

PRESIDENT CALLED TO WASHINGTON BY CRISIS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS

PERSIA CARRIED A 4.7 INCH GUN

President Cuts Short Honey-moon to Take Charge of Situation Caused by the Sinking of the Persia.

OFFICIALS CONFESS TO GRAVITY OF SITUATION

Declaration of Austrian Charge Predicting Satisfactory Explanation Does Not Lessen Tension.

Hot Springs, Va., Jan. 3.—President Wilson will cut short his honeymoon and start back to Washington because of the new developments in the international situation caused by the destruction of the British liner Persia, sunk last week in the Mediterranean sea.

Washington, January 1.—Secretary Lansing said today that Consul Garrel's dispatch from Alexandria concerning the sinking of the steamer Persia mentioned that the Persia carried 4.7 inch gun. That fact was deleted in the paraphrase of the consul's report as it was given out by the state department and no explanation was made today as to why it was deleted. Dispatches of such nature are given out in paraphrase instead to guard the code of the state department.

Washington, Jan. 1.—President Wilson will return to the capital tomorrow to take charge of the new crisis in the foreign relations between the United States and the Teuton powers caused by the submarine warfare in the Mediterranean which has resulted in the loss of American lives. After conferences this morning over the telephone with Secretary Tamm and Secretary Lansing it was announced at the white house and also at Hot Springs, Va., that the president would start back to Washington tonight and would arrive tomorrow.

Secretary Lansing announced that he had instructed Ambassador Penfield at Vienna to ask the Austrian government for information which might establish the nationality of the submarine which is said to have sunk the Persia and which might develop facts in the case.

It was stated authoritatively that the destruction of the Persia and the Glengyle has put such a grave aspect on the foreign relations of the country that the president considered it necessary to return to the white house at once and confer with Secretary Lansing and other members of the cabinet to shape the course of the United States.

The situation as it exists today was described in official quarters as paralleling the crisis which was caused by the sinking of the Arabic close on the German assurances in response to representations from the United States on the destruction of the Lusitania.

Although American officials are keeping their minds open until all the facts in the Persia case are received and until it is known whether Americans were endangered in the sinking of the British steamer Glengyle, the gravity of the situation was not minimized and the declaration of Baron Zweidnek, the Austrian charge, that he was confident that the final explanation would be satisfactory, did not lessen the tension.

Congress May Act In Regard To Submarine War

(By Parker R. Anderson.)
Gazette-News Bureau,
Washington, Dec. 31.

The British steamer Persia was torpedoed without warning by an unknown submarine and sank in five minutes with an estimated loss of 245 lives, according to an official dispatch to the state department from American Consul Garrel, at Alexandria, Egypt.

Robert M. McNeely, American consul at Ayden, Arabia, was last seen struggling in the waters and is believed to have been drowned.

The state department gave out the following paraphrase of the official statement:

"Persia sank 300 miles northwest of Alexandria at 1.05 on the afternoon of December 30. Steamer sank in five minutes. No submarine was seen, but an officer of the Persia saw its wake. One hundred and fifty-five out of 400 passengers and crew were landed at Alexandria, January 1. Charles H. Grant, of Boston, among survivors, but Robert McNeely, American consul at Ayden, Arabia, was probably lost, as he was last seen in the water."

Receipts of this official news dispipated the hope officials had that exonerating circumstances might be found for the Persia disaster. The sinking of the vessel without warning and with such heavy loss of life is considered second only to the Lusitania tragedy as an example of premeditated maritime murder.

The dispatch was immediately sent to Secretary of State Lansing and a copy was wired to President Wilson.

German Peace Terms Are Given By Wolff Bureau

Berlin, Jan. 3.—An article in the Neue Zuercher Zeitung purporting to give Germany's peace conditions, a summary of which is circulated by the Wolff bureau among the German papers, is attracting general public attention.

The terms on which Germany, according to the Neue Zuercher Zeitung, is ready to consider peace are as follows:

The restoration of Belgium under certain conditions.

No annexation of French territory.

The separation of Poland from Russia as an independent kingdom under the rule of a German prince.

The restoration of all German colonies.

The payment of an indemnity which would assume the form of a transfer to Germany of Russia's indebtedness to France, amounting to 18 billion francs, and the payment for a term of years of an annual contribution by Belgium, equal in amount to that Belgium has hitherto spent on military organization.

Similar contributions from Russia for Poland—this part is not clear.

Another Large British Steamer Sunk; 100 Saved

London, Jan. 3.—The British steamer Glenyle has been sunk. There are about 100 survivors. The Glenyle sailed from Shanghai for London on November 25 and was last reported at Singapore December 6. Her route would take her through the Suez canal and the Mediterranean and it may be assumed that she was sunk in the Mediterranean sea.

