

WHEN YOU SEE IT IN THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, IT'S SO

EVERY HOUR BRINGS NATION NEARER BREAK WITH GERMANY

IF WAR COMES, GERMANY WILL BE AGGRESSOR

Because of Flagrant Violation of Neutral Rights, Says Taft. 'OUR CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR' 'Responsibility on President and Congress Heavy'—Their Good Deliverance His Prayer.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Former President Taft prefaced a prepared speech on the League to Enforce Peace here tonight with a reference to the new German crisis, declaring that if the United States were drawn into war, Germany would force it by "her defiance of plain principles of justice and humanity which should obtain between civilized nations."

"The responsibility which now rests on the President and Congress is very heavy," said Mr. Taft. "They should know and do know that the American people will back them to the end in their decision. May God give them good deliverance."

The former President was speaking before the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, answering particularly criticisms of Theodore Roosevelt, William J. Bryan, Senator Borah and others in the League to Enforce Peace idea.

"I had prepared this address," he said, "before Germany started this country and all neutrals by her last note. The actual dangers with which she faces us are not so grave as she would have us believe. The truth is, however, that this great crisis only emphasizes the importance of the purpose and plan of the league in the future history of this country."

"Of all things, we would avoid war. We are not prepared for it. Its awful consequences we know from Europe's suffering. Our prayer is for some escape from it in this critical hour, if consistent with our national honor. But we must face the facts."

"In her campaign against her enemies, Germany proposes ruthlessly to wage war upon the property and lives of neutrals, in flagrant violation of her rights. She began with Belgium. She now includes them all. Our national honor would be outraged by an offense against her. Her cruel and indefensible drowning without warning of more than a hundred innocent Americans on the Lusitania we condoned in view of her pledges against a repetition of that crime. We now withdraw, and she shows her purpose to resume her shocking course."

"If war is to come between us, she will be the unprovoked aggressor. We would avoid being drawn into the European vortex by every honorable concession. If she forces us into it, she will do so by her defiance of plain principles of justice and humanity which should obtain between civilized nations."

EX-PRESIDENT DELIVERS PATRIOTIC UTTERANCE



WILLIAM H. TAFT.

NO INCREASE NOTED IN DESTRUCTION OF SHIPPING BY U-BOATS

London Reports Sinking of Five Vessels, One of Them of Neutral Registry.

The second day of the new German submarine warfare apparently has not resulted in any increased sinking of shipping: Dispatches from London announce the sinking of the bottom of five vessels, including one of neutral registry, and a report of the sinking of another.

The Spanish steamer Algorta, of 2,116 gross tons, was the largest steamer sunk, the others being of less than 1,000 tons including two trawlers. The Norwegian steamer Hecla is believed to have been sunk. The Belgian trawler Marcell was sunk by gun fire.

OFFICERS OF GERMAN STEAMER IN CUSTODY

While Federal Officials Are Investigating Cause for Its Sinking.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 2.—Federal officials representing the Navy Customs Service and the Department of Justice began a joint inquiry into the sinking in the harbor here yesterday of the German steamer Liebenfels, which had been tied up here since the war began. Meanwhile, Fred C. Peters, collector of the port, took formal charge of the steamer, and her officers, including Captain Klattenhoff, were taken in custody by W. V. Howard, inspector of immigration.

FOUR STEAMERS SAIL FROM BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Feb. 2.—Four foreign steamships sailed from Baltimore today, but only one of them was expected to proceed to her destination direct. This was the British freighter Ramsay, for Gibraltar, and the others which sailed for American ports presumably for further instructions were the Norwegian steamer Hercules, for Rotterdam; the Penryn, British, for Nantes; the Pesaro, Italian, for Gibraltar; and an unknown British steamer.

Leading foreign shipping firms here today declared they had not yet received any orders from the British Admiralty to delay clearance. At the custom house, Collector William P. Ryan said no extraordinary precautions were being taken to guard the three interned German liners here.

