

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 36

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1917.

Number 5

CONGRESS TO MEET APRIL 2ND.

Declare That State of War Exists and Vote a Huge Sum. That Is What Congress Is Expected to Do After President Addresses It. Declaration of War in Technical Sense. We May, However, Be Drawn Into the Very Center of the Struggle on the Continent. War Will Be a Defensive War.

Washington, March 21.—President Wilson today met constantly increasing probability of war with Germany by summoning Congress to assemble in extraordinary session Monday, April 2—two weeks earlier than the date he had chosen before the latest assaults upon American rights on the seas.

When the President addresses Congress he is expected to show how a state of war actually has existed for some time because of the unlawful aggressions of German submarines.

Congress is expected formally to declare a state of war existing, vote a large sum, probably \$500,000,000 for national defense and clothe the President with authority to use the armed forces of the United States, as it empowered President McKinley to deal with the menace of Spain in 1898.

War in Technical Sense.
Such action would not be a declaration of war except in a technical sense, and whether the United States and Germany actually go to war in the fullest acceptance of the word will depend on what the imperial government does before Congress is assembled or after it acts.

Dispatches from abroad tonight declaring that the German government expected a state of war within the next 48 hours, placed an ominous aspect on the situation.

Much to change the President's present intentions or the course of the government in the crisis may develop before April 2. The first American armed ships will by that time have reached the war zone. The ruthless destruction of one of them undoubtedly would be an act of war.

On the other hand, sinking of a submarine by one of the armed merchantmen probably would be met as an act of war by Germany. Even the arming of American ships with the avowed purpose of defending them against U-boats may be declared such an act.

Ten Days of Anxiety.
In any of these events, practically nothing would remain except for Congress to acknowledge a state of war existing from a certain specified date—probably last Sunday when three American ships were sunk with loss of life.

The 10 days until Congress meets will be days of anxiety, eager waiting and watching, fraught with possibilities of tremendous consequences to the United States.

President Wilson and his advisers in the cabinet and in Congress have no intention that war shall be declared by the United States. By the hostile acts of German submarines they believe the imperial government is actually making war on the United States and that it shall be recognized as such a state. To meet such a condition the armed forces of the country and all the national resources are to be put in a state of readiness. Then whether the nation shall enter the war in its full sense will depend upon how much further Germany carries her acts of aggression.

In every sense, war, if it actually comes, will be a defensive war, free from ambitions of spoils or territory in which the United States, the President has publicly declared, shall want nothing for itself, and shall seek only to preserve the rights of civilization and humanity.

May Fight On Continent.
In such a situation the United States might even become an actual participant in the hostilities on the European continent without becoming a political ally of any of the entente powers, simply casting its weight of men, money and moral influence into the battle against a common enemy.

Ports of the United States probably would be opened to warships of the entente navies; credits from the vast stocks of gold, food, munitions and other materials might be extended to all the entente powers. The American navy probably would co-operate with the British and French navies in clearing submarines from the seas.

Hurry calls for all party leaders in Congress went out today as soon as

the President announced the advancement of the date of the extra session. With the menace of war looming close ahead political differences began to fade away. Some congressmen already here went so far as to suggest that the fight for organization of the house be postponed until after the international situation had been dealt with.—Associated Press.

SEES END OF HOHENZOLLERNS

British Socialist Declares Peace With Them Unthinkable. Says Socialist Liebknecht May Become Leader in Germany.

Henry M. Hyndman, leader of the British Socialists, in an interview with the correspondent of the Associated Press at London Monday said: "The whole aim of the Hohenzollerns from now on will be to save the dynasty in the crash which seems almost inevitable. While, as I say, there are no signs yet that a revolution in Germany is probable or even possible, every thinking man must admit to feeling that there are great changes in the air. A year ago a man who would predict that the Socialist Milukoff would within 12 months become the greatest man in Russia would have been called crazy. It is no more absurd to predict today that Liebknecht will become the leader in Germany before another year goes around. I do not predict it, but I am willing to say that it would not at all surprise me.

"Remember this—it is unthinkable that the Entente would conclude a lasting peace with the Hohenzollerns. The people of the allied countries would repel the thought of such a peace after the sacrifices we have endured. Revolution in Germany and the fall of the dynasty seems the only way to the reconstruction of Europe on a stable basis."

Kenly Sunday School Class.

Kenly, March 22.—The Annie Benson Wesley Class of the Methodist church held their monthly business meeting at the home of the assistant secretary, Mrs. R. A. Turlington, on last Monday evening. The class was called to order with Bible reading by the President, after which Mrs. C. P. Jerome led in prayer.

The chairmen of the different committees gave in their reports, and from some of the reports it is evident that the class is doing good work. Mrs. Jerome reported that a "Home Department" had been organized, with twelve charter members.