The Glenyle was one of the largest steamers that has been sunk since the activity of submarines in the Mediterranean became pronounced. She had a gross tonnage of 9295; was owned by the Glen line of Glasgow and was the largest steamer of the line.

The Glenyle had been in service only a comparatively short time, having been built at Newcastle in 1904. She was 690 feet long; 62 feet beam and 34 feet deep.

Her master was Captain Webster.

Japan Sends Cruiser Squadron To Suez Canal

Tokio, Jan. 3.—Announcement was made today by the Jiji Shimpo that a squadron of Japanese warships would sail for the Suez canal presumably for the protection of Japanese shipping in the Mediterranean. It is said that the armored cruisers Kasuga, Tokiwa and Chitose were assigned to the service.

The reported decision of the Japanese government to send a squadron to the Suez canal follows the sinking of two Japanese steamers in the Mediterranean. The passenger liner Yasaka Maru was torpedoed off Port Said, December 21 and the freighter Kenkoku Maru was sunk by a submarine December 29. Those aboard both steamers were rescued.

IMPORTANT COURT TERM FOR HAYWOOD COUNTY

Peebles Case and Murder Case Against Tranham Brothers to Come Up for Trial

Waynesville, Jan. 3.—The January term of court for the trial of criminal and civil cases, will convene in Waynesville on Monday, January 24. The criminal docket is very heavy and there are a number of important cases to be heard. One of the most important cases that will probably be heard is that of John Peebles. This case, it will be remembered, was carried on appeal to the Supreme court, and pending the appeal, a petition was presented to Governor Locke Craig, asking a pardon; but the pardon was refused. The case on appeal was then prepared and two weeks ago Mr. Smathers went before the Supreme court, where he succeeded in getting a new hearing.

Another important case is that of Wiley and Charles Tranham, charged with killing the two Pemmons boys on Hurricane several months ago. This case, it will be recalled, was before the last term of court, but the solicitor only tried the men in one case and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

RUSSIANS GAIN ON SOUTH WING

London, Jan. 3.—The latest dispatches from the southern extremity of the Russian front indicate that heavy fighting continues with the Russian front indicate that heavy fighting continues with the Russian army of General Ivanoff gaining ground. One correspondent reports that the operations began with an offensive movement by the Austrians, designed to straighten their line, and that after this attack was repulsed the Russians continued on the offensive. It is evidence that the Russian advance has extended as far as the River Stripa.

In other dispatches it is asserted that two great offensive actions clashed, the Russians having advanced as a threat against the Teutons in the Balkan operations, while the Austro-Germans felt it necessary to improve their positions before the great attack, which they expected the Russians to make in the early spring.

ANOTHER FIGHT ON RATES IS POSSIBLE

Governor Craig Will Resist Increase In Outbound Freight Rates From North Carolina.

(By W. T. Host.)

Raleigh, Jan. 3.—Governor Craig's displeasure over the announcement that the railroads have raised their outbound freight rates is not diminished by the assurance that the rate settlement of two years ago is not to be disturbed.

The governor's letter to the public indicates that he is not going to allow any such thing as has been done without letting the people know about it. He had read a few paragraphs in the papers about the proposed raising of rates in the southeastern territory, but he did not think that it meant anything until they brought the railroads to a considerable concession. The turn of things now appears to rob the people largely of the benefits formerly gained.

The governor cannot see how the railroads, which contended so strongly for the principle of giving lower rates to Virginia gate cities on inbound freight, can also defend the practice under the new rate increase of giving Virginia just as low rates as other cities which may have a haul of 200 miles less than the Virginia cities.

In his letter he made it pretty plain that the question will not stop just where it is now.

The corporation commission had previously protested against the increase and it is given to understand that the question has not been finally settled.

The expiration of the premium on tax-paying in the city Saturday found a large number availing themselves of the benefits and the authorities declare that rarely have the taxes been so well paid up at this time of the year. They regard it an omen of general prosperity.

The county board of education which meets today will probably act upon the question of appointing a new assistant superintendent of public instruction for Wake. The resignation and marriage of Miss Edith Royster last week made the place vacant.

The board has not fully determined whether it will elect a new assistant to try to finish the spring work with more clerical help. Miss Royster is now Mrs. Z. V. Judd, is in the city and will tomorrow resign as president of the better association which she organized.

HUNGARIAN GOV'T MAY TAKE CHARGE OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Zurich, Switzerland, Jan. 3.—All efforts to prevent the extortionate prices for foodstuffs in Hungary having so far failed, the government has determined to prohibit entirely the export, even to Austria, of any articles of food which are scarce, and has also fixed maximum prices that are to be imposed throughout Hungary, according to reliable advices received here. Local authorities are to be empowered to seize with military force all stocks of grain and other provisions that are being kept back for higher prices.