PRESIDENT EULOGIZED BY BRYAN IN ADDRESS AT PEACE MASS MEETING

Declares Wilson's Address to Senate Places Him Among Nation's Immortals.

New York, Feb. 2.—William Jennings Bryan declared at a peace mass-meeting in Madison Square Garden here tonight that it would be a crime against the Nation and the world if the United States enters the European war. He praised highly President Wilson's efforts in behalf of peace, and asserted that the President's recent address to the Senate had placed him among the Nation's immortals.

The mass-meeting was called by the American neutral conference committee to voice approval and support of the President's peace policies. A resolution was adopted pledging unflinching support of the President in any effort to keep the Nation out of war. Mr. Bryan asserted the Constitution should be amended by providing for a referendum on the declaration of war. No Nation, he declared, but if any Nation should, this would be the answer, he said, the country should give:

"No, we have the welfare of 100,000,000 people to guard, precious ideals to preserve, and we will not wallow in a mire of blood to conform to a false standard."

STATESVILLE CHILD CUT IN HEAD WITH AXE

Six-Year-Old Girl Struck Unintentionally by Her Brother and Seriously Injured.

Special to The Observer. Statesville, Feb. 2.—A distressing accident occurred late yesterday, when Regina, the six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Hoover, of Statesville, was struck on the head with an axe by her 10-year-old brother, Nell, who was chopping wood.

SWEDEN WILL AWAIT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Stockholm, Sweden, Feb. 2.—Via London, Feb. 2.—The Associated Press learns from a well-informed source that no action will be taken by Sweden in regard to the submarine situation until after an exchange of views with Denmark and Norway. No formal conference is planned but an exchange of views already has been had. The Swedish Government hopes that the three Scandinavian countries will again find it possible to act in concert as they did in February, 1915, following the German proclamation of a war zone about the British Isles.

REPORT THAT GERMANS WRECKED MACHINERY

SHIP OWNERS AWAITING WORD FROM LANSING

Trans-Atlantic Service Virtually at Standstill for Present. SAILINGS ARE POSTPONED

New York, Feb. 2.—Pending official advice from Secretary Lansing, of the State Department, President P. A. S. Franklin, of the International Mercantile Marine, said tonight that no official announcement could be made as to the sailing of the American line steamship, St. Louis, scheduled to leave here at noon tomorrow on her regular trip to Liverpool. Upon being informed that Mr. Lansing had stated in Washington that the line probably would be advised not to send the ship, he added that naturally he would act in conformity with such a recommendation.

Preparations for the sailing of the ship proceeded today, and when the passenger office closed for the night, it was announced that passage had been booked by 280 persons, with only 15 cancellations. A large percentage of those booked are American citizens.

President Franklin emphasized a statement that the American line is a "National Institution," having a contract with the United States Government for carrying mails to Europe on regular dates.

The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, which has 10 vessels in American ports loading cargo consigned to the Dutch Government, has ordered them to remain in port until further notice. Six vessels owned by the Swedish-American-Mexico Line also have been stopped, pending further orders.

The Holland-America Line, with the steamer Noordam here loading to sail Monday for Rotterdam with passengers and cargo, was advised that the liner Nieuw Amsterdam, their largest vessel, had been recalled and it was expected, officials said, that delayed cables would bring them similar instructions to those received by other neutral foreign lines.

Calling At Kirkwall. Ships for Holland and Scandinavian countries have, for nearly a year, been calling at Kirkwall in compliance with the order of the British Government for examination and inspection of passengers and cargo there. Under the provisions of the German note, as it is interpreted by local representatives, they are barred from going into the indicated war zone around the British Isles. These conflicting orders have added to the uncertainty and perplexity of the situation.

PLANS SUBMITTED FOR BRIDGE OVER POTOMAC

Washington, Feb. 2.—Plans for the bridge which the Washington-Newport News Short Line Railroad proposes to construct across the Potomac near Wotomkin Point, Va., were submitted today to General Black, chief of engineers of the Army. Both houses of Congress have passed bills authorizing the construction and it awaits the President's signature.

