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## VIRTUALLY A STATE OF WAR BETWEEN U. S. AND GERMANY

PRESIDENT IS CONTEMPLATING CALL FOR IMMEDIATE SESSION OF CONGRESS.

## NATION IS FACE TO FACE WITH DEFINITE WAR POLICY

All the Conditions as Outlined by President in His Message Announcing Break With Germany as Leading to State of Armed Neutrality Have Now Been Fulfilled.

Washington.—With the announcement of the ruthless destruction of the unarmed American merchant ships by submarines, it was unofficially admitted here that virtually a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Technically the United States remains in a position of armed neutrality. Whether this shall be changed before April 16, the date fixed for a special session of Congress, the war making branch of the Government, President Wilson has not decided.

One step the President is contemplating is a call for an immediate session of Congress to hear an address asking for authority to adopt aggressive measures against the submarine menace.

Already American ships are being armed to defend themselves. The next move must be to send warships with orders to seek out submarines and clear the trans-Atlantic lines.

Some of the highest officials of the Government hold that the Executive has the power to declare a state of war exists and to proceed with aggressive protective steps pending the assembling of Congress. There is no indication, however, that the President will follow that course.

Of the three ships destroyed, two were unloaded and homeward bound, and all were American-built. American-owned and officered, and manned largely by American citizens. Messages dispatched indicate that all were sunk with complete disregard for the safety of those on board, and that many of the crew may have been lost.

## Nation Face to Face With Definite War Policy.

New developments brought the Government face to face with the problem of formulating a definite policy for the Nation in case the United States actually enters the war. This possibility was mentioned by the President in his inaugural address March 5.

All of the conditions outlined by the President in his message announcing the diplomatic break with Germany as leading to a state of armed neutrality have now been fulfilled. The "overt act" described by him then has actually come if in fact it had not been committed when the President went before Congress. Since then he has established a state of armed neutrality without the specific authority of Congress.

President Wilson was out automobiling when the first Associated Press dispatches telling of the disasters came in quick succession. Through Secretary Tumulty he was given all available facts immediately on his return.

Several hours later official reports came from Consul Frost at Queenstown and Consul General Skinner at London, telling of the sinking of the City of Memphis, the Vigilancia and the Illinois. These dispatches confirmed press reports but added few details.

International lawyers and constitutional experts here showed no hesitancy in saying that President Wilson has full authority to interpret as an act of war, an announcement that the country considers that an actual state of war exists by reason of Germany's flagrant assault on American shipping.

Such action would be subject to the approval of Congress.

Despite the unwarmed sinking of big passenger liners like the California and the Laconia, the jeopardizing of Americans on nearly a score of other vessels, and the sinking of three other American ships, the Housatonic, the Lyman M. Law and the Algonquin since the unrestricted warfare began, some officials, inspired by the President's announced reluctance to believe that Germany would carry through her threat, have clung desperately to the hope that some slight respect for international law might still be shown.

## BIG STRIKE HAS BEEN CALLED OFF

PRESIDENT'S MEDIATION BOARD BRING ABOUT SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT.

## GREAT CALAMITY IS AVERTED

Settlement Early Monday Morning Nullifies Order for Four Hundred Thousand Trainmen to Walk Out.

New York.—An official of the conference committee of railroad managers announced at 12:45 o'clock Monday morning that the railroad strike was off.

A few minutes after the announcement was made, the railroad managers went from the Grand Central Terminal to the conference hotel and were joined immediately by the mediators. They refused to make any statement on the way to the meeting room. It was presumed the announcement would be made through Secretary Lane.

The mediators and managers were believed to be awaiting the arrival of the brotherhood chiefs, who had retired, before making the announcement that the strike had been averted.

The brotherhood men arrived at the hotel at 1:20 o'clock and immediately went to the conference room.

The managers left the conference room at 3 o'clock, but the brotherhood chiefs remained in conference with the mediators. It was learned that Daniel Willard, one of the mediators had informed the hotel management that he would give up his rooms.

