PRESIDENT WILSON WILL TAKE PERSONAL CHARGE OF NATION'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN NEW CRISIS

rine Warfare Began.

PROMPT ACTION LIKELY

Every Effort Being Made to Establish Facts Surrounding Sinking of the Persia.

Report That Liner Carried Gun Representations Made by United States Artillery Engagements Continue on Revives Discussion.

Washington, Jan. 3. - President Wilson started to Washington from Hot Springs, Va., tonight to take personal charge of the Naing of the British steamship Persia with a loss of at least one American life. The situation is regarded in official circles as being the most serious to confront this government since the submarine operations of the Central Powers be-

Lay Facts Before Cabinet Today. his honeymoon and return to the cap, which two second capin ital at once after telephone confer-Germans, were removed. ences with Secretary Lansing and Mr. Tumulty, his private secretary. It was

found, however, that he could not conveniently start until 8:45 tonight. He should arrive at 7 o'clock tomorrow The United States is represented tonight as being prepared and determined to take any action that the facts concerning the Persia, yet to be estabished, may warrant. Officials still are trying to view the situation with an open mind, but it is apparent that they

from consular agens at Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt. Every effort will be made to estab- an army reserve. lish the truth of the report that the Persia was torpedoed without warning. Secretary Lansing contemplates taking no step until the complete details are

One Source of Gratification.

ation in assurances given by Baron the State Department. Baron Zweidnek is said to have suggested that judgment be withheld until the facts were known, and to have expressed the belief that the final explanation of the latest incident would be satisfac-

He is said to have assured the Secretary of his belief that if an Austrian submarine commander violated the principles of international law and the rules of humanity, his government would be quick to take action which would fully satisfy the United States. Baron Zwiedinek also sought information for the benefit of his govern-

Secretary Lansing today instructed Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, to make informal inquiries which might lead to the establishment of the identity of the submarine which sank the Persia or the receipt of information concerning the circumstances of the at-

The Secretary acted upon an indication received from an undisclosed source that no submarines other than nationality were known to be operating near the point where the Persia is expected to proceed as he thinks

cent fiel dof operations. Reported to Have Carried Gun. The report that the liner was carying a 4.7 gun served to revive consideration of the position taken by mercial service: the United States in regard to armed hant ships belonging to belligerents mestic Commerce; appointment of a might be allowed to enter and leave director of the field service and separ-American waters with guns of six-inch ate appropriations for collection and The is practically nothing the Federal Proposition of the new youndered appointment of five new youndered with the beautiful the b Calibre or less, mounted upon their exploitation of samples and literature

Situation Regarded Most Seri-ous Since Teutonic Subma- RELEASE GERMANS MORE SHIPS SUNK TAKEN FROM SHIPS

France Will Turn Men Over to Heavy Fighting Continues All American Consul.

RESPONSE TO PROTEST SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS

Following Capture of Men from American Steamers by the Cruiser Des Cartes.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- The State Department was officially advised today sunk by submarines in the Mediterranthat the French government, in re- ena but which nation is responsible is sponse to representations made by the not yet known. The London Times re-United States, had ordered the imme- ports that the British Geelong of the disastrous effect on this trade. tion's foreign affairs in the new diate release of Germans recently re- Peninsula & Oriental Line is the latest crisis brought about by the sink- moved from American ships on the victim. high seas by the French cruiser Des

> The advices were received through the French embassy. The State De- fensive at various places but that all partment also was informed that the men arrested would be turned over to the American consul at Fort De France, Martinique, where they were the French, Austro-Italian and Dartaken for detention.

Four American steamships were held claim to have put to rout a Monteneup near Porto Rico last month by the grin detachment which attempted an Des Cartes and in each case removed advance of the Tara river, there is no one or more Germans or Austrians. change in the situation. Chief Steward Schaade was taken from The President probably will lay the the Carolina on December 8, On the loniki as concerns the Entente Allies, facts thus far established before his following day the Coamo was held up who have not yet, so far as is known, cabinet tomorrow. The destruction of by the Des Cartes which fired two replied to Greece's protest against their the Persia, following closely upon the shots across her bow. One German fortifying the district against possible crisis precipitated by the Ancona dis- and two Austrian members of the crew attack by the Teutonic allies or anaster, may result in the United States were taken on board the Des Cartes. swered Greece's representations consetermining to settle immediately all On December 15 the Borinquin was cerning the arrest of the consuls of the the questions involved in the subma- boarded by a party from the French Central Powers and their allies. rine warfare. The subject is expected cruiser and the purser, William Garbe, On the eve of the re-convening of to find its way to the floor of the of Brooklyn, was taken off. Garbe, a Congress uneasiness prevails among House and Senate tomorrow when Con- German by birth, had taken out his senators and representatives by reagress re-convenes after the holidays. first naturalization papers. The fourth son of the acute situation that exists President Wilson decided to cut short vessel held up was the San Juan, from is honeymoon and return to the cap, which two second capin passengers,

FOR MILITARY TRAINING.

