

Secretary Lansing Preparing Draft of Reply to Germany, Rejecting Proposals; Situation at Grave and Critical Stage

CRISIS MAKES ESSENTIAL CAREFUL WEIGHING OF PHRASEOLOGY OF NOTE

President Will Decide What Policy to Pursue After Consultation With Secretary Lansing.

LUSITANIA QUESTION

MOST SERIOUS MATTER

Note Outlining Attitude of U. S. Toward Submarine Warfare Will Reassert U. S. Contentions.

render of American rights in the new note was practically certain, according to the views of officials thus far, and there is also assurance that the German proposals for the immunity of American passengers on ships not carrying contraband will be rejected.

Just what steps will be taken by the United States as the result of Germany's failure to disavow the sinking of the Lusitania is uncertain. This issue—the loss of 100 American lives—for which Germany has disclaimed responsibility, has brought the situation to a grave and critical stage.

It has been arranged that Secretary Lansing should go to Cornish, N. H., for a conference with the president as soon as the German note is carefully examined here and Secretary Lansing has prepared the draft of the reply. It may be, however, that President Wilson will decide to return to Washington instead.

The German ambassador is seeking information concerning the attitude of the American government toward the German reply. After the secretary has conferred with President Wilson it is not unlikely that some intimation will be given the ambassador of the seriousness with which the United States regards the crisis.

Secretary Lansing began working today on the draft of the reply to Germany, but not the slightest inkling was given as to his views. Such intimations, however, as were received at the white house as well as at the state department pointed to the framing of a policy which would express even more emphatically the views of the United States government and the belief is growing that the next note may include some idea of the intentions of the American government of the demands are not met.

That there will be no action by the United States for at least another week was indicated today.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, intends to call on Secretary Lansing during the week to learn informally whether he can be of any service in the situation.

In all quarters here there is the single topic of concern. What the action of the American government will be is doubtful, largely in the sense that persons of expressing the ideas and purposes of the United States have not been decided.

There is no intention, from indications from official quarters, to force a situation, but in whatever policy is followed the American endeavor will be to place full responsibility on Germany for any possible rupture in friendly relations. Since the Lusitania was sunk May 7, there has been no violation of the principles for which the United States has contended, unless the mishap to the Nebraska can be included, and in that case the Washington government has not finally reached a conclusion as to whether a mine or torpedo caused the explosion. In the view of many officials, should German submarine commanders continue in practice to respect American rights, discussion could continue. There were intimations, however, that in the next communication the United States likely would impress on Germany the serious consequences that would ensue from any further violation of American rights as proclaimed in notes already sent.

The chief obstacle, it appears, to permitting virtually a status quo to continue while further notes are exchanged is the treatment which Germany has given to the Lusitania case. The United States has asked for disavowal of intent to kill Americans and for reparation, although the latter has been subordinated to the greater consideration of whether Germany legally justifies the action of the submarine commander or will admit liability.

No direct answer on the questions of law involved was given in the last note, and the quick sinking of the vessel was attributed to "peculiar circumstances" such as the presence of high explosives. High officials regard this as an evasion.

Opinion in German quarters here is much the same as that which has been reflected in press comment from Berlin. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, is satisfied with the reply and thinks it offers a basis for negotiations.

With the United States as active champion for the cause of neutral rights, German officials say they foresee an amicable understanding eventually on the question of freedom of the seas.

London Comment.

London, July 12.—The London morning newspapers declare that the German reply to the United States note concerning submarine warfare is a complete negation of everything President Wilson contends for and that it is conveyed in impudent and insulting terms.

The Morning Post finds "something almost comic in this presentation of a humane power anxious for the liberty of the seas and for the lives of descendants of John Adams and Benjamin Franklin holding the stop watch to its submarine atrocities in order to discover the emargin of safety."

The Morning Post says that the German proposal is that "America should ally herself with Germany to put an end to the war by blockade."

