several terms. Mr. Maxwell is a candidate for the position of secretary to the U. S. Tariff Commission and is said to have excellent chances of landing the job. He is going to Washington again this week to see members of the commission to whom he has been recommended by Senators Simmons and Overman and others.

Some day North Carolina will be able to assemble a majority in the legislature with sense enough to devise means of keeping our most competent officials at home—instead of furnishing them to other States and to Uncle Sam, because of better inducements.

The Elongated Cognomen

After a conference in the governor's office the representatives of the several "schools of thought" agreed to use the full and elongated title of "North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering" and bury the hutchet. So now let us have peace. It was a silly quarrel to start with.

Fire at Goldsboro

The plant of the Griffin Manufacturing Company at Goldsboro was damaged to the extent of about \$25,000 on Monday. The fire occurred when the city was packed with visitors, and during the excitement several persons were badly injured. Soldiers from Camp Boyster rendered valuable aid to the local department in extinguishing the flames.

(Continued on page eight.)