Enrolled in a Company.

New York, Jan. 3 .- One hundred members of the Eastside branch of the Young Men's Christian Association have enrolled in a company for military training, it was announced today. This is the first step in a plan initiated by this branch, and approved by are disturbed by the reports received Major General Leonard Wood, to have facts elicited. the more than 500,000 Y. M. C. A. members throughout the country formed in

NO "DRUNKS" ARRESTED.

For First Time in History 24 Hours Pass Without Disorderliness. Portland, Ore., Jan. 3 .- For the first time in its history as a city, Portland make amends. tonight ended a 24-hour period with-Erich Zweidinek charge of the Aus- out an arrest for drunkenness or distro-Hungarian embassy, to Secretary orderly conduct. If the new prohibi-Lansing during a conference today at tion law had been violated no officer had been able to ascertain the fact.

TRADE SERVICES ABROAD

Organizations Commercial Vote Almost Unanimously.

United States Chamber of Commerc Recommends Many Changes for Promoting Foreign Commerce of This Country.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- Recommendations for extension and improvement in No specific instructions the Federal Government's foreign comwere given to Ambassador Penfield. He mercial service outlined in a recent report of a committee of the Chamber of tainable. Officials here are not finally Commerce of the United States have been approved almost unanimously by sponsible for the sinking of the Per- the commercial organizations holding lice said they found in the man's room sia, and still see, a remote possibil- memberships in the chamber. The 78 small bombs of the fuse type, primed ty that the vessel might have struck vote was 719 to 6, the 307 organizations and prepared for instant use. In ady that the vessel might have struck voted up to the judiciary committed one to ten votes each they also discovered a country of days. that part of the sea from some adja- permitted one to ten votes each. In making public the vote tonight,

the chamber announced that as a result it felt committed to work for the following changes in the foreign com-

An increase in staff and appropriaercnantmen. In the early days of tions for the Washington headquarwar it was announced that mer- ters of the Bureau of Foreign and Doships belonging to belligerents director of the field service and separate allowed to enter and leave in waters with guns of six-inch or less, mounted upon their or less, mounted upon their At that time cruisers of the At that time cruisers of the and more liberal traveling expenses; At that time cruisers of the and more liberal traveling expenses; At that time cruisers of the anomal cruisers of the anomal cruisers of the anomal cruisers of the ship dry before renewing attempts.

London, Jan. 3.—The British of the structure and leave and literature and it was finally decided to pump the ship dry before renewing attempts.

London, Jan. 3.—The British of the structure and leave and leave and leave and leave at the ship dry before renewing attempts.

the United States

REQUISITIONING

Many Vessels of British Registry Being Commissioned as Transports of Food Supplies to the United Kingdom.

Along Russian Front.

French, Austro-Italian and Dar-

danelles Fronts-No Change

at Saloniki.

Several more steamers have been

Heavy fighting continues along the

Russian front from the Pripet marshes

to the Bukowina frontier. Vienna re-

ports that the Russians are on the of-

and sapping operations continue on

danelles front. In the Balkans except

between this country and some of the European beiligerents. President Wil-

in Virginia in order to be in the cap-

ital when the legislators begin to place

resolutions before their respective

houses with regard to infringement

Close inquiries are to be made into

the sinking of the British steamer Per-

sia with the loss of at least one

American life before action is taken

in this matter by the American govern-

ment, which is represented by Wash-

ington dispatches as being determined

to take any step warranted by the

Wants Judgment Withheld.

Washington has asked the Washington

authorities to withhold their judgment

until an explanation of the sinking of

the Persia is forthcoming and is said

to have given assurances that if an

Austrian submarine was at fault the

Austro-Hungarian government would

It is expected that the submarine

particularly interesting debates in

CHAMBER CONVOKED.

17, Week Earlier Than Intended.