JO-JO SAYS COLDER

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CAUSE COMMITTEEN TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON

Investigation Into So-Called Leak on President's Peace Note Will Be Continued There.

New York, Feb. 2.—Pressure of international affairs today caused the congressional committee that has been investigating the so-called "leak" on President Wilson's recent peace note, to transfer the inquiry to Washington. Examination of witnesses will be resumed there tomorrow morning. Further hearings on particularly pertinent local angles of the case probably will be resumed here as soon as the committee think their congressional duties will permit.

The committee has determined to sound at once the source of the Hutton wire from his office to the Hutton investigation. F. A. Connolly's advance resume of the President's note from Connolly's Washington brokerage office to E. F. Hutton & Co., New York broker, if possible, George A. Ellis, Jr., a member of the Hutton firm who put Connolly's information into a telegraphic warning to all of Hutton's correspondents in the United States 10 hours before the note was released, also will be called for.

Records of all long-distance telephone calls between the two offices during the "peace note period" if any exist, also will be called for. The missing link in the testimony of all telegraphers who may have handled the message that of the two operators in Connolly's office. They were early witnesses.

Satisfaction was expressed by committee members on starting back to Washington tonight over the results of the local hearings. That there was a "leak" of some kind no longer seriously questioned by any of them. Discovery of its existence through the testimony of E. F. Hutton, head of the Hutton house, is conceded. His testimony was a surprise to the committee.

So important are the Hutton-Connolly messages considered that the whole inquiry now is centered in unfolding all the facts surrounding them. The close of the inquiry apparently is distant, and a request for an extension of the time in which the committee shall report on its inquiry to the Senate is expected. The present time limit will expire in about 10 days.

MALONE INCREASES DOCK GUARDS FORCE

Questions Relating to 'Possible Emergency' Are Given Consideration.

New York, Feb. 2.—Upon the receipt of special instructions from Washington, Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port, conferred today with representatives of the Department of Justice and New York police. None of those who attended the conference would discuss what questions relating to a "possible emergency" were talked over.

Mr. Malone has increased his force of dock guards and special inspectors until he now has more than 1,200 men under his command. Harbor police boats and four tugs of the coast guard cutter service under command of the collector, are at the docks with steam up and their crews sleeping on board.

SUBMARINE MENACE HAS SWEEPED NATION TO BRINK OF BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH GERMAN EMPIRE

Nothing Has Developed to Stem Sweep of the Tide, and Official Washington Is Convinced That Crash Is Only Matter of Time and Question of Form—No Attempt Made to Minimize Gravity of the Situation.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The submarine menace sweeps on, and every hour draws the United States nearer a break with Germany. No restraining developments appear to stem the tide. Official Washington is convinced the crash is only a matter of time and a question of form.

A long session of the Cabinet and a dramatic night meeting of the President and Senators at the Capitol developed a unanimity of opinion that a challenge to the honor of the United States must be met. The means of doing so appears to be the only question undetermined.

When President Wilson and his advisers parted "for a night's reflection," as the President himself put it, apparently it had not been determined whether the United States should delay action until Germany commits an overt act or whether passports should be handed to Count von Bernstorff with or without a warning note to Berlin.

After the President and the Cabinet had been in session more than two hours, Mr. Wilson hurried to the Capitol and this statement was issued at the White House:

"The President and the Cabinet thoroughly canvassed the situation, but there is nothing to announce." Members of the Cabinet, sworn to silence, left the White House with grave faces. One of them later sufficiently broke the rule of silence to say:

"The near future will develop something very, very serious." Another gave a hint of the probability that some overt act might be awaited or at least a warning given by saying:

"The last chance has not yet gone. While Germany has announced her purpose, she has not yet carried it into effect, so far as we know." The Cabinet unanimously agreed, however, that the United States could under no circumstances countenance such an invasion of its rights as Germany's campaign of ruthlessness proposes.