The managers, headed by Elisha Lee, returned to the conference room at 2:30 and Secretary Lane sent for the newspapermen. Secretary Lane issued this statement:

"Regardless of the decision of the Supreme Court on the Adamson law the basic eight-hour day will go into effect."

"The details are being worked up on by a joint committee which will have its negotiations completed by noon," Mr. Lane said.

The conference committee of railroad managers early this morning authorized President Wilson's mediators to make whatever arrangements were necessary with the railroad brotherhoods to call off the threatened strike.

The formal letter in which this authorization was made signed by Elisha Lee, chairman of the managers' committee, was as follows:

"In the national crisis precipitated by events of which we heard this afternoon, the national conference committee of railroad men joins with you in the conviction that neither at home nor abroad should there be fear or hope that the efficient operation of the railroads of this country will be hampered or impaired.

"Therefore you are authorized to assure the nation there will be no strike, and as a basis for such assurance, we hereby authorize the committee of the Council of National Defense to grant the employees who are about to strike whatever adjustment your committee deems necessary to guarantee uninterrupted and efficient operation of the railroads as an indispensable arm of national defense."

The decision reached by the managers at their midnight conference means that the brotherhoods have won an important victory, although it does not bring them all their original demands. By the agreement, it is assumed they will be awarded pro rata time for overtime on the basic eight-hour day which they have been assured.

## THREE AMERICAN VESSELS SUNK BY SUBMARINE S.

City of Memphis, Vigilancia and Illinois Are Sent to Bottom.

London.—The sinking of the American steamers City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilancia was announced. Fourteen men from the Vigilancia are missing, as are some of the men from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois was landed safely.

The City of Memphis, in ballast from Cardiff to New York, was sunk by gunfire. The second officer and fifteen men of the crew have been landed. A patrol-boat has gone in search of the other members of the crew. The Illinois, from London for Fort Arthur, Texas, in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock Sunday morning.

The Vigilancia was torpedoed without warning. The submarine did not appear. The captain, first and second mates, first, second and third engineers and 23 men of the crew have been landed at the Scilly Islands. The fourth engineer, 13 men are missing.

## BADLY WOUNDED BRITISH TANK



One of the best photographs of the much-talked-of British tank, the armored machine that leaps trenches, climbs hills and does other almost inconceivable stunts. The picture shows one of the monsters that has been badly injured.

## UPRISING ABDICATES CZAR ALGONQUIN SUNK BY U-BOAT

REVOLUTION SWEEPS MINISTRY OUT OF OFFICE AND PLACES DUMA IN CHARGE.

New National Council Formed With Offices Held by Men Who Are Close to the People—Grand Duke Alexandrovitch is Regent.

Petrograd.—The Emperor of Russia has abdicated and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, his younger brother, has been named as regent. The Russian ministry, charged with corruption and incompetence, has been swept out of office. One minister, Alexander Protopopoff, head of the interior department, is reported to have been killed, and the other ministers, as well as the president of the imperial council, are under arrest.

A new national cabinet is announced, with Prince L. Voff as president of the council and premier, and the other offices held by the men who are close to the Russian people.

For several days Petrograd has been the scene of one of the most remarkable risings in history. Beginning with minor food riots and labor strikes the cry for food reached the hearts of the soldiers, and one by one the regiments rebelled, until finally those troops that had for a time stood loyal to the government, took up their arms and marched into the ranks of the revolutionists.

The president of the Duma, Michael V. Rodzianko, was the leading figure among the deputies who unanimously decided to oppose the imperial order for a dissolution of the house. They continued their sessions and M. Rodzianko informed the emperor, then at the front, that the hour had struck when the will of the people must prevail. Even the imperial council realized the gravity of the situation and added its appeal to that of the Duma that the emperor should take steps to give the people a policy and their desires and in order that there should be no interference with carrying on the war to a victorious ending.

## MAMMOTH CONTRACT FOR FIGHTING CRAFT IS LET.

Navy Department Contract Calls For Many Big Vessels.