"It is announced that the chamber

uary 17, a week earlier than had previ-

ously been intended. King Constantine

"The Greek government through the

prefect of Saloniki has sent an address

The newspapers emphasize the influ-

ence that the visit of the Serbian king

is likely to have on the relations of

Greece with the Entente Powers. All

the newspapers say that the situation

between the Entente Allies and Greece

78 BOMBS IN HIS ROOM.

for Instant Use.

today of Giovanni Attanasio, 35, the po-

they also discovered a quantity of dyn-

referier arterier et efe electrofer esterier

SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN .

TWO MORE BRITISH SHIPS

of welcome to King Peter of Serbia.

Havas Agency from Athens says:

himself will open the session.

is obviously improving."

quarters for questioning.

The Austrian charge d'affaires at

upon American rights.

their attacks have been repulsed.

London, Jan. 3 .- The government is taking stringent measures to see that the British ships trading between foreign ports. The latter measure is expected to particularly affect British ships trading between South America and the United States. Shippers here predict that such action would have a

Ship owners in England and neutral shippers regard the Nerbern energy of the government with misgivings and requisitioned wheat ships are receiving 13 shillings, compared with the normal rate of 15 shillings. The first hint a vessel receives that it is to be requisitioned is the following telegram from the admiralty toward the free end of its voyage:

Artillery engagements and mining "You are required by the requisitionng (carriage of food stuffs) committee to fix your vessel to load a cargo of 75 in Montenegro, where the Austrians per cent wheat from the Atlantic coast Canada, the United States or the Gulf to the United Kingdom. You may make your own arrangements as lowing by letter."

The owners then receive the follow-

ing letter from the transport department of the admiralty: "I have to inform you on behalf of the requisition (carriage of foodstuffs) committee that it has been found necessary to require your vessel to be employed in the North Atlantic wheat trade. I have thereto given you formal notice in accordance with the provisions of an order of council, dated November 10, 1915, that the above ves-sel is regulationed under that order. Under this the requisition committee. son has cut short his honeymoon trip

requires you, under the authority given them in the order quoted, to arrange forthwith that the vessel shall be fixed to load at a port on the Atlantic coast of Canada or the United States including the Gulf, a cargo of which at least 75 per /cent shall consist of wheat and to discharge this wheat at some port or ports of the ceed on its arrival in the United States to one of the above ports to load, as

"I am also to require you to inform for the supply of such additional tonnage as the national requirements may Mr. Fletcher's confirmation on necessitate from time to time in the ground that no ambassador to Mexico trade now in question, or in any other should be named by the United States for which similar action may be required." The last sentence is considered as

warfare of Germany and Austria and Great Britain's interference with neusignificant corroboration of news altral commerce will be the subjects of (Continued on Page Eight.)

Congress, and also that the question of national preparedness will early be EXPLOSION KILLS MANY ON NORWEGIAN STEAMER Greek Deputies Will Assemble January

of deputies has been convoked for Jan- 22 Probably Perish When Engine Room is Wrecked.

> Bursting of Huge Gas Tank Probably Cause of Accident on Oil Tank Ship Astec While Moored at a Breoklyn Dock.

New York, Jan. 3 .- Two men are known to be dead and at least twenty others are believed to have perished in Of Small Fuse Type, Primed and Ready an explosion that wrecked the engine room of the Norwegian oll tank steamer New York, Jan. 3. - After the arrest Aztec at a Brooklyn dock today. Ten

others were seriously injured. Most of the victims were trapped below decks and those who were not ed by the water that flooded the enamite, sulphur, fuse and fulminating gine room through a great hole blown

caps. The prisoner was taken to head- in the side of the vessel. The Aztec had just left a drydock and the cause of the explosion is unknown, although it is believed to have in connection with the oil fuel for the storage here awaiting ships.

BRITISH MEASURES CONGRESS FACING A GRAVE SITUATION

Between South America and Possible Consequences of Per- Satisfactory Progress Toward sia Disaster Discussed.

SHIPS RE-ASSEMBLES

Feeling of Uncasiness Over Gravity of Bryan in Endorsing Lansing's Sugges Foreign Affairs - Preparedness Question Will Be Taken Up Immediately.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- Congress re-assembles tomorrow in the midst of an | the prevailing shortage in ships shall international situation which rival po- ican republics and chairmen of delenot interfere with the shipment of litical leaders admitted tonight was gations to the Pan-American Scientific food and other necessities to ports in one of the most critical that has con- Congress met today, with Chilean Amthe United Kingdom. Vessels are be- fronted the Nation. Returning mem- bassador Mujica, president of the coning requisitioned right and left for the bers talked of little but consequences gress, as chairman, to discuss means shipment of wheat from the Americas that might result from the sinking for co-ordinating the work of the orand in shipping circles it is reported of the British steamer Persia in the ganization. Their recorded work was that the admiralty intends to call in Mediterranean with loss of American the selection of an executive commitlives and the strained diplomatic re- tee and a resolution providing for the lations between the United States and preservation of papers read before the

uniformly inclined to proceed cautiously and to await positive information, there was a general feeling, of uneasiness among senators and representatives over the gravity of foreign

