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PRESIDENT TAKES INEVITABLE STEP

ASKS AUTHORITY TO ARM MERCHANTMEN AND OTHER NECESSARY MEASURES.

FOR AN ARMED NEUTRALITY

Immediate Response Was Introduction in House of Bill Empowering President to Furnish Merchantment With Guns and Gunners.

Washington.—President Wilson took the inevitable step and asked Congress for authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American ships and lives against the German submarine menace—to put the Nation in a state of armed neutrality. The immediate response was the introduction in the House of a bill empowering him to furnish guns and gunners to American merchantmen, "to employ such other instrumentalities and methods" as may become necessary, and providing for a \$100,000,000 bond issue to be used in his discretion for war insurance to encourage American commerce to brave the submarine peril. The bill may be brought up in the House with special rules for its immediate consideration. The President's long expected action, while received in the main with expressions of support, threatens to force an extra session of Congress.

The Republicans, disinclined to grant him blanket authority while Congress is in recess, give evidence of opposing the legislation the President asks, not for the purpose of withholding it, but to force him to have Congress in special session to take a hand in the next steps, which they feel will lead to war. The Republicans are receiving passive support from the Democratic element classed as "pacifist."

The President's advisers deplore this situation for its effect in Germany, where they are convinced it will feed the official impression that Congress will not support the President if he finds it necessary to go to war, and that he is not speaking the sentiments of a united country.

The President's request for authority to "use other instrumentalities" is the principal sticking point. Even the Republicans and some of the Democrats who hesitate to give him what he asks, say they would be willing to give him authority to arm American ships or act on a definite proposal, but are reluctant to "sign a blank check."

The Administration faces this division in its own ranks in its effort to convince the Kaiser that the United States is now preparing to enforce respect for its rights on the high seas. Some Democrats point to the President's own statement that he considered that he had already implied authority to act, and might do so without sanction of Congress. Mr. Wilson himself, however, said he preferred not to act on implications, and did not desire to be left without specific authority and no Congress to which to turn. All these things point toward an extra session, although a way out may develop at the last moment.

TWENTY-SIX AMERICANS WERE ABOARD LACONIA.

Seems Certain That Some Were Lost—Official Reports Lacking.

New York.—Twenty-six Americans, six of whom were cabin passengers and twenty paid members of the crew, were on board the Cunard liner Laconia, from New York February 18 for Liverpool with 75 passengers and a crew of 216, when the vessel was sunk by a German submarine Sunday night. One casualty, as yet unidentified, was officially reported by the Liverpool office of the line of officials here.

The registered tonnage of the Laconia was 18,150 gross, her length was 625 feet, and she had a beam of 72 feet. Designed for high-class passenger trade, her fittings were models of modern marine architecture.

The names of the American passengers and their addresses as given by the line here, and confirmed in part by relatives in the United States, are as follows:

Floyd P. Gibbons, of The Chicago Tribune.

Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Lieut. Col. Frank E. Harris, United States Coast Artillery Corps, stationed at Fort Dupont, near Philadelphia.

John T. Kirby, Raleigh, N. C.

PLAN INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION

COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED BEING APPOINTED TO ARRANGE PROGRAM.

NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL

Will Co-operate in Organizing Industrial and Civilian Activities of Nation "In View of the Critical Situation."

New York.—A tentative program for mobilization of the industrial and civilian activities of the Nation "in view of the critical situation," will be outlined by a committee of 100 national leaders of capital, labor, agriculture, and organizations of citizens of foreign descent, it was announced here by V. Everet Macey, president of the National Civic Federation.

The committee which is now being appointed, will co-operate with the committee on industrial mobilization of the National Council of Defense. Its formation was authorized at the recent meeting in this city of the Federations executive council at night members of the defense council urged the necessity of co-ordinating civilian activities with those of the nation, states and municipalities.

"Concerted effort, poise and knowledge will be requisite to deal with the question of how far the government shall enter into private industry through the stress of war necessity," Mr. Macey said in a statement outlining the scope of the committee's program. "But it is the duty of American economists, business men, labor and agricultural leaders to take care that this is done as an 'emergency war measure,' so to speak.

"In the event of war with the Central Powers, this country would face problems never faced by any other country, growing out of the fact that 33,000,000 of its population are either foreign-born or of foreign or mixed parentage and that 28,000,000 came from the countries now at war, many having transferred to our shores their hatreds and sympathies.

"These transplanted antagonisms will produce their own peculiar problems, the solution of which will call for understanding, tact and patience."

EXPLANATION MADE BY THE GERMAN LEGATION

As to "Relative Safety" Promised Dutch Vessels Navigating the English Channel.

