

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

SIXTY-FOUR CONGRESS NEAR END OF ITS LIFE

Leaders Bending Every Effort to Get Legislation Through.

WISH NO EXTRA SESSION

All Else Must Give Way to Appropriations and Measures Relating to Defense.

Washington, Feb. 18.—With the end of the Sixty-fourth Congress but two weeks off, Administration leaders are concentrating their energies to the enactment of revenue and national defense legislation. Much long-pending general legislation every one recognizes must give way to appropriations and measures that relate to the preparations of the Nation for eventualities which may grow out of the diplomatic breach with Germany.

In the Senate, the revenue and naval bills are to be given the right of way as soon as the espionage and anti-conspiracy bill, now under consideration, is out of the way. The House will pass the Army appropriation bill within a few days, and then devote its attention to the sundry civil and general deficiency appropriations. What emergency legislation may be enacted before adjournment depends entirely upon the decision of the President. Many believe he will communicate within a few days his plans for handling the international crisis.

Prevailing opinion is that he will ask Congress for authority to use the armed forces of the Nation for the protection of American seamen and American rights on the high seas, not with the purpose of making war, but to open the sea to shipping.

While awaiting the next step, whatever it may be, the Senate is determined to hasten action on the revenue bill, the naval appropriation bill amended by the naval affairs committee to carry \$5,000,000, an increase of \$165,000,000 over the House bill, and the Army appropriation bill. In addition to these measures, the shipping bill, urged by the shipping board, extending the powers of the Government to control the international shipping, is of paramount interest.

Whether there will be time for passage of railroad labor legislation and other general bills, in view of the congestion of essential measures, is seriously doubted by the leaders of the parties. It has been determined to proceed with the most urgent matters regardless of the possibility of an extra session, and there is confidence that all the appropriation measures except possibly the espionage and harbors bill, can be enacted by March 4.

The Senate was in session today for eulogies to three members who died during the last session, former Senator Clark, of Oklahoma, a President pro tempore, Shively, of Indiana, and Burleigh, of Maine.

Don't Wish Responsibility. House leaders are determined that if an extra session becomes necessary because of failure to pass legislation, the fault shall not be with them. Majority Leader Kitchin, who insists there will be no extra session, is working well into the early hours every morning in an effort to clear the decks. The House will meet at 10 o'clock tomorrow, and the President's program if work in the Senate was equally far advanced.

The tentative program for this week includes consideration of the Danish West Indies bill, which is hoped, may be passed tomorrow, and passage of the Army, Military Academy and sundry civil appropriation bills. The Army bill, carrying an appropriation of \$247,000,000, probably will be passed Tuesday.

Members on both sides are conferring over the outlook for party control. A Republican committee will meet Thursday night to appoint a sub-committee to consider and report regarding the question of a committee on committees, a steering committee and other revisions of the rules as part of the Republican plans for the next House.

Prohibition legislation may crop out at any time. The postoffice appropriation bill, with its Senate amendment for "bone dry" prohibition, may be called up in the House Tuesday. When the committee moves for non-concurrence, several members, including Representatives Hiram, of California, Prohibitionist, will move to concur in an effort to put the prohibition issue squarely before the House.

Members of the rules committee, who have been conducting the "leak" inquiry, will meet in executive session tomorrow to discuss making a final report, which probably will be made to the House before the end of the week.

FORMER SPANISH ENVOY TO WASHINGTON DEAD

Baltimore, Feb. 18.—R. E. L. De Potestad today received a cablegram notifying him of the death in Geneva, Switzerland, on Saturday of his father, the Marquis de Potestad-Fornari. He was 89 and was representative of the Spanish Government in Washington for many years. He later represented his Government in the settlement of the Cuban claims. Later still, he was in the diplomatic service of Spain in Europe. He married Miss W. Ella Chapman, of Philadelphia. He was a half nephew of Gen. Robert E. Lee, his maternal grandfather being Miss Lucy Lee. Besides his son here, he leaves three daughters, two in Madrid, Spain, and Mrs. Richard Tighman, of St. David's, Penn.

CHIEF CLAIM AGENT FOR SOUTHERN DEAD

Washington, Feb. 18.—H. M. Dooley, aged 70, chief claim agent for the Southern Railway, died at his home here today after three days' illness from acute indigestion. Burial will be Wednesday at his former home in Knoxville, Tenn.