The Daily Chronicle says the German proposal to license steamers to carry Americans negates the whole position President Wilson took up and in that sense, because it is more definite and final, the new note is even more unsatisfactory than its predecessor.

The Daily Telegraph characterizes the note as the most astonishing utterances of the mind of Berlin made in the last twelve months.

"As far as insult and insolence can be carried without resort to actual language of contempt and defiance," the Daily Telegraph adds, "they are carried on in this document."

The Daily Telegraph finds the German offer to license ships innocent and proper. "Berlin," it adds, "proclaims its intention to drown, whenever possible, American citizens who have not submitted to the most degrading surrender of rights ever demanded of a neutral nation."

The note, the Daily Telegraph says in conclusion, is the climax of a series of challenges to the United States which prove that the German mind in regard to the war is plainly in a more chaotic state than ever.

Washington, July 12.—The situation between the United States and Germany has taken on such a critical character that the policy of the United States government will require a lengthy deliberation so that it may have the firmness which the circumstances require. This statement was made today in high official quarters.

Secretary Lansing after taking several days to examine the German reply, may not go to Cornish to confer with the president, after all. The original plan, it was explained, was for President Wilson and Secretary Lansing to confer at Lansing and then have the secretary to draft a note which would be submitted to the cabinet on the president's return to Washington. Now it is believed the president and secretary of state will work independently and prepare memoranda and have a conference afterward.

Ambassador Von Bernstorff Germany asked Secretary Lansing today if the latter wished to see him and Mr. Lansing understood to have replied that he does after he has carefully examined the situation.

Washington, July 12.—Work began today by Secretary of State Lansing on the draft of the note to be sent to the German government expressing the attitude the United States is to take toward Germany's submarine warfare as it affects the rights of neutrals.

When the draft is completed there will be a consultation between Secretary Lansing and President Wilson who will decide what policy is to be pursued. No indication has been obtained as yet as to what course the American government will follow, but there is every indication in official quarters that the relations between the United States and Germany are so strained as to make necessary the weighing carefully of the phraseology of the next communication and assuring fully of the responsibility and consequences that may be incurred by the contents.

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MAKE EFFORTS TO WARN SHIPS

Navy Department Still Trying to Inform British Vessels of Possibility of Bombs Aboard.

WIRELESS MESSAGES SENT BROADCAST

Action Taken on Story of Man Who Claimed to Have Placed Bombs on Two Freighters.

Washington, July 12.—The navy department continued today its efforts to warn the British steamers Howth Head and Baron Napier of the possibility that bombs had been placed in their holds.

The warnings were flashed broadcast over the seas from the Arlington wireless station, after Secretary Daniels had received a telegram from a New Orleans newspaper concerning a communication which had been addressed to that paper by a person who signed his name "Pearce."

The Howth Head ought to reach Norfolk tomorrow at the latest, when it was thought likely she might make response.

Even if the radio message is not directly picked up by the Baron Napier some other vessel might relay it to her. It is believed her response might be caught today by some of the Atlantic coast wireless stations.

New Orleans, July 12.—A written threat to assassinate J. Pierpont Morgan, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador to the United States, and to destroy by bombs British vessels clearing from American ports was received yesterday by a local newspaper from a person who signed himself as "Pearce."

Pearce declared that he had come to New Orleans to complete plans for the destruction of the British mail transports sailing from this port and said the steamers Howth Head and Baron Napier, which cleared from here July 8 and sailed from Port Eads the following day, probably never would be heard from again.

Local government officials, on being notified of Pearce's threats immediately attempted to get in touch with the Baron Napier by wireless. The vessel had not been heard from at a late hour last night. The Howth Head is not equipped for radio communication. Both vessels should now be somewhere off the Florida or Georgia coast, it was said, the Howth Head near the coast and the Baron Napier well out to sea on her way toward British waters.