Although Hungary is essentially an agricultural country, the prices of flour and daily products, as well as meat, are much higher than in industrial Germany. The land-owners and farmers who control the parliament in Budapest, have used their utmost influence to prevent the importation of cheap foods from abroad, prior to the war, by insisting upon the maintenance of the high protective duty.

This work ultimately will bring Europe to its senses and stop the war. "If what I have done will bring peace only one day nearer, I shall be more than repaid. Every day the war is shortened will save 30,000 lives, and 30,000 lives will mean much toward restoring order and normal conditions.

"If necessary I will again go to Europe and if it will help matters I

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GERMAN PERMIT TO PEACE PARTY

Members of Ford Expedition Allowed to Go Through Germany to The Hague on Special Train.

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT ARE STRICT, HOWEVER

Must Not Set Foot on German Soil; Locked In Train—Henry Ford Reaches New York; Confident.

Copenhagen, Jan. 3.—The German government has granted the Ford peace expedition permission to travel through German territory to The Hague by special train. The party will leave Copenhagen for The Hague on Friday.

The privilege of passing over German territory was granted despite the refusal of the American state department to extend the passports of the members of the party to cover belligerent countries.

The conditions under which the Americans may travel through Germany are strict. The train on which they travel is to be sealed while going through Germany. Everyone is to be locked in. None will be permitted to touch German soil during the journey.

The members of the party will not be permitted to carry with them any printed or typewritten matter. Concealment of papers even of an innocent character, will result in complications for the whole party.

Other things which the members of the party must abandon before reaching Germany are cameras, postcards, opera glasses and gold coins. Most of the baggage of the expedition is to be sent back to the United States from Copenhagen.

It is announced that the expedition will disembark at The Hague on January 12 and that most of the members will return home from Rotterdam.

Ford Arrives.

New York, Jan. 3.—Henry Ford who led the peace expedition which left here December 4 on the steamer Oscar II for Copenhagen in the hope of bringing about a conference of neutral nations that would end the war, arrived here yesterday on the steamship Bergensfjord. He confirmed cable reports that his return had been hastened by illness, but said it made a difference of only a few days, as he intended when he left to come back this month.

Mr. Ford declared his views regarding the cause of the war have undergone a marked change. When he left, he said, he was of the opinion that bankers, manufacturers of munitions and armament were responsible, but he returns with the belief that it is the people themselves, those now being slaughtered, who are responsible. The men doing the fighting have been too content to let those who rule them do their thinking, and they have not taken advantage of their divine right to say for themselves what they shall do and think, the pacifist asserted.

"Republicans are no better than monarchies in this respect," he said. "Even in the United States we allow those who are elected to office to be swayed from their duty. We do not assert ourselves. Personally, I have been a voter 31 years and in all that time I have voted only six times, and then because my wife made me."

Of the eventual success of the peace mission, Mr. Ford declared he had no doubt. "The movement is now organized and under way," he said. "People are talking about it, and while some critics, when people talk they think, and when they think, they think right."

Mr. Ford's future plans with respect to the peace expedition were uncertain, he said. While he had several ideas in mind, he deemed it too early to speak of them. He left the party in charge of Gaston Plantiff, he said, in accordance with his original plans, and despite all reports to the contrary, when the party left the Oscar II, it was as harmonious as could be desired.

"The main idea of the mission," continued Mr. Ford, "was to crystallize into concrete form, if possible, the various ideas and hopes for peace which prevail all over the world. The nations doing the fighting would be glad to stop it if they could, I believe, but they are afraid to let go."

Those who accompanied him on the Oscar II were as fine a body of people for that particular mission as I could ask, and the interested delegates that met us at Christiania were all good men. I am simply financing and carrying out as far as possible the work set under way last year at the meeting at The Hague of the Women's International Peace congress.

This work ultimately will bring Europe to its senses and stop the war. "If what I have done will bring peace only one day nearer, I shall be more than repaid. Every day the war is shortened will save 30,000 lives, and 30,000 lives will mean much toward restoring order and normal conditions.

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LAMAR FUNERAL PLANS ARRANGED

of Late Associate Justice of Supreme Court to Be Taken to Old Home at Augusta, Ga.

OVERWORK PRIMARY CAUSE OF HIS DEATH

One of the Few Supreme Court Judges to Be Appointed by President of Opposite Political Faith.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Arrangements are being completed today for the funeral of Joseph Rucker Lamar, associate justice of the Supreme court, who died last night of gradual heart failure at the age of 58 years. Had Justice Lamar lived until noon today he would have completed five years of service on the Supreme court bench.