THREE VESSELS ADDED TO LIST OF U-BOAT VICTIMS. Two more vessels were announced as being sunk in yesterday's reports of the submarine warfare, and another, the British steamer Worcester, was reported sunk. Including the Worcester, the tonnage destroyed was 6,008. The results of the U-boat campaign since February 1 are as follows:

Table with columns: Ship, Tonnage. Worcester, British, 1,175; Valdez, British, 2,285; Ramsdalen, British, 2,548.

Day's total, 6,008; Previously reported, 229,244; Total sunk, 235,252.

Summary of ships sunk: American, 2; other neutrals, 23; British, 69; other belligerents, 7; total, 111.

FLETCHER NOW IN MEXICO CITY

Big Official Delegation Receives American Ambassador.

Military Escort in Procession. El Paso Hears That Villa Has Gone to Japan.

Mexico City, Feb. 18.—The American Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher, arrived here late last night. He was met by officials from the Mexican Foreign Office, members of General Carranza's staff and a big delegation of Government officials headed by a military escort.

REPORT THAT VILLA HAS GONE TO JAPAN

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 18.—Eduardo Soriano Bravo, Mexican Consul, tonight declared Carranza official, he and in Juarez had heard several days ago that Villa had embarked in disguise for Japan on a political mission. "Villa has been accounted for since he went to Parral about six weeks ago," said the Consul. "However, we are inclined to doubt the story that he has gone to Japan. That may have been invented to account for his absence. It is believed more likely that he is in hiding in the mountains, either to try to reorganize his bands there, or because he is sick or wounded."

Consul Bravo said he heard that the raid on the Corner Ranch was used by Salazar as a diversion in order to smuggle ammunition over the border.

SALAZAR NOW AT HEAD OF BIG FORCE

Columbus, N. M., Feb. 18.—Jose Ynez Salazar, with forces estimated at about 5,000 men, is reported to be moving westward from Ojitos, Army officers said here tonight. Salazar also was reported to have captured a body of Carranza cavalry near south of Lang's Ranch near Corner Ranch, and was moving westward against Salazar.

CATTLEMEN PLANNING TO CHASE BANDITS

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 18.—A report is current tonight that cattlemen in the Hachita district of New Mexico intend to form a punitive expedition of their own to cross into Mexico and chase the bandits who murdered three Mormon cowboys on the Corner Ranch last Monday. Lem Spillbury, the Mormon scout lately with General Pershing in Mexico, was said to be organizing such a posse.

MEN OF LAW'S CREW HAVE REACHED ROME

Schooner's Captain Tells of Destruction of His Vessel by Submarine.

Rome, Feb. 17, via Paris, Feb. 18.—Capt. McDonough, and the crew of the American schooner Lyman M. Law, recently sunk by an Austrian submarine, arrived in Rome last evening with Roger Tredwell, the United States Consul at Turin, and were interrogated at the American Embassy. Captain McDonough repeated his story of the sinking of the schooner, adding that the vessel had a large supply of canned goods, especially meat, chicken and vegetables, which doubtless attracted the officers and crew of the submarine in their search for food.

Captain McDonough described the submarine crew as being composed of "about 40 men—all big, blond, husky fellows." Describing the approach of the submarine, the master of the American schooner said: "If my ship had been armed with a five-pounder, I could have destroyed the submarine as easily as buttering a piece of bread. Neither myself nor my men lowered our dignity by showing any resentment. I did not ask them to spare the ship, and left her smilingly while the Austrians also smiled."

Captain McDonough and his crew soon will be sent to the United States. Thomas Nelson Page, the American Ambassador, has sent a report on the sinking of the American vessel to the State Department at Washington.

Advertisement for Charlotte Must Have More and Better School Facilities.

CONCENTRATING FOR AN ATTACK ON SANTIAGO

Government Forces Will Try to Drive Out Cuban Rebels.

SUNDAY PASSED QUIETLY

Only a Few Minor Brushes Reported—Presidential Decree Suspends Oriente Election.

Havana, Feb. 18.—Sunday passed quietly as far as revolutionary activities were concerned, only a few minor brushes between rebels and Government forces being reported from isolated places. With Ciego de Avila in his hands and communication with that point re-established, the Government probably is concentrating its forces for an attack on Santiago de Cuba, which city is still in the hands of the rebels. General Rios and General Ramos at Manzanillo, with 2,000 men, and General Cebreco at Baracoa, with a strong force, are preparing to march against the Capital of Oriente province.

The partial elections which were scheduled to be held in Oriente February 20, and which, it was expected, would settle the long drawn out dispute as to whether President Menocal was to serve another four years as president, or step aside for Alfredo Zayas, Liberal presidential candidate, will not be held on that date, the president by special decree having suspended them. A new date for these partial re-elections will have to be fixed by the provincial electoral board.