Frank Holt, or Muenster, who several days ago shot and wounded J. P. Morgan and who later killed himself, had been working with Pearce in an effort to prevent the United States from taking any part in the European conflict, ever since the war began, Pearce wrote. Muenster, the writer declared, was the person who warned passengers who had booked passage on the Lusitania not to make the voyage on the vessel. He personally called on Charles Frohman, who lost his life in the catastrophe, and endeavored to persuade him not to make the trip, Pearce said.

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STRONG CHARGE BY JUDGE LONG

Surprised at Number of Retailing and Disorderly Cases on the Superior Court Docket.

155 CASES ON THE CRIMINAL DOCKET

States That He Will Personally Investigate Chain Gangs and Other County Institutions Members of Grand Jury.

Declaring that he stood for the full enforcement of the law at all times and that he proposed not only to try the cases that were brought before him, but to personally inspect the county institutions, including the various chain gangs, Judge Benjamin F. Long convened a three weeks' term of Superior court for criminal and civil cases here this morning at 10 o'clock.

His charge, while not half so long as these delivered by the majority of the judges on the Superior court bench, was one of the most forcible and the strongest heard here in many months. He stated that when he came here nearly three and one-half years ago to hold court the criminal docket continued about 238 cases and the civil docket 1100 cases but during the four and one-half months that he presided over the courts of this county that practically all of the criminal cases of any importance had been disposed of and all but the "live" cases on the civil docket had been tried.

Told that there were about 155 cases on the present criminal docket, 60 of which were old and 95 new ones he stated that it would be possible to clean all of these cases from the docket that were ready for trial.

Stating that he noticed from glancing over the docket that a majority of the cases were against defendants charged with running or engaging in disorderly houses and retailing, he said that he was very much surprised to see such a number of alleged retailers, as the people of this state had, by popular will, declared it unlawful to sell liquor here. He stated that the reason judges and juries had to try such a large number of liquor cases, was because some fellow had been able to get on the juries, at different times, men who would wink at his performances and hold up a jury in his favor.

Referring to the large number of cases that were appealed from the Police court during the past few weeks, Judge Long stated that he could not believe that all of these people were justified in appealing their cases, for if they were then the court below must be the most corrupt in the country and no one believed that.

40 or 50 Bills a Day.

In telling the members of the grand jury of the work before them he stated that if they work as they should and were as anxious to get back home as they stated, that they would pass 40 to 50 bills of indictment each day and he told them that he did not want them to "take all day to pass a bill."

He stated in plain words that if a witness was not present when called that his name should be sent to the court at once and he would personally attend to the matter.

The jail cases, that is cases in which the defendants are confined in the county jail, will have the right-of-way in securing trials, said the court. Right here it is interesting to note that of the large number of women who have been sent to the county jail within the past few weeks on vagrancy charges only four were in jail when court convened this morning. The others have made bonds for their appearances before the court, one of the women making a bond of \$1,700 Saturday night and another made bond in the sum of \$2,200.

In taking up the cases wherein the defendants are charged with running disorderly houses, Judge Long made it plain that he wanted the grand jury to find out if the defendants owned the houses in which they lived; if not then to find out who does own them and if the owners are guilty of knowing what is done at the houses; if so, then he told the grand jury to return true bills against the owners.

Grand Jury.

The following were sworn in as (Continued on Page Two).

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ITALIANS MAKE GOOD ADVANCE

CARRANZA TAKING CHARGE IN CAPITAL

Sending Officials to Mexico City, Zapata Troops Having Evacuated.

Washington, July 12.—Dispatches to the Carranza agency from Vera Cruz last night announced that General Carranza was sending officers of the various departments of his government on a special train to Mexico City to set up a civil administration. General Lopez de Lara, newly appointed governor of the federal district, started from Vera Cruz with his staff several days ago and is believed to have taken charge in the capital Saturday night when, according to state department reports, the Zapata forces evacuated after making a last stand against the victorious attacking army under General Pablo Gonzales.