THREE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED. At the Capitol, the President had an hour's conference alone with Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and then sent out word that he sought the views of all Senators. Many of the Democrats hurried to his room on the Senate floor. Seated there with Senators grouped about him in a semi-circle, the President gave no indication of a decision of his own, but frankly announced he had come to hear their opinions. To induce open expression, he was careful not to specify what he had in his own mind, but invited a discussion of three propositions:

To break off diplomatic relations with Germany at once and deliver Ambassador von Bernstorff's passports tomorrow. To delay action until some overt act has been committed against the rights of the United States. To re-define the position of the United States, as outlined all through the submarine controversy with a final warning that an offense means a diplomatic break.

PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT NATION IS FACING MOST SERIOUS CRISIS IN COURSE OF ITS HISTORY

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2.—During the day, it has been made clear that no communication has gone forward to Germany, nor has Ambassador Gerard, in Berlin, been given instructions to inform the Government of the state of feeling in the United States. That, of course, has been done through the German Embassy, which continues to express the firm conviction that there is little hope of avoiding a diplomatic break.

President Wilson's every action throughout the day was predicated on his belief that the United States faces the most serious crisis in its history. He chose the course of seeking the advice of other men to compare with his own opinions. The overwhelming sentiment from those he consulted was in favor of a break in relations. Only the time and method were questions of difference. But even after his long talk with the Senators, he returned to the White House to give further consideration to the problem.

One of the thoughts in the minds of the President and his advisers is that the action of the United States should be so unassailable that it would guide other neutrals. President Wilson was boldly told by most of the 15 Democratic Senators in conference with him that the German declaration was an affront to the United States and the civilized world and that any other course than an immediate rupture of diplomatic relations would be "viewed by the world as cowardice."

Some, however, urged that Germany be given a definite time at which diplomatic relations would be severed, and a few others urged that nothing be done until Germany, by some overt act, demonstrated her deliberate determination to affront the United States. Backed by Solid Senate. All the Senators assured the President that whatever course he took would be sustained by a unanimous Senate. "The President," said one Senator, "left us with the suggestion of a night's reflection and of action by word or deed before Monday."

NEW OFFICERS CATAWBA FAIR ASSOCIATION

Special to The Observer. Hickory, Feb. 2.—N. W. Clark is now president of the Catawba Fair Association, with John Manser, vice president, and K. C. Menzies, treasurer. The directors will choose a secretary later. A committee on premium lists has been appointed as follows: John Manser, chairman, Lawrence Bollinger and Henry P. Lutz, R. L. Shuford and Miss Mary Rowe are advisory members of this committee. A new building for manufactures and fine arts, extension of the race track and the building of a grandstand are some of the aims of the association before the fair next Fall.

TOOK ON TORPEDOES. Newport, R. I., Feb. 2.—The tender Melville, attached to the destroyer force of the Atlantic fleet, took on a large number of torpedoes today. The Melville will sail tomorrow morning for Guantanamo to join the fleet there.

INVESTIGATION ORDERED

Washington, Feb. 2.—Without debate the Senate today passed a resolution of Senator Smith, of South Carolina, directing the Attorney General to investigate buying and selling of the Civil War, previously passed by the House, was passed tonight by the Senate. The money goes to mail contractors, mostly Confederate veterans or their heirs. The 896 claims have been pending for more than half century.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS GET MOST OF THE MONEY

PASSENGER TRAIN HITS SWITZ AND IS DERAILED

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 2.—Chicago, Burlington & Quincy passenger train No. 12 ran into an open switch near Cromwell, Iowa, late tonight and was derailed, it was announced at Burlington headquarters. A number of persons were injured. It is not known if any were killed.

FIRE IN OFFICE OF SPARTANBURG HERALD

SPARTANBURG HERALD BURNED

Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 2.—Fire broke out in the stereotyping room of the Herald office at 2:30 o'clock this morning. At present it has not been put under control. The fire is burning at a fast rate in the extreme rear of the building.

Fair and continued cold today; fair and warmer Sunday. The only man who is a hero in his valet is the man who acts as his own valet.