

OFFICIALS FORECAST ACTION AGAINST THE U-BOAT MENACE SOON

Arming of Merchantmen and Convoying Them by Warships Among Possibilities

DEFY EXISTING STATUTES

Ships Passing Through Danger Zone May be Placed Under Government Control

EXTRA SESSION IS CERTAIN

Time of Calling It Now Seems to be the Only Question

Washington, March 7.—New action by President Wilson in the next few days in the situation resulting from the German unrestricted submarine campaign was forecast confidently today in administration quarters. If the form of the action has been determined upon it was not revealed. The possibilities are the arming of American merchantmen by the government in spite of old statutes construed by some officials to prohibit such action; the conveying of the vessels by warships; the immediate calling of an extra session of Congress, and the placing of American ships desiring to pass through the danger zone under government control.

Extra Session Believed Nearer.

Reports conveyed to the President during the day that the prospects are excellent for prompt and favorable action on his suggestion for a revision of the Senate rules so that action can be secured on an armed neutrality resolution were believed to bring the calling of an extra session nearer. While some officials notably those at the State Department, have advised the President that he has full power to arm merchantmen without congressional action, others feel that such a step would be stretching the law. It is pointed out, however, that any restrictions surrounding the arming of vessels do not apply to supplying convoys. The best judgment of the Navy Department has been against conveying for strategic reasons, but it was considered possible that if no other way is found this course might be adopted.

Thinks Nation Backs Him.

The President was understood to feel that the tying up of American vessels in port cannot be allowed to continue much longer. He also believes that the nation stands behind him in advocating steps to defend American lives and rights. Mr. Wilson was forced to retire to his room early this afternoon by a cold, but he was conferred with Secretary Lansing about the German crisis and talked with representatives of the Democratic leader of the House, left for home today his parting information to his colleagues was that an extra session of Congress would be called not later than the middle of May. Mr. Kitchin made this prediction after a conference with President Wilson, although a cabinet member was authorized for the statement yesterday that an extra session is unlikely before "the first of June or the last of May."

FEDERAL JURY TO TAKE UP GERMAN SPY CONSPIRACY

German Chemist and Hindu Physician May Be Further Implicated

New York, March 7.—Department of Justice officials in this city expect to narrow evidence concerning the German spy conspiracy in this country. It was learned today that important documents had arrived by messenger from Washington which it was believed would further connect "Dr. Ernest Chandre (Chakraborty), a Hindu physician, with Wolf von Igel, attaché of the German embassy, who sailed with Count von Bernstorff after indictments against him in this country had been dismissed.

Dr. Sekunna and Dr. Chakraborty were arrested Tuesday and, according to the police, confessed that they had plotted under direction of Von Igel to invade India with a military force by the "Oriental Kitchen," as well as to conduct a monthly magazine which was to be known as the "Oriental Review." Agents of the Department of Justice pointed out that similar operations on the part of the German spies had been found to be ruses for them to operate without attracting undue attention.

Rupture By China is Expected Immediately

Peking, March 4. (Delayed)—The immediate breaking off of relations with Germany is expected here and it is generally predicted that China will join the Entente.

This belief is due to the fact that dispatches from Tien Tsin say that Tuan Chi Jui, who resigned March 4 and left for Tien Tsin has decided to return to the capital immediately and resume the premiership. It is understood that President Li Tsi Yuan has agreed to give the committee full power to form the foreign policy. The cabinet is known to favor the severing of relations with Germany and parliament is showing a disposition to follow the leadership of Tuan Chi Jui rather than that of the president.

BUILD NAVY SHIPS AT TEN PER CENT

Shipbuilders Enter Agreement to Accept Government Contracts at Loss in Profit

AS A "PATRIOTIC DUTY"

Virtually All Larger Plants Represented At Conference With Secretary Daniels—To Expedite Construction.

Washington, March 7.—American shipbuilders engaged on government work entered into an agreement with Secretary Daniels today to accept new contracts at a flat rate of ten per cent. profit, and pledged co-operation to the fullest extent of their ability in rushing to completion the navy's construction program.

Virtually all of the larger plants in the country were represented in the conference. The builders, who have been netting from twenty to thirty per cent. on merchant steamers, said they were willing to turn to government contracts at ten per cent. as a patriotic duty, and the Secretary on his part agreed to protect them from undue loss. As a result, for the present at least, the government will not consider exercising the authority given by Congress to commander plants.

The next step of the department will be to call upon builders not engaged in government work to undertake such tasks as they are equipped to carry out. For the most part this will consist of building submarine chasers and possibly some destroyers. An understanding also will be sought to prevent yards from private work from drawing men from those with navy contracts.