The American supply ship Dixie came into port this morning from Guantanamo but she carried no arms, and her visit was said to be purely one of courtesy. Assistant Secretary of State Patterson is quoted as saying that Carlos Céspedes, the Cuban Minister at Washington, had called in advance the coming of war vessel to this and other ports of the island and adding that he had assurances from Secretary of State Lansing that their presence was intended to give moral support to the Cuban Government and "reaffirming assurances of non-interference."

Dr. Alfredo Zayas is reliably reported as seeking a conference with the American Minister but Mr. Gonzalez would not say that he is to meet Mr. Zayas, who is in hiding in or near Havana, supposedly in a foreign legation.

Numerous arrests of suspected men are being made at various points in the Republic and reports continue to come in of rebels giving themselves up with their arms, singly and in small groups.

Troops under command of Carlos Gonzalez Clavel left here this morning by train for the purpose of attacking Manzanillo.

Major Bertot, of Manzanillo, has taken refuge in the American consulate.

AMERICAN WARSHIP ARRIVES AT SANTIAGO

Santiago de Cuba, Feb. 18.—The United States mine-layer San Francisco arrived here this morning and Commander H. H. Henshaw, in command of the ship, was met by the Military Governor not to allow the warships of President Menocal or others carrying troops for the purpose of attacking Santiago, to enter the harbor, provided the Governor would not permit the harbor or sink a ship in the channel. No American troops have been landed here.

WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM SWITZERLAND

Minister at Washington Acted in Effort to Bring About Resumption of Relations.

Geneva, Switzerland, Feb. 18.—Via Paris.—La Suisse learns from Berne that the Swiss Minister at Washington, Dr. Paul Ritter, acted on his own initiative, without instructions from the Swiss Government, in the action concerning resumption of relations between the United States and Germany.

A Reuter dispatch from Berne under date of February 17 said that "the note presented by the Swiss Minister to the American Government, suggesting fresh negotiations regarding the submarine warfare, owes its origin to no initiative on the part of the Swiss Minister or the Swiss Government."

What purported to be the German official version of the proposed mediation through the Swiss Minister at Washington for a conference on the submarine question was sent by the Reuter Amsterdam correspondent on February 14. This version set forth that a telegram from the Swiss Minister at Washington was transmitted to Germany by Switzerland, the Minister offering, if Germany were agreeable, to mediate in negotiations with the American Government about the declaration of prohibited areas, as there by the dangers of war between Germany and the United States might be diminished.

"The Swiss Government," it was further declared, "was then requested to inform its Minister at Washington that Germany, as before, was ready to negotiate with America in case the commerce barrier against her enemies remained untouched."

PENSION FUND. New York, Feb. 18.—Bishop William Lawrence, of Boston, announced today that the old age pension fund which the Episcopal Church is raising had passed the \$5,000,000 mark. Original estimates, he explained, required this sum as a minimum if the movement was to be a success.

GERMAN CASUALTIES EXCEED FOUR MILLION

London, Feb. 18.—Casualties in the German army, exclusive of the Colonial troops, reported in the German casualty lists in the month of January, 1917, totalled 77,534 officers and men killed, wounded, prisoners or missing. The total compiled from the list follows:

Table with columns: Killed and died, 15,006; Prisoners, 11,845; Missing, 11,874; Wounded, 48,109; Total, 77,534.

These casualties include the total of Germans killed and those who died of wounds or sickness to 985,329, and the total casualties since the war began to 4,087,692.

VAIN EFFORTS MADE TO RETAKE GROUND GAINED BY BRITISH. Attacking Germans Come on in Waves, Only to Be Swept Back With Heavy Losses From Defenders' Fire.

The Germans in the Mairumont sector of the Ancre front in France have striven hard to regain the positions taken from them by the British on Saturday, but their attempts were fruitless, according to the British War Office. Attacking in waves, the Germans came under the concentrated fire of the British guns and were swept back to their trenches, suffering heavy casualties. At no place did the attacking force reach the British line, and the British suffered no casualties. The British captured 758 officers and men.

The Berlin War Office in its description of the Ancre fighting of Saturday, says the positions several times changed hands, but before abandoning their advanced crater positions, the Germans took 130 men prisoners, and captured five machine guns. Trench raiding operations and artillery duels still continue on various sectors of the front in France and Belgium. In Champagne, near Ripont, according to Berlin, the French have actively shelled the Germans in the positions captured from the French last week, but have been unable to launch infantry attacks owing to the terrific artillery reply of the Germans.