Senator Stone, chairman of the Sente foreign relations committee, conferred with Secretary Lansing at the State Department and will seek a conference with President Wilson before meeting of the committee is held Wednesday to begin consideration of matters pertaining to the diplomatic affairs of the nation. It seems assurthat the committee will take up the resolution submitted by Senator Hoke Smith, calling for an inquiry into Great Britain's interference with neutral commerce and the amendment by Senator Lodge to investigate destruction of the Lusitania and other acts by belligerents resulting in destruction of American lives.

Consider Smith Resolution. "Of course we must consider those resolutions," said Senator Stone tonight. "They are on the calendar and must be disposed of. I don't know the sentiment of the committee, but I see no objection to Congress having all information called for in the resolution of Senator Smith or the amendment by Senator Lodge. "I talked to Secretary Lansing about

the sinking of the Persia but we can do nothing with that until we get all Senator Stone also discussed with Mr. Lansing the long pending Nicaraguan and Colombian treaties, concerning which there still is possible opposition by some senators, including Retions committee. The Missouri sena-United Kingdom. The vessel is to pro- tor wants these treaties disposed of one way or another. If it is apparent that posed to discover this as soon as possible so that further time may not be me within a week of this date of the wasted in attempting to force their arrangements you have made. The ratification. Another subject of discommittee rely confidently upon the cussion was the nomination of Hengood will of the ship owners generally ry P. Fletcher to be ambassador to and their co-operation in arranging Mexico. Senator Borah, a member of the committee, will strenuously oppose

until conditions in the southern repub-

lic are more settled. Take Up Preparedness Question. Although foreign affairs overshadow ready received by charterers that the everything else in interest for the moment, activity on national preparedness will begin at once. Hearings will be held tomorrow before the House naval affairs committee on the annual appropriation bill, the first subject to be taken up being that of yards and docks including the project for a big drydock at Norfolk, Va. The Senate nacommittee will meet to consider Senator Tillman's bill for erection of government armor plate factory. Thursday the House committee on milltary affairs will meet and Secretary Garrison will appear to explain his plan for reorganization of the army.

Other legislation ready for consideration includes the water power and mineral land leasing bills and the farm loan bank bill. The joint committee on rural credits completed the farm loan bill tonight and the measure probably will be re-

ported to both houses tomorrow. Consideration of the water power bill may begin in the House Wednesday.

WEBB TO LEAD FIGHT Will Re-Introduce Bill for Prohibition

Constitutional Amendment. Washington, Jan. 3 .- The annual

fight in Congress for nation-wide prohibition will be renewed tomorrow Carolina, will re-introduce his resolution for a prohibition constitutional amendment. The resolution will be referred to the judiciary committee, of public tonight by Surgeon General Blue

Baltimore, Jan. 3 .- The Western Maryland railroad today issued an order, effective at the close of business tomorrow, placing an embargo until further notice on all shipments of been caused by the bursting of a tank grain to this port for export. There of 10,000 cubic yards of gas used are nearly 2,000,000 bushels of grain in

Pan-American Unity.

Safety of Pan-American Doc-TODAY MANY SPEAKERS HEARD

> tion for Settling Boundary Disputes by Arbitration Brings Hearty Applause.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- Diplomatic representatives here of the Latin-Amercongress, but informally there was free Although administration leaders were expression of satisfaction over the progress being made toward a greater Pan-American unity.

> Speakers before the numerous divisions and sub-divisions of the congress lieve it essential in the formulation of John Bassett Moore, Albert Santos Dumont, the Brazilian aeronaut: and George E. Roberts, of New York. Scores of papers were read at the various trine by either an Asiatic or an Euromeetings and most of them were listened to by large audiences.

