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Severing of Diplomatic Relations May Follow U. S. Demands to Be Sent Germany If Guarantees to America Are Refused

WILSON PREPARED FOR ANY OUTCOME

The Note to Berlin Satisfies Cabinet Members Who Advocated Policy.

MAINTAINS HONOR AND U. S. DIGNITY

Asks for Accounting of Violations of American Rights and Termination of Practices.

Washington, May 12.—The United States government in a note to Germany formally demands that the imperial German government give a strict accounting of the loss of American lives from the sinking of the Lusitania and violations of American rights in the war zone. The note also asks for guarantees that there will be no repetition of such practices.

With plain intimations in it that the United States is prepared to meet any eventuality arising from non-compliance on the part of Germany the communication, phrased with unmistakable emphasis, was prepared to be cabled to Berlin by nightfall.

Written by the president and approved unanimously by the radical and conservative members of the cabinet the note is being carefully examined by Counsellor Lansing and other law officials of the state department to make sure that the phraseology has covered every point of law involved. White house officials announced that the president had finally determined on a course of action to be pursued.

Washington, May 12.—The following statement on the Lusitania incident was made public today at the White House by Secretary Tamm, following a conference with President Wilson:

"The course of the president has been determined and will be announced as soon as it is proper to publish the note which is now in preparation."

President Wilson has virtually completed the note which will be sent to Germany as the result of the sinking of the Lusitania. It asks for an accounting by Germany of the series of violations of American rights in the war zone—not only financial but moral—and for a guarantee that there will be no repetition of unlawful practices by German submarines.

Late today or early tomorrow the note, approved by the cabinet, will be sent to Ambassador Gerard to be presented to the Berlin government. The final details of the note are being revised with care.

Members of the cabinet who have advocated a vigorous foreign policy are satisfied with the terms of the note and the more conservative members also approve it.

That the note maintains the dignity and honor of the United States is the unanimous opinion. The president is said to realize the gravity of its meaning and is prepared for any eventuality that may follow its presentation. The note does not say exactly what the course of the United States will be in case of a refusal by Germany to accede to the terms, nor would the president's advisors indicate what it might be beyond saying that each new development would be considered as it arose.

In official quarters, however, the eventual severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was declared not to be impossible if there is no abatement of German practices.

It was learned today that the pacific utterances of President Wilson in his speech at Philadelphia Monday night are not reflected in the firm and unequivocal phrasing of the note, which is described as a business-like document, demanding a 'strict accountability' which

position of the United States government toward Germany. The circular from the German government to neutral countries, assuming responsibility and promising reparation for any damage in the war zone to neutral vessels will not affect the determined course of the president. It was considered by the cabinet yesterday, but high officials later pointed out that there is no guarantee in it that the lives of Americans will be safeguarded, as submarines cannot accommodate passengers or crew of the vessels they attack. While it was regarded as a promise for reparation in the cases of the Gulfight and the Cushing, if it shall be proven that they were damaged by Germans, the opinion of high officials of the Washington government was that the communication did not alter the main issue—the torpedoing without warning of unarmed merchant ships of any nationality carrying non-combatants.

The circular modifies the original proclamation of the war zone in the sense that responsibility for mistakes is now assumed, and the right of visit and search is to be exercised against vessels flying neutral flags, while destruction of neutral vessels carrying contraband is to be conducted under the rules of international law governing prizes. These require the transfer to a place of safety of passengers and crew if the vessel is destroyed. Just how a submarine will be able to carry out this obligation was not explained in the circular and left officials very much in doubt on this point.

"Rules Disregarded." London, May 11.—"International law has been during the last ten months more completely disregarded, cast down and trampled under foot than I think it ever was within the last four or five centuries," said Viscount Bryce, formerly British ambassador at Washington, on presiding at a lecture on international law here yesterday.

"Apart from the cruelties to the innocent population of Belgium, which has been subjected to worse treatment than that which befell combatants," he continued, "ships

London, May 12.—Anti-German outbreaks of particular severity are occurring in the neighborhood of the East Indian docks. Sixty or seventy German shops have been wrecked. Germans in the vicinity have united for self defense and police reinforcements are being rushed to the scene.

German establishments have been sacked and their contents have been scattered over the streets. The keepers have

LIFE BELTS ON LINER SCARCE?

Heavy Death Rate Among American First Cabin Men Seems Partly Due to Lack of Preservers.

AMERICANS DISPLAYED COOLNESS AND COURAGE

Cunard Company Sends Tug to Search for the Bodies Which Are Still Being Recovered.

Queenstown, Ireland, May 12.—The recovery of the body of Albert Thompson of Toronto, which was found by an admiralty trawler not far from the scene of the sinking of the Lusitania led to the hope that additional bodies of the victims of the tragedy might be found. Ten unidentified bodies have also been landed at Baltimore 47 miles southwest of Cork. All hope of finding further survivors has been abandoned.