The companies represented today will furnish Secretary Daniels not later than Monday with schedules of all commercial work in their yards or for which they have contracted. Details of the capitalization of each concern, its fixed charges, material contracts, plans of plates and yards showing possibility of enlargement and number of employees will be included. A definite statement of the amount or kind of additional government work that could be undertaken with an estimate of what might be accomplished in a year's time also will be submitted by each builder.

Secretary Daniels said the list of subjects to be covered in the statements had been worked out with the intention of supplying all information a publisher in a year's time would require. It will be valuable in determining the wisest way of placing contracts for new ships and would be essential should it prove necessary in the end to take over any establishment.

The department is in correspondence with steel makers and other manufacturers who supply material for navy ships. Similar assurances of co-operation are expected from them. Mr. Daniels said he hoped to interfere with commerce ship building just as little as possible, but that nothing would be allowed "to stand in the way of supplying the navy with ships and munitions as rapidly as is possible."

Another element of the speeding up program is the task of securing labor. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor and a member of the National Defense Council advisory commission, has called a labor conference in this connection. All of the conferences and other preliminary measures are preparatory to the issuing by President Wilson of a proclamation declaring that a National emergency exists which requires the use of the unusual powers granted him by Congress to hasten naval construction. After that step has been taken the emergency fund of more than \$100,000,000 provided for the purpose will be available to pay for high speed construction, and the department will be in a position to require any ship builder or manufacturer to begin at once on work assigned to him.

WAY IS CLEARED TO EARLY MODIFY RULES OF SENATE

Democrats Vote Unanimously and Republicans Vote 30 to 2 for Proposed Change

MAY BE REPORTED TODAY

LaFollette and Gronna, Who Helped to Kill Armed Neutrality, Absent From Caucuses

Washington, March 7.—Democrats and Republicans of the Senate in conference today cleared the way for early modification of Senate procedure so as to make filibusters such as defeated the armed neutrality bill impossible in the future.

The Democrats voted unanimously to support a rule under which debate could be limited by a two-thirds vote, and the Republicans voted 30 to 2 in support of the same change. The rule was recommended by a conference committee, of ten, five from each party. The resolution embodying the proposed rule probably will be reported to the Senate tomorrow by Majority Leader Martin with a view to pressing it for prompt adoption.

LaFollette and Gronna Absent

Senators LaFollette and Gronna, Republicans, who were among the twelve who failed to sign the manifesto approving the armed neutrality bill, did not attend their party caucus. How much significance is to be attached to that fact neither Republican nor Democratic leaders could foretell tonight, although the Democrats had a distinct impression that the appearance of the rule would be the signal for speeches by these two senators on armed neutrality. There were a few Democrats who had views different from the large majority, but while they may contribute a few speeches, the subject of changes in the rules is promised opposition is expected.

In the Democratic caucus there were more than forty senators and with the thirty Republicans who voted for the change "this makes about eight more than two-thirds of the Senate. Several senators of both parties are absent from Washington or ill, so that the proportion of those here for the change is overwhelming.

Senators Sherman, of Illinois, and France, of Maryland, were the two Republicans who cast the negative votes. Senator Sherman declared the Republicans would be put in the position of acceding to it because of the demand by President Wilson in his public statement of the defeat of the neutrality bill, and in his conference today with Democratic members of the conference (Continued on Page Ten).

LEADER OF CUBAN REBELS AND HIS STAFF CAPTURED

Taken Prisoner by Government Commander in Santa Clara and Camaguey Provinces

NEWS IS CHEERED WILDLY

Capture is Said to Have Been Made After Bloody Battle Lasting Several Hours

Havana, March 7.—The news that ex-President Jose L. Gomez, leader of the rebels, and his entire staff were prisoners in the hands of Colonel Collazo, commander of the government forces operating near the dividing line between Santa Clara and Camaguey provinces, was announced this afternoon. It set the crowds about the presidential palace cheering wildly.

Shortly before 4 o'clock this afternoon Secretary Montero appeared on the palace balcony and read a message from Secretary of the Interior Hevia, who has been in charge of the campaign in Santa Clara province, saying that Colonel Collazo had reported the capture of Gomez and his staff in Camaguey province.

The men were said to have been captured after a battle lasting several hours in which many are believed to have been killed or wounded. Machine guns played a prominent part in the rebel defeat.

Having received word that a considerable force under personal command of General Gomez and Colonel Figueroa were in the neighborhood of Arroyo Blanco, Colonel Collazo with eight cavalry squadrons, one battalion of infantry and militia, set out to flank the rebels, coming in contact with them near Placetas.