Washington.—Contracts for what is believed to be the largest single order for fighting craft ever given by any nation were placed by the Navy Department.

Private builders undertook to turn out four great battle cruisers and six scout cruisers and pledged themselves to keep 70 per cent of their working forces on navy construction.

In response to an appeal to their patriotism by Secretary Daniels, the major shipbuilders have agreed to accept 10 per cent net profit on the battle cruisers, whose cost will represent about \$76,000,000 of the total sum involved in the day's contracts. A fifth battle cruiser will be built at the Philadelphia Navy Yard so as not to strain the limit of facilities of private establishments.

The bulk of the orders are beset with offers of men, heavy work, and are getting as high as 50 per cent profit on these jobs with more work in sight than they can do. They have placed their facilities at the disposal of the Government, making it unnecessary for the President to consider employing authority to commandeer plants.

Both classes of cruisers ordered are new types to naval architecture, and are designed for a speed of 35 knots an hour.

## AMERICAN SHIP LOADED WITH FOODSTUFF SUNK WITHOUT WARNING.

Declaration of War By United States Would Have to Be Made By Congress—Arming Vessels Is As Far As President Can Go.

Washington.—In the absence of details as to the destruction of the steamer Algonquin officials withheld comment, but the unofficial view was that nothing in the incident changes the situation between the United States and Germany.

President Wilson already has taken steps to place the nation in a state of armed neutrality, which with the breaking of diplomatic relations with Germany is practically the last measure possible short of war. American ships now are being armed to defend themselves against unlawful submarine attack. The general view is that arming of ships is the only answer to submarine operations short of a declaration of war, which may be made only by Congress.

Consul Stephens, at Plymouth, reported the sinking of the Algonquin in the following dispatch:

"Steamer Algonquin of New York, from New York for London with foodstuffs, sunk by German submarine 65 miles west of Bishop's (rock) March 12, 6 a. m. Captain reports vessel not warned and sunk by shell fire. Crew of 27 all saved in own boats. Submarine refused assistance. No other boats in sight."

## CHINA FORMALLY BREAKS RELATIONS WITH GERMANY.

Ships Have Been Seized at Shanghai.

Washington.—American Minister Reisch at Peking reported to the State Department that China had severed diplomatic relations with Germany and that the German Minister had been handed his passports.

China has also taken possession of all German merchant ships in Shanghai, about six in number, placed their crews on shore under guard, and placed armed guards on the vessels.

Recent dispatches from Peking have spoken in high terms of the part American Minister Reisch has taken in the steps leading up to China's action.

## ANOTHER MONTH TO SOLVE CAR SHORTAGE.

Washington.—The railroads of the country were given another month's grace by the Interstate Commerce Commission to solve car shortage and congestion problems, recent drastic rules for the return of foreign cars to owning lines being further suspended until April 15.

## MEMBERS OF TARIFF COMMISSION SELECTED.

Washington.—President Wilson, it was learned, has selected the following men to comprise the tariff commission:

Prof. Frank W. Taussig, of Harvard, chairman.

Former Representative David J. Lewis, of Cumberland, Md., Democrat.

Former Representative William Kent, of Kentfield, Cal., Independent.

Daniel C. Roper, of McCol, S. C., First Assistant Postmaster General, Democrat.

E. P. Costigan, of Denver, Progressive.

W. S. Culbertson, of Emporia, Kan., Republican.

## SPECIAL SESSION OF SENATE ADJOURNS

MOST ALL OF THE 1,400 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS WERE CONFIRMED.

## COLOMBIA TREATY FAILED

Treaty Was Unexpectedly Withdrawn on Motion of Chairman Stone—Substitute Pact Will Be Submitted at Extra Session.

Washington.—The special Senate session which began March 5 adjourned sine die after Democratic leaders had secured confirmation of most of the 1,400 nominations which failed at the last session, and had despaired of attaining ratification of the \$25,000,000 Colombia treaty.