Except for isolated attacks, the most violent of which was delivered by the Russians against Teutonic Al-Rumani, and which Berlin says was repulsed, little fighting is in progress in the eastern theater. Petrograd admits the entry of Germans into Russian trenches south of Dvinsk, but says later they were driven out. In the Carpathians, a strong Austro-German work south of Okna has been captured by the Russians.

TWELVE VESSELS OFF FOR EUROPEAN PORTS

But One of Steamships to Brave Submarine Danger Is of American Registry.

New York, Feb. 18.—Twelve steamships, one of them flying the American flag, sailed from here today, presumably for European ports, which will necessitate their passage through the "prohibited zone" announced by Germany. Three vessels that came through the restricted area, one of which was of American registry, arrived here.

Two of the steamers departing today, the British liner Laconia, for Liverpool, and the French liner Roma, for Marseilles, are passenger ships. Whether there were any Americans on board either vessel was not disclosed.

The City of Pueblo was the lone American vessel sailing today to brave the dangers of the submarine zone. Her captain, John E. Willet, is a New Yorker, and other officers, 13 in all, are Americans, while the crew is composed of Russians, Norwegians, Japanese, Swedes and Scotch. The steamship is bound for Havre, France, with merchandise.

The steamer Moreni, from Mediterranean ports, was the only American vessel arriving here today.

It is expected that several American steamships will leave for the danger zone tomorrow, among them the Mongolian and Algonquin.

Advertisement for Cloudy featuring a dog and text: JO-JO SAYS Cloudy. Partly cloudy and slightly colder; rain tomorrow. Nothing will make a person color blind like telling white lies.

SEENA THANKS SITUATION NOT WITHOUT HOPE

That Break With United States May Be Avoided, Possible.

FRIENDLY SOLUTION SOUGHT

Nevertheless, Dual Monarchy Is Not Willing to Surrender Principle of U-Boat Warfare.

Vienna, Feb. 18.—Via London.—Despite the fact that some of the newspapers are taking a gloomy view of Austro-American relations and the situation brought about by the severing of relations between the United States and Germany, official circles in Vienna are inclined to believe that the situation is not entirely hopeless. This also is the view of Frederic C. Penfield, the American Ambassador, who is doing everything possible to assist in reaching a friendly solution of the situation.

At this moment, there are two indications, though possibly they are of little weight, which permit of the conclusion that Washington is not contemplating an immediate break with Austria-Hungary. One is the transfer to the Embassy here of Joseph C. Grew, former Secretary of the Embassy in Berlin, who arrived here tonight from Switzerland to assume the duties of counselor of the Embassy.

The second indication arises from the fact that Secretary of State Lansing yesterday wired here on behalf of various Hebrew charity organizations the sum of \$250,000, the amount having been donated by American Hebrew societies. At the Embassy here, the opinion was expressed that the United States Government might not have transferred this sum had a break between Washington and Vienna been even tentatively decided on.

No Conjectures. At the Foreign Office, no conjectures are indulged in regarding what the near future may bring. The fact that the two Governments are unable to communicate their views more freely than the present conditions permit has made the exchange of opinions slow and unsatisfactory.

The Associated Press is able to say that the Austro-Hungarian Government as a result remains in almost total ignorance of the views of President Wilson and his Cabinet. The impression here is that in Washington it is believed the Dual Monarchy will recede from the position taken jointly with Germany regarding submarine warfare.

HAMPTON ROADS CLOSED TO SHIPPING AT NIGHT

Destroyers Charged With Use of Such Force as Necessary to Obtain Strict Compliance.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 18.—Hampton Roads, fenced by a great steel net, is closed to all shipping at night under an order issued today by Rear Admiral McLean, commandant of this naval district. Certain known American vessels in the coastwise or Chesapeake Bay trade will be permitted to enter or depart up to 9 o'clock at night, but other craft will be barred from darkness until daylight.

Even by daylight, ships going in or out must be passed by patrol boats which will open a buoyed gate for authorized vessels. Admiral McLean's order, after giving instructions as to the procedure of vessels entering or leaving the roads, closes with the warning that destroyers on guard are charged with the enforcement of the new instructions with such force as is necessary for strict compliance.

NAVAL OFFICER IS APPOINTED CENSOR



LIEUT. CHARLES BELKNAP

Lieutenant Belknap is the first official censor appointed by Secretary Daniels for all the news of this country's naval affairs before it is given to the press. The Navy Department is maintaining rigid secrecy about movements of the fleet.