Under the head of new business a "Baby Roll" for the Sunday school, was brought up and discussed. It was moved and seconded that one be organized, and Mrs. H. M. Grizzard was elected superintendent.

The Librarian, Mrs. H. F. Edgerton, asked that a voluntary offering of ten cents per member be handed in next Sunday for the purpose of buying new books for the class library.

Mrs. A. J. Broughton, President of the class, was elected a delegate to the Wesley Bible Class Federation, at Rocky Mount, April 3rd to 5th.

There being no other business to discuss, the class adjourned, after which a delightful salad course was served by the hostess.

Will Not Consider Mediation.

News has come to the Administration at Washington that a neutral country of Europe might offer mediation between this country and Germany with a hope of staving off the impending war. Such a proposal is regarded in Washington as another scheme of Germany to confuse the issue. The Washington dispatch conveying this news says that "no suggestion of mediation or discussion would be considered unless it was accompanied by abandonment of illegal assaults upon American shipping, a course which there is no reason for believing the Imperial government is giving a thought."

Cotton Futures Hurt Them.

The great slump in the cotton market some time ago hurt many a business man of the South. We have just heard of three men whose business was badly hurt by dealing in cotton futures. One of them who had several contracts bought carried them until it seemed he had eight thousand dollars profit in them, but instead of closing out his contracts he kept them until he had lost his profits and eighteen hundred dollars besides.

OVERTON IS KILLED IN FIGHT.

Last Chapter of Alabama Sensation Written in Blood. Slain After Escape. Murderer of Lawler and One of His Comrades Die in Battle With Posse.

The final chapter in what is believed to be Alabama's most sensational murder case was written Tuesday night when David D. Overton, former official of Huntersville, under a sentence of death for the murder of Judge W. T. Lawler, his political rival, last summer, was shot and killed by a posse of deputy sheriffs, says a Birmingham dispatch. Overton met death in a fight in which he and six companions engaged after they had escaped from the Jefferson County jail early Tuesday. Tony Malina, another fugitive, also was killed and J. L. Latham, a member of the escaped band, was mortally wounded. Four of Overton's companions fled when the fight with the deputies began, and were pursued by the posse. None of the deputies was injured. Malina was under a death sentence for the murder of a peddler here several months ago, and Latham had been indicted on a charge of forgery.

The seven prisoners fled from Birmingham about 8 o'clock Tuesday morning after overpowering two wardens and a turnkey. They were heavily armed.

David D. Overton was arrested September 25, 1916, on a charge of having murdered Probate Judge W. T. Lawler in Huntsville June 17, 1916. The arrest occurred at Smithville, Tenn., after a search had been made for him in every State in the South and parts of Canada.

In November last Overton was convicted by a Huntsville jury of having murdered Judge Lawler and the death sentence was imposed. An appeal was made to the supreme court and this appeal was pending when he made his escape.

According to officials, the escape would have been the signal for the automatic dismissal of the appeal, and Overton would have suffered the death penalty without further legal action had he been captured alive.

AMERICAN SHIP HEALDTON IS TORPEDOED AND SUNK

Amsterdam, March 22.—Via London, March 23.—The American steamer Healdton was torpedoed Wednesday evening, according to a Terschelling dispatch to the Telegram. Three boats were launched, one of which, containing eight men, one of them badly injured, was brought to Terschelling by a torpedo boat. One of the men died on the way. Nothing is known of the other boats.

It is believed that 14 men were killed by the explosion.

Sinking Confirmed.

London, March 22.—The sinking of the American steamer Healdton is confirmed by a Reuter dispatch from The Hague.

A boat containing seven of the Healdton's crew has reached Terschelling, (North Sea) the dispatch adds.

Shipped Big Lots of Eggs.

During the short month of February, 1917, W. J. Newson & Brother, of Lucama, shipped one thousand and twenty dozen eggs, besides the eggs they sold in and around the town. From March 1st to March 20th, they shipped fourteen hundred dozen. In 1915 they sent off one shipment of one hundred and eleven crates of thirty dozen each, making thirty-three hundred and thirty dozen sent at that time.

Be Careful When Buying Meal.

Cotton-seed meal, as well as guano, should be bought by its analysis. During the past two years there has been some very poor meal shipped into this part of the State. We are told of some Tennessee meal which was shipped to a merchant some time ago. He had it analyzed and found that it contained only a trifle over four per cent ammonia instead of running seven to seven and one-half per cent ammonia.

Supt. L. T. Royall attended a conference of the leaders of the representatives of the Board having in charge the aid to negro education in this State at Fayetteville Tuesday.

AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

Mr. John Ryals, One of Benson's First Citizens, and A Man Prominent in the Affairs of His Town and County, Is Summoned by Death at Age of 72. Many Personal Items of Interest.