A current of two and a half to three knots races about Old Head Kinsale and this augmented by a stiff east wind might at the end of eight or nine days carry bodies ashore around Cape Clear on the west Irish coast.

The Cunard company after much trouble has sent a tug to the scene of the disaster to search for bodies. There are indications that the heavy death list among American men of the first cabins was due to the scarcity of life belts. Many gave their preservers to women. There was a preponderance of testimony that no American men entered a boat except from the water.

Webb Wade, secretary of Alfred G. Vanderbilt, has not been able to arrange with the authorities to charter a tug to search for other bodies as well as that of Mr. Vanderbilt. Until he heard the story of Dr. Kenn, Wade believed his employer had entered one of the boats that had been smashed, but as Dr. Kenn's story is indefinite it is accepted generally as a correct version of Vanderbilt's last moments.

When the liner was in her death throes there was no cooler group than that of Madam De Page, Herbert S. Stone, Lindon W. Bates, Jr., and Dr. J. T. Houghton. The last named was the only survivor of the party. The little band guided women and children to the life boats, supplied life belts, bound up wounds and then jumped hopelessly into the water.

ANTI-GERMAN RIOTS SERIOUS

London, May 12.—Anti-German outbreaks of particular severity are occurring in the neighborhood of the East Indian docks. Sixty or seventy German shops have been wrecked. Germans in the vicinity have united for self defense and police reinforcements are being rushed to the scene.

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PROMISES COME FROM GERMANY

Submarines Not to Harm Neutral Vessels Not Engaged in Hostile Acts; Reparation if Damaged.

TO OBSERVE NAVAL WAR RULES WITH NEUTRALS

Neutral Ships Carrying Contraband to Be Dealt With According to Laws Applying to Courts.

Washington, May 12.—Germany, through Ambassador Gerard, has notified the United States that submarine commanders had been specifically instructed not to harm neutral vessels not engaged in hostile acts, and that Germany would pay for damages to such ships in the war zone.

Neutral ships carrying contraband will be dealt with, the announcement says, according to the rules of naval warfare. If neutral ships are accidentally damaged in the war zone Germany will express its regret and pay damages without prize court proceedings.

The German government justifies its submarine warfare on the ground that England is threatening to starve the civilian population of Germany by prohibiting neutral commerce in foodstuffs and other necessities.

In previous communications Germany has disclaimed responsibility for any harm that might befall neutral vessels venturing into the war zone.

The text of the announcement cabled by Ambassador Gerard which was issued by the German foreign office is in the form of a circular as follows:

"First, Imperial German government naturally has no intention of causing to be attacked by submarines or aircraft such neutral ships of commerce in the scene of naval warfare or definitely described in the notice of the German admiralty staff of February 4 last, as having been guilty of no hostile act. On the contrary, the most definite instructions repeatedly have been issued to German war vessels to avoid attacks on such ships under all circumstances. Even when such ships have contraband of war on board they are dealt with by submarines solely according to the rules of international law applying to prize warfare."

"Two, Should a neutral ship nevertheless come to harm through German submarines or aircraft on account of an unfortunate (x) in the above mentioned zone of naval warfare the German government will unreservedly recognize its responsibility therefor. In such a case it will express its keenest regrets and afford damages without first instituting a prize court action."

"Three, It is the custom of the German government as soon as the sinking of a neutral ship in the above mentioned zone of naval warfare is ascribed to German war vessels to institute an immediate investigation into the cause. If the grounds appear thereby to be given for association of such a hypothesis the German navy places itself in communication with the interested neutral government so that the latter may also institute an investigation."

"If the German government is thereby convinced that the ship has been destroyed by German war vessels it will not delay in carrying out the provisions of paragraph two above. In case the German government, contrary to the viewpoint of the neutral government, is not convinced by the result of the investigation the German government has already on several occasions declared itself ready to allow the question to be decided by an international investigation commission, according to chapter three of The Hague of October 18, 1907, for the peaceful solution of international disputes."

(x) Indicates word missing in text.

London, May 12.—An official list has been posted by the stock exchange which shows that about 600 members of the exchange will not apply for reelection for the current year. In normal times the exchange membership is about 1000.

MRS. KNIGHT IS LIKELY TO WIN

Supreme Court Seems to Favor Asheville Woman's Side in Woman Notary Case Now Under Test.

THOMAS S. ROLLINS SPEAKS FOR WOMAN

Attorney General Bickett Does Not Oppose New Law and Doubts if Notary Is Public Officer.

(By W. T. Bost). Raleigh, May 12.—The Supreme court listened with a sort of facial flexibility yesterday to the woman notary argument wherein Mrs. Nolan Knight is concerned, and betrayed the suspicion that its mind is made up for the ladies.