> All sections of the Congress met tonight with the American Society for the Advancement of Science, to hear William Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory and president of the society, who spoke on the "Evolution of Britain and an army prepared to fight the Stars." A plea for Pan-American unity in

event of war in any country beyond the seas and any American nation was made by Mr. Dumont, who attracted one of the largest audiences of the "We should be able in case of trou-

ble," he said, "to intimidate any European power contemplating war against any one of us, not by gunsof which we have so few-but by the strength of our union." The aeronaut predicted that within

would attain three to four hundred

kilometers an hour and that before many years aeroplane services would be established between the United States and South American countries. "I believe," he added, "the aeroplane will knit the various states of the continent into an integrally united. co-operating and friendly combination, allied for their own well-being trade and commerce, as well as strength in times of possible war.' Mr. Bryan in his address endorsed the recent suggestion by Secretary Lansing that an agreement be efftered into by the American republics for settlement of boundary disputes and to revolutionists. Hearty applause from all parts of the hall greeted the

Refers to Colombian Treaty. He also spoke of the pending treaty by which the United States would pay Colombia \$25,000,000 for the parthat it soon would be ratified, thus gress a definite plan which contemenabling Colombia to join the nations signatory to peace treaties that would (Continued on Page Eight).

FROM COAST TO COAS

Epidemic Over Country Presents Grave Problem.

As High as 100,000 Cases Reported in Larger Cities and Spreading to Rural Districts-Wilmington Has 80 Cases?

Washington, Jan. 3 .- Influenza is spreading over the United States from coast to coast in the most serious epiwhen Representative Webb, of North nomic loss by incapacitating workers show that already the disease has created a grave problem for many of the larger cities, and is spreading to the rural communities. New York, Chicago, Philadelphia,

Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Cleveland and Detroit reported the disease widely prevalent. Cleveland and Detroit each have probably 100,000 cases, Of the larger cities, Buffalo, Pittsburg, into the study of possibilities upon Baltimore, San Diego, Dallas and Mobile reported no signs of an epidemic. tack upon the Menroe Doctrine was There is practically nothing the Fed- based.

TO WARD OFF ASSAULT Believed Essential to Have Great Forces on Both Atlantic and Pacific.

trine a Fundamental Basis

for Defense Plans.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- Possibility of combined attack by two foreign powers to break down the new Pan-American doctrine, evolved from maintenance by the United States and acceptance by South and Central American republics of the Monroe Doctrine, is one of the fundamental bases for the National defense plans formulated by army and navy strategists. They beoday included former Secretary Bryan, a National military policy, it was learned tonight, to provide against the eventuality of an assault upon the docpean or even by an alliance of two such powers, which might hurl forces simultaneously at the Atlantic and Pa-

A navy equal in strength to those of any two world powers, except Great for the integrity of the Pan-American dea everywhere in Pan-America is the ultimate aim of the plans of the mili-

Ten Years Believed Limit. Ten years is the time the Navy General Board believes the United States has in which to prepare for readjustment for world forces which will follow the European war. In setting 1925 as the time when the United States navy should equal any afloat-which means reaching the two-power standard of the British navy—the board essimated that much time would elapse before the shock of the present war passed sufficiently to permit any of the belligerents to look to South or Central America for colonial development

or trade aggression. Plans of the Army War College would be consummated in six years. The army officers take the position that the United States must have sufficient troops and troop ships to land forces in any threatened Pan-American coun-

try to meet an invader. All these preparations, it is now known, have been presented by strategists to the administration as essential to the support of the Monroe Doctrine, to act alone, if necessary, to preserve the prohibition of the shipment of arms its ideal of no entangling allies. Such stated, impose new duties on the United States-duties that require something more than a policy of mere passive resistence.

While the administrative branch of the government has submitted to Conmore than a billion dollars on the military and naval establishments in the next six years, all other agencies of the government are acting to unify and harmonize the pan-American nations. To students of diplomacy the Pan-American declarations of Presi-Congress; the declarations for Pan-American unity made to the Pan-American Scientific Congress here by Secretary Lansing and the general effort for unity of all the Americas on a basis of friendship and equality, take on added significance when considered in connection with the administration's preparedness plans.

A Significant Factor. The recent announcement that the ambassadors from Argentine, Brazil, and Chile had been selected by the United States to represent it on the commissions provided by the place investigation treaties with France, Great Britain and Italy, is regarded as one of the significant factors in this connection.

Significance also is seen in the disclosure that an effort to postpone the Pan-American Congress on the ground that sufficient time had not been given to prepare an adequate scientific programme was met by the statement that the United States was insistently desirous of taking prompt steps to further the spirit of Pan-American accord, confidence, sympathy and mutuality. South American capitals uniformly report that the Congress is regarded there as more political than scientific and that approbation of the sentiment of Pan-American unity is freely expressed.

What confidential information the army war college and the navy general board may have gathered concerning the intentions of any certain power or powers is not being revealed; but there are certain matters of general knowledge which are known to have entered which the theory of a two-power at-