IN BLUE HAZE OF NORTH ATLANTIC

United States Battle Fleet Has Completely Disappeared.

Whereabouts Will Be Kept Secret—Publication of Bulletins Has Been Suspended.

BY J. HERBERT DUCKWORTH. New York, Feb. 18.—Uncle Sam's battle fleet has mysteriously and completely disappeared. It is purposely lost and nobody here knows its whereabouts except President Wilson, Secretary Daniels and the chief of naval operations.

From now on until the end of the war, whether we become involved in hostilities with Germany or not, it is not likely our Navy will have its hiding place revealed.

Absolute secrecy of movement is the first law of naval strategy. When the Germans bombarded the East Coast of England the British people angrily demanded to know where Admiral Jellicoe's fleet was.

SPANISH NEUTRALITY SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION

Animated Debate in Cortes Over Spain's Attitude Relative to the War.

Madrid, Feb. 18.—Via Paris.—Spanish neutrality was the subject of animated discussion in the Cortes last night when several deputies questioned the Premier, Count de Romanones, on the attitude of the Government in the war. The Premier said the Government was above all neutral as between the two opposing elements, and had shown its attitude very distinctly in the action taken in connection with several moves of the United States; one, the invitation to intervene for the re-establishment of peace, and another invitation to declare war against Germany.

Deputy Rodes, interrupting the Premier, said that this declaration by Count de Romanones was incorrect, because the United States had never invited Spain to declare war.

Amid considerable excitement in the chamber, caused by this remark, the Premier replied that in reality the United States had invited Spain only to break off diplomatic relations with Germany and added:

"Spain the friend of all the belligerents and all neutrals, and for that very reason it cannot undertake discussions of negotiations which would have the effect of injuring our friendships and our tranquility."

The Premier closed the debate by declaring that the Government would maintain with pride its neutrality and would defend all points of its note to Germany protesting against the submarine blockade.

WILL TAKE CHARGE OF SOCIAL SERVICE WORK

New York, Feb. 18.—The Rev. Worth M. Tippy, pastor of Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, reported to be the highest salaried pastor in his denomination has accepted a sacrifice of \$4,900 a year to the office of secretary in charge of social service in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and announced his resignation as pastor today.

FARM LIFE SCHOOL GETS PRIZE BULL

Special to The Observer. China Grove, Feb. 18.—The registered Holstein bull, won by the Farm Life School judging team at the State Livestock Association meeting, arrived Tuesday from Winston-Salem. The prize was donated by F. H. Hanes, of Winston-Salem. The calf is 18 months of age and weighs 1,000 pounds.

WAITING POLICY CONTINUED BY ADMINISTRATION

With Reference to Germany's Ruthless Submarine Campaign.

BUT NO TIME IS LOST

Preparations Go Steadily Forward—Speculation as to When President Will Address Congress

Washington, Feb. 18.—The American Government continued its waiting policy towards Germany's ruthless submarine warfare today, and although it is taken for granted in all quarters that President Wilson will go before Congress on the situation before adjournment March 4, the statement was authorized that so far he had made no definite plans to that end.

The visit of the President to the Capitol yesterday to discuss with Senators advisability of appearing before a joint session to ask authority for protecting American sailors and ships from submarines has given rise to much speculation as to when the step will be taken. The belief everywhere that there will be action not later than next week, if nothing happens to precipitate it before, is based upon the knowledge that the President wishes to avoid calling an extra session of Congress if possible, and the reiterated declarations of members of the Administration that the present conditions, under which most of the American ships in overseas trade have been frightened into cancelling sailing dates, cannot be permitted to continue.

The small number of vessels sunk by submarines within the past few days is attracting no little attention. Officials always point out, however, that this does not alter the fact that through fear of the effects of the virtual blockade of eastern American ports. The opening of Halifax as a port of examination, allowing some vessels to avoid the danger area, by not going to Kirkcubbin is expected to somewhat relieve the excitement.

Every means at the disposal of the Government continues to be used to prepare for any eventuality, and the Administration believes no time has been wasted. If a decision to arm American merchantmen should be reached, it is understood that it could be done very quickly.

There has been no further developments in the situation between the United States and Austria-Hungary and Turkey. While press dispatches from Berlin told of the dispatch of the American prisoners on the prize vessel Yarrowdale, the receipt of such notice has not been announced by the State Department.

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He was prompted in this step, he said, by sincere desire to be occupied in a movement soon to be launched in which 207,000 churches of all denominations are expected to join for the expansion of social service.

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