The Hague.—The statement issued by the German legation here to the effect that the torpedoing of the seven Dutch merchantmen was due "to an extremely regrettable coincidence of circumstances which is unfortunate, but was beyond our control," contains also an explanation, made, it says, "to prevent erroneous impressions."

It states that in view of the situation of Dutch vessels in English ports the sailing time for these ships was first fixed for February 5, then for February 9, and then for midnight of February 10. Finally "for reasons for which England was to blame," the sailing date was postponed to February 22 or March 17. The only date of sailing for which absolute safety from submarines could be guaranteed was March 17, the statement says, as by that time all German submarines would have possessed instructions in regard to these vessels. Even then, safety from mines could not be guaranteed, shippers having been warned on Feb. 6 that the danger zone had been mined extensively. For the same reasons, the statement says, until Mar. 5, relative security, meaning safety dependent on good fortune, will apply to the channel to the west of Denmark through which Dutch trans-Atlantic shipping must pass.

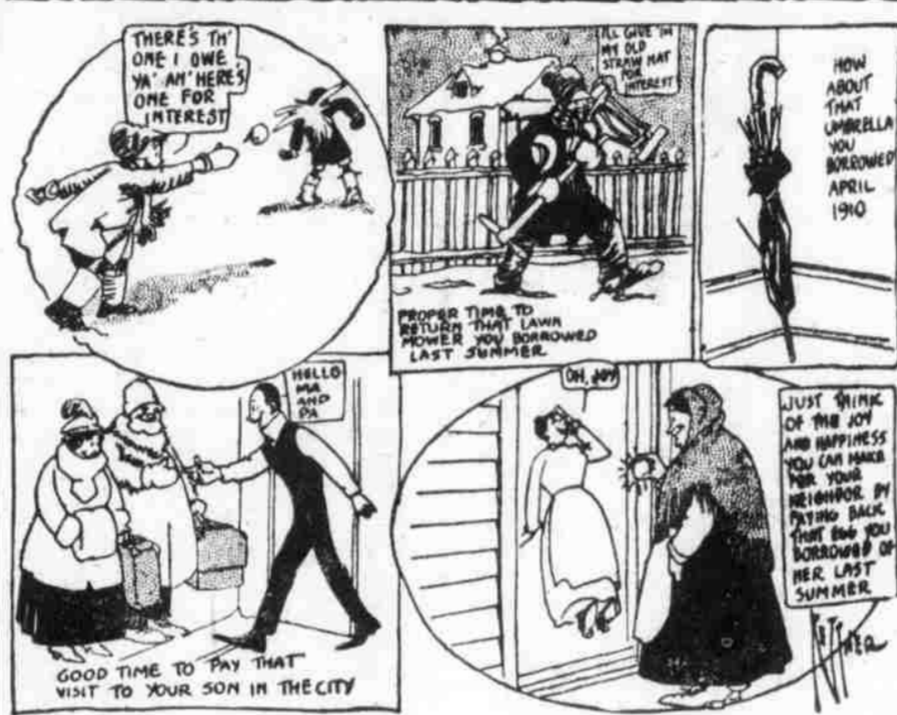
FODDER DESTROYED; MUST KILL CATTLE

The Hague, via London.—A large amount of fodder was on board of the merchantman torpedoed on last week. In consequence, it will be necessary to kill a large part of Holland's cattle.

FOUR KILLED AND THREE INJURED IN BIG WRECK

Philadelphia.—Four persons were killed and three injured, two seriously, in a double wreck on the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, near Bristol, Penn. All of the victims with the exception of J. R. King, an engineer, were attendants in charge of two cars of thoroughbred horses be-

PAY-UP WEEK



OFFICIALS ARE VOTED FREE A NATIONAL 'BONE DRY' BILL

PROBERS INTO LEAK ON PEACE NOTE HAVE COMPLETE REPORT.

Fail to Substantiate Charges Against the Government Officials.—Short Selling on New York Exchange is Criticized in Report.

Washington.—Vindication of all public officials whose names were brought into the investigation of charges that there was a leak to Wall Street on President Wilson's peace note was voted unanimously by the House Rules Committee. The report has been put in final shape after certain additional records of New York brokers have been examined.

"It is understood the committee finds that Thomas W. Lawson's sensational charges were not substantiated; that R. W. Bolling, brother-in-law of the President, had nothing to do with a "leak" and that advance information concerning the note was furnished to brokers by J. Fred Esary and W. W. Price, local newspaper men, who connected deductions with facts obtained in conversations with other reporters who had been told in confidence by Secretary Lansing that a note was coming.

In connection with violations of newspaper ethics, the report says a sub-committee has been appointed to confer with the standing committee of correspondents to determine what changes shall be made in the rules regulating the admission to the congressional press galleries.