Josh Hillings would have called guessing at Supreme court decisions as "uncommonly pesky and quarrelsome business," but the double score of women were satisfied yesterday when they left the Supreme court hall. The court did not appear to be perplexed and asked no embarrassing questions of the lawyers who did their best to enlighten it. There was no real controversy, the attorney general on the part of the state speaking from every angle.

Thomas S. Rollins, former republican state chairman, appeared for the legislative act giving women the right to exercise notarial power. Mr. Rollins spoke for Mrs. Nolan Knight, his stenographer, who was the first woman to receive appointment under the act. When the law was debated in the general assembly an understanding was reached only one woman should be appointed until the constitutionality of the statute should be determined. Accordingly Governor Craig honored his home town.

This was the first time in several years that any considerable number of women have attended any sitting of the Supreme court to hear an argument. At all hearings on this and other bills relating to women, the galleries of the house and senate were filled with women. The notary act was passed one day when everybody had his back turned. Then somebody came in and started such trouble as to cause the house to reconsider. The action of the house came near proving what the philosopher said of woman, "wise upon impulse, a fool upon reflection." Reflection came near losing the bill in the house.

The argument now turns upon three propositions. Is one who is not eligible to vote eligible to hold a public office in North Carolina; is the position of notary public a public office? And particularly, can a woman hold the position of notary public?

Attorney General's Position. Attorney General Bickett was expected to oppose the law, but he did not. He presented both sides and offered all the law in favor of each contention that he could rake and scrape. The position of Mr. Bickett was much the same as that of Preacher Tom Trott as a baseball player. Mr. Trott did not like to "play in the field" and he announced that he would always be willing to play if they allowed him to "knock on both sides." Mr. Bickett knocked each side yesterday.

The attorneys did a little fine distinguishing in the early part of the discussion as to whether the constitution holds that only a voter shall be eligible to office. It was argued by Mr. Rollins that there was no declaration written into the constitution that one who is not a voter is ineligible to office. State vs. Bateman was cited in the 162 N. C. 151 to show that the peculiar phraseology in the North Carolina constitution, article 6, section 1 and article 5 section 7, is related to the newly franchised element and that as some day a majority might be opposed to their holding office, the provision "every voter except as disqualified by the constitution," was employed.

Position of Public Officer. The debate was then pitched upon the nature of the notarial position. The legislature said that it is not an office. Judge Clark was quoted in an office. Judge Clark was quoted in an office. Judge Clark was quoted in an office.

(Continued on Page 2.)

CONFLICTS ON MANY FRONTS

French Report They Are Holding Gains Near Arras Except in One Place of Counter Attack.

GERMANS MAKING DESPERATE EFFORTS

Russians Pressing Hard and Are Hard Pressed—Turks Lose Heavily in Gallipoli Peninsula.

Paris, May 12.—The French war office has issued the following statement:

"In the sector north of Arras we have maintained our gains except in front of Loos, where a night counter attack resulted in the taking by the Germans of a part of the territory we captured during the day. On the rest of the front there were artillery engagements yesterday."

Fighting Everywhere. London, May 12.—With two of the greatest battles of the war in progress—one between Arras and the Belgian coast and the other in western Gallia—to say nothing of operations in the Dardanelles, and lesser engagements along the eastern and western fronts, the armies of the belligerents are now fully occupied.

The battle in northern France and Flanders might be divided into three sections. From the coast to Dixmude the Belgians, supported by French marines have taken the offensive, and besides repulsing German counter attacks, have gained a footing on the right bank of the Yser canal.

Around Ypres, particularly to the east of that town, the Germans continue to attack the British lines and again are using gas and a tremendous amount of artillery, but, according to the British version, without making any impression.

Further south as far as Arras, the French continue their offensive and have made material progress, capturing a number of Germans, with guns and machine guns.

Great importance is attached to the French operations, as it threatens the German lines of communication for the armies on the Oise and the Aisne. The battle will doubtless not be decided for days.

According to the French report, the Germans, their railway lines having been destroyed by allied airplanes, have brought up reinforcements by motor. These have been met by the concentrated fire of the French artillery. In fact, the artillery is becoming more and more the determining factor in the war.

Around Ypres, the Germans, before launching their attacks, which have been delivered on successive days, thoroughly searched the ground with heavy and light guns, subjecting the British to a bombardment such as they themselves received at Neuve Chapelle. Officers and men who have escaped from it state that the trenches were utterly destroyed and the ground churned up by the shells.

Nevertheless the British found some kind of shelter, and mowed down the German infantry when it tried to advance.

There are no signs of the German attacks slackening. The Germans are reported to be concentrating more levies in Belgium, ready to take the place of or support those on the firing line. Indeed, many believe that the biggest effort yet undertaken to reach the French coast ports is now under way.

Cape Hatien, May 12.—In a battle today near Cape Hatien the government troops routed the forces of Dr. Rossalvo Bobo, rebel leader who came to Cape Hatien May 7 and held the city until the arrival of the government troops.