Colonel Consuegra in Santa Clara dispersed his forces to prevent the rebels from continuing their march westward. Last night he concentrated his forces near Placetas ready for the expected battle. At 10 o'clock the battle opened, Collazo's force made a frontal attack while Consuegra attacked the rebel right flank, his machine gun fire causing them to give way.

No other details of the actual operations have been given out except that the rebels are still being pursued. Immediately following the news of Gomez's capture an unconfirmed report spread that Bigoberto Fernandez in Santiago de Cuba had offered to surrender if allowed to come under the amnesty decree offered by President Menocal a few days ago. General Pino Guerra, a prominent rebel leader and his brother, Ramon, are reported to have given themselves up to Colonel Carrillo in Pinar Del Rio.

VILLA TROOPS DRAW NEARER THE BORDER

Battle Expected at San Martin Ranch Last Night or Today

Carranza Forces Under Murguia and Gonzales Leave Juarez With Column of Cavalry and Mounted Machine Guns.

Juarez, March 7.—General Jose Carlos Murguia and General Pablo Gonzales left today for the San Martin ranch, 50 miles southeast of Juarez, with a column of cavalry and with machine guns mounted in automobiles. A battle with Villa forces in the vicinity of the San Martin ranch is expected tonight or tomorrow.

One hundred and fifty cavalrymen left Juarez yesterday for the San Martin ranch. General Murguia and General Gonzales took one hundred men today and another column of 200 troops planned to leave Juarez tonight to reinforce the expedition. Two hundred and fifty men will join these troops at outposts along the Rio Grande and General Murguia is expected to have 700 men when he reaches the rendezvous of the Villa troops.

MACHINE GUN COMPANY IS DISPATCHED TO FORT HANCOCK El Paso, Texas, March 7.—A machine gun company of the Thirty-Third Michigan infantry has been sent to Fort Hancock, Texas, to protect that town from a possible Villa raid. In addition a company of infantry and a troop of (Continued on Page Two).

WILMINGTON ENGINEERS TO START HOME MARCH 12

San Benito, Texas, March 7.—The Third Tennessee infantry left here late today for Nashville to be mustered out. New dates for departures announced today include: Squadron of the First Virginia cavalry at Brownsville, March 18; A and B companies, North Carolina engineers, at El Paso, March 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS THROWN INTO AN UPROAR OVER THE IRISH HOME RULE QUESTION

Resolution of Nationalists Precipitates One of Bitterest Sessions in Months

LLOYD-GEORGE IS ASSAILED

He is Forced to Declare the Policy of the Cabinet Towards Self-Government

NATIONALISTS WITHDRAW

Redmond and His Adherents Confer Outside the House

London, March 7.—The presentation by the Irish nationalists in the house of commons this evening of a resolution calling for the immediate application of the home rule statute to Ireland precipitated one of the most bitter sessions in months and threw the home rule question back into its old position of uncertainty.

The resolution forced the government into a declaration of policy towards self-government, namely, that any part of Ireland that wished home rule could have it, but that no coercion would be employed to compel Ulster to accept. At the same time, the proposal drew from the Ulsterites the ultimatum that they would not accept, which, coupled with the government's pronouncement, effectually crushed all hopes for a speedy settlement.

Premier Faces Embarrassment. The nationalists tonight, headed by their leader, John Redmond, were in conference, having withdrawn in a body from the house of commons, and Mr. Lloyd-George was facing his first embarrassing situation since he assumed the premiership.

For more than an hour before the nationalists left the house, the premier had faced a whirlwind of angry criticism from the nationalist quarter, which at times forced him to take his seat because he could not make himself heard. He was called a "turncoat" on the home rule question, and one nationalist exclaimed: "Hangman Carson! He is only fit to be a hangman, not first lord of the admiralty."

The nationalist resolution was introduced by T. B. O'Connor, who asserted that the manner in which the government has handled the Irish rebellion had transformed a friendly people into one with bitter hatred against England. He pleaded that home rule should be put into operation immediately for the sake of Ireland and the interests of England, the empire and the allies.

Tribute to President Wilson. At a point in his address he paid tribute to the President of the United States (Continued on Page Ten).

GERMAN-MEXICAN PLOT IS FURTHER EXPLAINED

Overseas News Agency Makes Public Official Statement.