No recommendations are made, but the practice of selling short on the New York Stock Exchange was criticized. F. A. Connolly, a local broker, is censured for his testimony before the committee and E. F. Hutton and Company for failing to produce copies of all messages concerning the note which reached its office.

ALL WOMEN WITHDRAW FROM INAUGURAL PARADE.

Controversy With Chairman Harper Because State Floats Were Ruled Out.

Washington.—A controversy over what part women shall take in the inauguration ceremonies came to a head with an announcement by Mrs. James H. Boggs, president of the Women's Wilson Union and a member of the Inaugural Committee, that because of a ruling barring from the inaugural parade a section of state floats being organized under her direction, she had declared "the withdrawal of all women from the parade."

Robert N. Harper, chairman of the committee, replied to the announcement with the statement that Mrs. Boggs had no authority to declare such a withdrawal. He said women were wanted in the parade, and that the state floats had been barred only because the plans for them were in progress at the time they were in progress and they could not be completed in time to conform to the committee's standards.

RESOLUTION TO POSTPONE DATE OF "BONE DRY" BILL.

Washington.—Postponement of the effective date of the "bone dry" prohibition amendment to the postoffice bill which has just been adopted until October 1, 1917, is proposed in a concurrent resolution introduced by Representative Moon, of Tennessee, chairman of the Postoffice Committee.

ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION MAKES LONGEST STRIDE IN HISTORY.

Measure Has Already Passed the Senate and Will Shut Off All Shipments of Whiskey Into States Now Dry.

Washington.—Absolute prohibition legislation took its longest forward stride in the Nation's history when the House, after two hours of uproarious debate, approved by a four to one majority a Senate measure which would raise an iron-clad barrier against importation of liquor into prohibition states. It is expected to receive the approval of President Wilson within a week, adding immediately to the "bone dry" territory about one-third of continental United States.

The provision is said to be the most far-reaching that could be enacted by the Federal Government, and as sweeping as would be possible until any method short of a National prohibition amendment. It would cut off entirely liquor importations, amounting now to millions of dollars annually, into the large number of states which have forbidden manufacture or sale, but have permitted importation for personal use.

Advocates of prohibition divided themselves over the expediency of the step, some friends of the cause declaring so drastic a law would have a reactionary effect. In the same way, those who have opposed prohibition were not unanimous in opposition when the vote was taken. The roll call brought cheers and cries of "bone dry" from all parts of the House, however, and the result was greeted with a noisy demonstration.

The vote as officially announced was 321 to 72, but a recheck of the roll changed it to 319 to 72. Party lines were completely broken down, and numerous Representatives from prohibition states were recorded in the negative. So large a vote seldom is recorded on any measure.

SAYS MENACE OF SUBMARINES WILL SOON BE SOLVED.

Great Britain's Navy at Grips With German U-Boats, Declare Carson.

London.—In introducing the naval estimates in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty, said the vote for 400,000 men which the government was asking demonstrated the strength of the navy. He expressed the opinion that the country was extremely fortunate in having Admiral Jellicoe at the head of the Admiralty. Admiral Beatty, continued Sir Edward, was now commanding the greatest fleet which ever sailed the sea, and had the complete confidence of the officers and men.

In announcing that he had received reports of 40 encounters with submarines in the first 18 days of February, Sir Edward said:

"The fact that we got to grips with them more than 40 times in 18 days was an enormous achievement."

ONE DEAD, NINE HURT AS RESULT OF RIOT OF WOMEN.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A riot by the wives of striking employees of the Franklin Sugar Refining Company, resulted in the killing of one man and the serious injury of nine others when the police and strikers clashed near the refinery.

The dead man fell before a police volley fired as the rioters showered bricks on reserves rushed from city hall. Mounted Police Sergeant Jolly's assistance was required to get the rioters off the premises.

FIGHTING FORCE OF FOUR MILLION

BIG ARMY WOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER UNIVERSAL SERVICE BILL.

SUGGESTS WIDE PUBLICITY

Secretary Baker Wants Benefit of a Thoughtful Public Opinion.—Bill is Sent to Senate by Secretary of War.

Washington.—The Army General Staff universal service bill was transmitted to the Senate Military Committee by Secretary Baker without a definite expression by the Administration either on the general subject or the specific proposal.

The Secretary suggested that wide publicity be given the staff plan "to the end that both Congress and the War Department can, in any subsequent consideration given to the subject, have the benefit of an enlightened, thoughtful public opinion upon the needs and wishes of the country."