Benson, March 22.—Mrs. Lena Utley, of Greenville, N. C., spent Sunday and Monday here on a visit to relatives.

Mrs. Alonzo Parrish returned the first of the week from a several months' visit to St. Petersburg, Fla.

Mr. W. C. Lassiter, of Elevation township, was in the city Saturday for a short while.

Mr. R. E. Parker, of Raleigh, spent Sunday here with friends. Mr. Parker was in school here several years ago and has a number of friends who always welcome him back.

Rev. J. E. Underwood, of Raleigh, preached at the Methodist church here Sunday morning. His sermon was interesting and instructive.

Mr. Lynn Ryals, of Durham, and Mr. Joe Ryals, of Emporia, are here to attend the funeral and burial of their father, Mr. John Ryals, who died at the home of Mr. Jesse Britt yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Archie Barbour, of near Clayton, was here Saturday for several hours on business matters.

Misses Julia Canaday, Minnie Somers and Lena Harwood spent Sunday in Dunn.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Creech, of Dunn, were here for a few hours Sunday visiting relatives.

Mr. W. H. Slocumb went up to Raleigh Monday to attend an Insurance Association which met there the first of the week.

Mr. Alonzo Parrish, who was quite sick the first of the week, is able to be out again.

Mr. Ralph Canaday, of Smithfield, was here Sunday and Monday on a visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Canaday.

Mr. Billie Coats, a prominent farmer, of Elevation township, was in town Monday for a while on business.

Mr. C. T. Johnson went up to Norfolk Tuesday afternoon on business returning home yesterday afternoon.

Mr. W. H. Flowers, of Elevation, was a visitor to Benson Saturday and Monday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Stanford left Tuesday for Baltimore, Washington, and other points to be away for several days. While away, Mr. Stanford, who is pastor of the Benson M. E. Church, will inspect several city churches relative to buying pews for the new church which is in course of construction here.

Messrs. Lausie Hodges, A. W. Hodges, and C. S. Henry were visitors to the Recorder's Court Tuesday, at Smithfield.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Cagle and little children arrived yesterday and will spend a few days here and near here at the homes of relatives. They live at Latta, S. C.

Messrs. A. L. Barefoot, and H. A. Parker were visitors to the city of Lillington Tuesday.

Messrs. S. F. Ivey and J. R. Barbour went up to Clayton Wednesday for a few hours on business.

A baby girl was born yesterday morning to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Barnes of this city.

Mrs. E. A. Fisher went up to Greensboro the first of the week to attend the Woman's Missionary Society of the Baptist church which met there this week.

Mr. John Ryals, who has been a resident of the town of Benson ever since the town was established, died at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. J. M. Britt, here yesterday afternoon, of paralysis. He was seventy-two years old, had been Chief-of-police for the town, Deputy Sheriff of the County, and was a brave Confederate soldier during the Civil War. He was a man who held no hatred towards his fellow-man, but always did all he could for the uplift of those about him. In every progressive move ever made in Benson he was always to be found championing the side of progress and taking a stand that would mean the betterment of those about him. Although he accumulated little property, yet, what is far better, he reared to useful manhood and womanhood three sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him, and are useful citizens in their respective communities. He was not a member of any church, but was of the Primitive Baptist faith, and his life was such that he did not fear to meet

his Pilot face to face. His remains will be laid away in the Benson Cemetery this afternoon, the burial service will be conducted by Rev. W. H. Rollins, pastor of the Baptist church here. His children are Mrs. J. M. Britt, of Benson; Mrs. M. S. Harris, of Goldsboro; Mr. Lynn Ryals, of Durham; Mr. Joe Ryals, of Emporia, and Mr. Jeff Ryals, of South Carolina.

RECOGNIZE THE NEW RUSSIA.

United States to Welcome Another Free Nation. Early Action Likely. Ambassador Francis' Reports of Revolt Tell of Astonishing Results.

Early recognition by the United States of the new government set up by the revolution in Russia was forecast Tuesday, says a Washington dispatch, in the belief that with good order now prevailing the plans being made for a permanent constitutional government, call for the moral support of this government. All reports to the State Department indicate that the army and navy are supporting the provisional government.

Ambassador David R. Francis at Petrograd summarized the situation today in the following cablegram:

"The last week has seen the most astonishing revolution. Two hundred million people who have lived under absolute monarchy for one thousand years and who are engaged in the greatest war in history, have forced their emperor to abdicate for himself and his son and induced the brother to whom was transferred imperial authority to accept on condition that constitutional assembly of people be called to exercise power under authority of government framed by that assembly.

"There is no opposition to the provisional government, which is the council of ministers appointed by the committee of 12 named by the duma. Absolute quiet here and throughout all Russia.