Says That By U. S. Acquiring the Zimmerman Note "It Seems That Treason Has Been Committed on American Territory"

Berlin, March 7 (via Sayville).—The Overseas News Agency today made public the following official statement concerning Germany's plan to have Mexico engage in war with the United States if the United States should not remain neutral after the declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany:

"The decision to begin the unrestricted submarine war February 1 having been taken, an eventual conflict with America had to be considered by reason of its previous attitude. The facts have proven that the surmise was justified, for the American government, immediately after our notification concerning the barred zone, broke off diplomatic relations and, moreover, requested other neutral nations to join in this course of action. In anticipation of this possibility it was not only the right but also the duty of the government to take measures in time to counter balance of an additional ally on the side of our enemies.

"The imperial minister to Mexico was therefore instructed about the middle of January to offer an alliance to the Mexican government and to arrange the details, in case that the United States should declare war against us. The minister was expressly charged by instruction to take no steps with the Mexican government before he had obtained the absolute certainty that war had been declared by the United States.

"It is not known by what means the American government acquired knowledge of the instructions transmitted by secret ways to Mexico. It seems that treason—and treason it probably is—has been committed on American territory."

FIFTEEN MEASURES URGED BY BICKETT ENACTED INTO LAW

1917 Legislature Adjourns Since Die at 3 O'clock With "Corporal's Guard" Present

LAST BILL NUMBERED 1,215

Continuous Session of 63 Days Ended Without Final Action on a Number of Bills

(By W. J. MARTIN).

Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—The gavels of President Gardner in the Senate and Speaker Walter Murphy in the House sounded the sine die adjournment of the 1917 at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The morning trains had carried the great majority of the members of the two houses to their homes and there was little more than the traditional "corporal's guard" present for the final closing ceremonies.

No legislation of consequence had been allowed to get through during the morning, as the Senate and House patiently waited for the enrolled bills to ratify them. The last one was number 1,215.

There were fifteen measures that were advocated by Governor Bickett in his inaugural address that have been made into law by this Legislature. They are:

- Bickett Measures Enacted.
- Constitutional amendment for six months schools.
- Amendment exempting from taxation notes and mortgages for farm homes to \$3,000.
- Crop lien modification.
- Teaching basic principles of good farming in all rural schools.
- Encouragement of better sanitation in country homes, with expert assistance free of cost.
- Making the rural school house a social center.
- Medical inspection of children.
- Incorporation of rural communities.
- Reform in medical advertisements.
- Provision for State-wide road improvement.
- Absentee voting.
- Creation of State commission to investigate and recommend as to State taxing system.
- Consolidated management of State hospitals.
- Purchasing agent for certain institutions.
- Limiting time of chain gang sentences, prison reform and modern quarters for prisoners at the State farm.

The Senate convened at 10 o'clock and principally "marked time" for an hour when there was recess to 2 o'clock, when the final batch of bills was expected to be ready for ratification.

There was a report of adjustment of all differences in the fish bill between the two houses and the report was adopted so that the bill could be finally enrolled for ratification.

There was offered by Senator Pollock a bill to restore to the mayor of Kingston his judicial powers. This was passed and sent to the House.

The House convened at 10 o'clock. Representative Matthews, of Bertie, brought up his bill for prohibiting the sale of wine in Bertie, Bladen and Hertford counties, and procured its passage in spite of effort of Representative Doughton to have the measure reconsidered. It had to go to the Senate and was not passed there, so that the bill failed after all.

Ward Health Bill Falls. Representative Ward strove to procure the passage of a pet health bill of his, saying that it would not only be considered a crank on health matters. The bill he was pressing would enable the State to obtain a special Federal fund and he wanted it passed.

Representative Ray, of Macon, was opposed to the whole business and blocked a vote by insisting that he would demand a roll call that would show no quorum.

Then came a move on the part of Matthews, of Bertie, to call up and pass the newspaper legal advertising rate bill that has had such rough sailing all through the session. The legislators would need defense at the hands of the newspapers in many criticisms that would be passed and he felt that it was due the newspapers to give them this needed relief from inadequate compensation for service, most necessarily rendered and at little cost to those for whom the service is rendered.

Representative Ray thought that the bill had been sufficiently killed already and decently buried. He did not propose to let this new bill or readjusted schedule of rates pass when there had been no time for consideration.

Mr. Matthews came back with insistence that the House had not killed this bill. It allowed four cents per first insertion, and two cents for subsequent insertions per line. The proponents of the original bill had withdrawn it. He insisted that Mr. Ray had favored this amended bill.

Mr. Ray gave notice that he would demand roll call if the bill came to a vote. Matthews proposed to call his "blum" and it looked like the ballot would proceed, but at the urgent insistence of Mr. Doughton that no end of trouble (Continued on Page Ten).