The treaty was unexpectedly withdrawn on motion of Chairman Stone of the Foreign Relations Committee. Its provisions for payment of indemnity to Colombia for the partition of Panama and its expression of regret for the ill-feeling arising out of that incident had encountered stubborn Republican opposition which convinced the Democrats there was no chance of ratification. It is expected a substitute pact will be submitted during the extra session of Congress beginning April 16.

The session just closed was the first of its kind in many years which was not called upon to confirm a cabinet nomination. President Wilson decided that all of the members of his official family could be retained without the formality of renomination.

Among the hundreds of nominations confirmed, only one met with pronounced opposition. It was that of Dr. Cary T. Grayson, the president's naval aide and physician, to be a rear admiral. No action was taken on the nominations for the tariff commission made this week.

The outstanding achievement of the session was the senate's quick response to President Wilson's plea for a change in rule to limit debate and prevent in the future, such filibusters as that which killed the armed neutrality bill.

## PRESIDENT WILSON MAKES APPEAL TO PREVENT STRIKE

"Country's Safety Makes Settlement Imperative."—President's Appeal to Prevent Railroad Strike.

Washington.—President Wilson, Friday sent a personal appeal to representatives of the two sides in the railroad controversy urging they do everything possible to cooperate with the mediation committee.

The President's appeal followed: "I deem it my duty and right to appeal to you in this time of national peril to open again the question issue between the railroads and operatives with a view to accommodation or settlement.

"With my approval, a committee of the Council of National Defense is about to seek a conference with that end in view.

"A general interruption of the way traffic of the country at this time would entail a danger to the nation against which I have the right to appeal to you in this time of national peril to open again the question issue between the railroads and operatives with a view to accommodation or settlement.

"It is now the duty of every able man to bring matters to a speedy and immediate accommodation for the safety of the country against dangers affecting its own peace and the peace of the whole world. Accommodation absolutely and seems to me to render a choice or action inconceivable.

The President's message, Elisha Lee, chairman of the conference committee of railroad managers, L. E. Sheppard, acting general conductor; W. G. Lewis, general trainman; W. S. Stone, president of the engineers and conductors; and the president of the firemen's union.

The President is confident a speedy up will be no strike. He is for special ready is considering the suspension of the law in plants of the men involved in the strike.

## NEW ALIGNMENT RUMORED

El Paso, Tex.—Reports of a political alignment in the New York Navy building sixty submarine type, to be completed in 110-foot type, to be completed in sixty to eighty days.

The President's approval, the Secretary also ordered the graduation of the first and second classes at the Naval Academy. The first class will go out on March 29, releasing 172 junior officers to fill existing vacancies, and the second in September, furnishing 202 more a full year before they otherwise would be available.

## ADAMSON LAW HELD CONSTITUTIONAL

IN EPOCHAL DECISION SUPREME COURTS OF UNITED STATES UPHOLD LAW.

## VOTE WAS FIVE TO FOUR

Congress Has Power to Keep Commerce Channels Open.—Fixes Eight-Hour Day as Basis For Wages.—Chief Justice Delivers Opinion.

Washington.—In an epochal decision holding congress to be clothed with any and all power necessary to keep open the channels of interstate commerce, the supreme court dividing five to four, sustained the Adamson law as constitutional and enforceable in every feature.

The immediate effect of the decision will be to fix a permanent eight-hour basic day in computing wage scales on interstate railroads, for which a nationwide strike twice has been threatened and to give, effective from January 1 this year, increases in wages to trainmen of about 25 per cent, at a cost to the railroads estimated at from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 a year.

The court, through Chief Justice White, declared both carriers and their employees, engaged in a business charged with a public interest, subject to the right of congress to compulsorily arbitrate a dispute affecting the operating of that business.

"Whatever would be the right of an employe engaged in private business to demand such wages as he desires, to leave the employment if he does not get them and by concert of action to agree with others to leave on the same condition," said the opinion, "such rights are necessarily subject to limitation when an employment is accepted in a business charged with a public interest, and to which congress has power to regulate."

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