"Plan of provisional government is to call a constitutional assembly or convention whose members shall be elected by the whole people and who shall be empowered to organize good government. Whether republic or constitutional monarchy undecided but conclusions of assembly will be accepted by the people and enforced by the army and navy."

To Speak at Wilmington.

E. I. Guion, vice president of the Federal Farm Loan bank, at Columbia, S. C., will be one of the prominent speakers at the North Carolina Live Stock exposition and conference to be held in Wilmington March 28-29. The subject of his address will be "The Relation of the Federal Land Bank to the Live Stock Industry." The objects of this State-wide meeting are to stimulate the development of the livestock industry and encourage the raising of more and better cattle, hogs and sheep. The discussions will be led by the representatives from the federal department of agriculture and the agricultural experiment station and extension service.

Ready For War.

President Wilson calls extraordinary session of Congress for April 2, to receive a communication concerning grave matters of national policy which should be taken immediately under consideration.

Navy department speeds plans for fleet of "submarine chasers."

Defense council organizes board to take shipping of entire ammunition output of nation to provide immediate and continuous supply.

Army board recommends combination of army and navy air service at once.

Civil service commission takes steps to recruit skilled labor for army and navy plants.

War risk insurance bureau puts rates on war basis and plans to handle all real war risks.

Congressional leaders plan nonpartisan compromise organization of house to handle defense measures on "American" basis.

Secretary Daniels hastens bids for construction of destroyers.

General board of the navy and general staff of the army take up plans for impending hostilities.

Pacific organization rebuked by Secretary of Commerce Redfield.

War and navy department heads call conference tomorrow of aeroplane manufacturers to speed up building of aerial fleet.—Greensboro News.

WHY WORLD FIGHTS PRUSSIAN

Sterling Answer by Socialist Leader in Reichstag. Despots' Last Hold. Scheidemann Demands That German Empire Also Yield to Liberal Influences.

Berlin, Monday, March 19 (via London, March 20).—Philipp Scheidemann, Socialist leader of the reichstag, says in the Socialist newspaper, Vorwaerts: "It does not require many words to explain why almost the whole world is arrayed against us. The answer is given quickly. The whole world sees among our enemies more or less developed forms of democracy and in us it sees only Prussians.

"We have always answered by referring to the absolutism of Russia, but now czarism has gone and the emperor's successor is to accept the throne only if the representatives of the people agree. These representatives are to be elected on the basis of universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage.

"In Asia the empire of the mandarins opposed every reform. They desired an emperor with absolute power as long as he did their will and thereby undermined the monarchy and laid the foundation of a republic. In the European central empire similar spirits seek to build similar Chinese walls and hinder every reform. The clock shows five minutes to 12. They imagine they hold up the time when they move back the hands to 11.

"Why does the chancellor shrink back now from unconditional necessity? Always the hesitator, the procrastinator, Bethmann-Hollweg wants to begin to cure Prussia after the war. Russia also promised all reforms after the war, but the war lasted too long for the Russians. Why postpone till tomorrow what is absolutely necessary today, what even the king himself declared years ago was one of the urgent matters of the business of the state? Now is the time for decisive action. The difficulties which might arise if the government adopts the reichstag system of election for Prussian elections are as a featherweight as compared with the difficulties which will come if it does not do this. The chancellor should not delay one day. The Prussian people as well as the other German states will stand as one man at his side if he acts decisively."

PREFERRED STOCK REDUCED.

American Tobacco Company Cuts off \$25,989,400.

The American Tobacco Company has filed with the Secretary of State of New Jersey notice of a decrease in preferred stock of \$25,989,400. This leaves the total preferred at \$54,010,600. The common stock totals \$100,000,000.

Citizens Called on To Enroll.

Mayor T. L. Kirkpatrick, of Charlotte, has issued a proclamation calling upon every able-bodied man of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County who will bear arms if the nation goes to war, to enroll at the Mayor's office. He also calls on the women to volunteer for Red Cross service. The public buildings are asked to display the American Flag and all citizens are asked to wear the insignia of the country.

Collected A Very Old Note.

Mr. W. R. Davis, of Lucama, says he never gives up a note or account, but keeps on trying to collect. During last fall and winter he collected several accounts five, six and seven years old. On March 10th he collected a note for \$35.00 which was between thirty-two and thirty-three years old. It had the interest rate at eight per cent. The interest without any compounding was more than eighty-nine dollars. Mr. Davis compromised this and got one hundred dollars for note and interest.

Our Boys on the Way Home.

At last the news comes from the border that the Second North Carolina Regiment, of which the Selma Company is a part, has entrained and are on the way home. They will be carried to Goldsboro where they will be in camp for a few days awaiting future orders of the War Department.