In round numbers, the staff plan would supply a trained force of 4,000,000 men with one year of intensive military instruction. It is estimated by the War College that approximately 500,000 boys in their nineteenth year would be available for training annually. They would, under the plan, be liable to call to the colors until 32 years of age, and then would pass into the unorganized reserve until 45 years of age.

The bill's purpose is to constitute a first reserve of 1,500,000, ready to respond instantly to a call to arms. A second reserve of equal size, but only partially equipped, would require some time to take the field. Eventually, there would be 1,000,000 additional men ready to fill in gaps in the front.

In addition, there would be a regular army of 24,000 officers and 885 enlisted men. Of the latter would form the overseas force of 29,000 the frontier forces, under command of the regular army, and the remainder of the force would be trained in the States. If the proposal is adopted, it is estimated the percentage of the fighting force would have been proportionately increased.

SAN FRANCISCO HONORS MEMORY OF HERO LIEUTENANT

San Francisco.—The remains of Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, killed in San Antonio, Texas, on Monday night, arrived here over the Southern Pacific Railroad for interment at Presidio.

A drizzling rain, a heavy force of artillery and four companies of coast artillery who stood at attention under arms as the funeral cortege was taken from the city.

The funeral cortege proceeded to the City Hall where it was held in the state. At the close of the service, the line of march, with the civilians in front, headed by the band, in memory of the hero who won the hearts of the San Franciscans, for what he had done when they were homeless and struck in the chaotic days of the 1906 fire and earthquake.

VILLISTAS ARE BEATING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF JAUREZ.

El Paso, Texas.—Villa troops are reported to be concentrating in the angle formed by the Mexican Central and Mexican Western Railroad, south of Juarez, the Guerrero and in the St. El Paso district west of Chihuahua City. The State Capital again is threatened with attack, and residents of the city fear that city will be besieged by Villa troops. Villa's main command is reported to have reached San Antonio Chihuahua.

Wounded Villa soldiers were brought across the border, following the fight at Chihuahua.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE DELAYED.

Havana.—The Government forces under Colonel Pujol have been delayed in their advance against Camaguey, Capital of the province of Camaguey, and the advance has passed without success. Colonel Pujol is reported to have been assisted by the Cuban forces in the attack on Camaguey.

RIDDICK FORMALLY IS MADE PRESIDENT

HEAD OF NORTH CAROLINA A. AND M. COLLEGE TAKES OATH OF OFFICE.

GLARK ADMINISTERS THE OATH

Gov. Bickett Presided and Ceremonies Were very Impressive.—Dr. Drinkwater of Lehigh Speaker.

Raleigh.—Wallace Carl Riddick was impressively inducted to the office of president of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, succeeding Dr. D. H. Hill, who has for six months been devoting his energies and talents to the preparation of "The History of North Carolina's Part in the Civil War."

The ceremonies were most successful and inspiring, opening with the academic procession consisting of 11 divisions, and including college faculty, student body, alumni, state officers, trustees, delegates from societies, from universities and colleges the country over, and the staffs of the State Department of Agriculture and Experiment Station and Extension Service.

Governor Bickett presided at the inaugural exercises in Pullen Hall, and made a brief and forceful speech on the scope and responsibility of the college in its relation to the state. There were addresses by President Drinkwater, of Lehigh University, and Dr. Herbert Quick, of the Federal Farm Loan Board.

The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Walter Clark, and the formal induction to office was by Governor Bickett. President Riddick spoke comprehensively of the work and aims of the college—the training



W. C. RIDDICK

in agriculture, in textiles and in engineering and other vocations, of the special short courses to meet the needs of the great army of boys and grown-ups who cannot take the regular college training, but have time for a few weeks each season to better fit themselves for life. He laid down a broad platform for liberal education and high technical training, seasoned and elevated by the Christian culture that makes for the well rounded and polished manhood.

There were greetings by President E. K. Graham, of the State University; Dr. W. L. Poteat, of Wake Forest; Dr. J. Y. Joyner, for the public schools; Editor Clarence Poe, of The Progressive Farmer; Major W. A. Graham, Lieutenant Governor O. Max Gardner, James Edgar McDougall, for the senior class and others. The invocation and benediction was by Rt. Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina.

After the ceremonies there was a sumptuous luncheon served the special guests and the members of the Legislature and state officers.

Optometrists Hold Annual Meeting. Greensboro.—The North Carolina Scientific Section of Optometry held its regular monthly meeting here in Dr. J. W. Taylor's office. This being the time for the annual election of officers, the following were chosen: President, Dr. A. P. Staley; vice president, Dr. A. G. Spingler; secretary-treasurer, Dr. J. Fred Tesh. After the transaction of business the section went into a scientific session, many subjects affecting the profession of optometry were discussed, demonstrations in