No detail of the situation in Mexico City came either to the state department or to the Mexican agencies. The Carranza representatives had a dispatch from General Gonzales, dated at the field headquarters 5 p. m. Saturday and delayed in transmission, telling of the evacuation and saying a detachment had been sent southward to cut off the retreat of Zapata's army.

MAYOR RANKIN RECEIVES A "PEACE PAPERWEIGHT"

It Commemorates the Signing of 30 Peace Treaties by Mr. Bryan

Mayor J. E. Rankin has just received, from Ben W. Davis, chief clerk in the department of state at Washington, one of William Jennings Bryan's "peace paperweights." The paperweight is in the form of a plowshare and has the following inscriptions on it: "Nothing is Final Between Friends," "They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares," Isaiah 2:4, "Diplomacy is the Art of Keeping Cool" and "From William Jennings Bryan, to the mayor's office, city of Asheville, N. C., August 13, 1914."

The letter accompanying the "Peace Paperweight" is as follows:

"Prior to leaving the department, former Secretary Bryan requested me to have engraved and sent to you for use upon the desk of the mayor one of his 'peace paperweights,' and I take pleasure in transmitting it to you under separate cover."

"These paperweights were designed by Mr. Bryan to commemorate the signing of some thirty peace treaties which were ratified during his incumbency as secretary of state. The paperweights are made of melted swords which were purchased by Mr. Bryan from the war department."

"Mr. Bryan also had paperweights made out of scabbards of the swords and has asked me to transmit one of these as a memento for your personal use."

"With the souvenir he asked me to convey his compliments and good wishes to you personally."

Washington, July 12.—Plans to make American submarines more effective than those of any other nations are being worked out by the naval general board, it became known today, in connection with information given out concerning the next building program for the navy, which proposes to increase the number of underwater craft to nearly double the number appropriated for by the last congress.

U. S. SUBMARINES TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE

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Have Made Substantial Progress Toward Trieste, Is Claim, Comparative Calm on Other Fronts.

PETROGRAD ELATED OVER NEW SUCCESS

Austrian Attack on Warsaw Railroad Checked if Not Thwarted—Austrians Explain Defeat.

London, July 12.—Comparative calm prevails in the various fighting areas of Europe, except on the Austro-Italian front, where the Italians claim to have made substantial advances toward Trieste.

Petrograd is elated over the Russian success in South Poland. The Austrians are said to have lost one of three army corps with which they began their advance against Lublin. The entente allies are reminded, however, that this is only a local success on a 40 miles stretch of a 1000 miles front.

The Austrian operation against the Warsaw railroad has been checked if not thwarted, which means that the threatened advance of the Teutons is a little less dangerous than when it began.

Austrian headquarters in Galicia explain the apparent lull in the Austrian attack by the assertion that the Teutonic allies had fixed Lemberg as their objective in the present campaign with the idea of establishing strong defensive positions to the northward in order that they might use some of the troops engaged elsewhere.

It is claimed that his has been accomplished.

It is further explained that the Austrians proceeded beyond Krasnik but encountered unexpected opposition and retired to the positions originally selected where they are resisting all further Russian attacks.

Attack on Turks Futile.

Constantinople, July 11, via Berlin and London, July 12.—The bombardment of Turkish positions on the Gallipoli peninsula by warships again proved futile, according to a statement issued tonight by the Turkish war office.

British Repulse Attack.

The British, according to the French report, have repulsed a German attack. The German reports, however, allude to this as a British attack, and Berlin says it was repulsed with considerable loss. In fact, the French and German reports are generally contradictory in respect to what fighting has taken place, but from their trend it is evident neither side has attempted anything of a decisive nature, and it is believed that it may be weeks yet before they do.

So far as the Germans are concerned, military observers assert they are bound to carry out their offensive against the Russians until there is some decisive engagement, such as the capture of the Lublin-Chelm railway, which, it is asserted, would have been in their hands before now if his

(Continued on Page Two)

THE WEATHER
GENERALLY FAIR.