Following its custom, the court, after meeting today, adjourned in respect to the memory of the late Justice. The burial will be at Augusta, Ga., for many years the home of Justice Lamar.

The attending physicians declared Justice Lamar's death to be due primarily to overwork as a member of the Supreme court and as commissioner for the United States in 1914 of the mediation conference between the United States and Mexico.

It is believed that because of the important cases pending before the court, President Wilson will make an appointment to the vacancy at once.

Associate Justice Joseph Rucker Lamar had the distinction of being one of the few members of the court appointed by a president of opposite political faith. President Taft appointed him in 1910 with only two precedents for such action, those of Justices Jackson and Lorton.

Justice Lamar was born in Rockersville, Elbert county, Georgia, October 14, 1857. He represented the University of Georgia and later Bethany college, where he was graduated in 1877. He attended the law school at Washington and Lee university, and was admitted to the bar at Augusta, Ga., in 1878. He lived at Augusta until appointed to the Supreme court bench.

Coming from distinguished southern stock, he was one of the few men whose family had previously had a representative on the bench. The Justice was a cousin to Associate Justice L. Q. C. Lamar of Mississippi, who served on the bench from 1858 to 1893.

He was honored by his state by many positions for which his learning and ability as a lawyer fitted him. First he was a member of the Georgia house of representatives, and in 1892 was appointed to the Supreme court of Georgia as one of the commissioners to prepare a code of laws for the state, which code was adopted by the general assembly in 1895. He was again honored on January 1, 1901, by appointment to fill an unexpired term as associate justice of the Georgia Supreme court and was elected to the same position at the ensuing election. In 1905, he resigned to resume the practice of the law.

In the practice of the law, he largely represented railroads and other big corporations and yet, in the day of antipathy to corporation lawyers, his integrity was so highly regarded that the senate without delay confirmed his nomination.

Early in his service on the Supreme court bench, he became recognized as one of the most powerful members. His opinions were finished works of logic. Applications for rehearings were rare in cases decided.

DO NOT DESIRE BUTLER'S HELP

Raleigh Republicans Are Not Pleased With News That M. Butler Is to Campaign Against N.C. Democrats.

FEAR THE EFFECT OF HIS 'COMING BACK'

One Party Leader Declares Democrats Are Only Pre-Advent Into Politics.

(By W. T. Host.)

Raleigh, Jan. 3.—Raleigh republicans are happy over the recent Washington story that Marion Butler will return to the state to aid in the republican campaign of this year.

The Raleigh republicans have a single hope and that is the inaccuracy of the rumor. When your correspondent wrote early in September that the democrats had received some sort of a warning that Butler is to come back and that the election laws and books need repairs, Major George Butler and others quieted their fears with interviews and denials.

Twice since then additional evidences have been offered this department but not used. The democrats fear that the news is too good to be true. They know perfectly well that if Ex-Senator Butler does return the republican opposition is utterly wrecked for the Settles, Skinners, Duncans, Owens, Holtons, Pritchards, Reynolds and Martins will again work with him. The party would not be recognizable.

"Since Senator Butler does not specify in his charge who are those 'certain democratic machine republicans' who have fixed up a personal state of silence and division, I do not think that I should not be forced to defend personally," one of them said Saturday night, "but I think I know what the republicans who have always worked for the party and for the credit of the state when it was at stake, no matter who was in power, think of his intrusion of himself again into state politics. I have had some pretty bitter words with Butler in my own party, but I never heard one man who did not lament, when he talked at all, any sign that Senator Butler contemplated returning to the state."

"I don't belong to any party factions, never did. I am as confident that we had beaten the state democrats in 1910 as I am that we will beat them in the nation in 1916. I am also confident that we shall beat the state democratic ticket in 1916 if we can go to the people with the record of the democracy weighing down its candidates shouldering it rather than bearing broken backs as we shall have carrying Marion Butler with us."

Democrats Don't Fear Him.

"Butler's conceit in challenging democratic stump speakers and denouncing with malevolent tongue all opposition to him is supposed by some well meaning republicans to strike terror among democrats. Nothing pleases that party, the Simmons machine and the rest, so much. In the first place, there are a dozen republicans much more feared on the stump and off. Butler as a campaigner isn't to be classed with Settles, Byrnes, Whitner, Skinner, Cyrenson, Holton, Pritchard, Fick, Jake Newell, Linney, Zetzel, Walker or Herbert Sealwell, and this alleged fear of him is just a democratic excuse for dragging him out of the political obscurity and abusing him because he is the one man in the republican party who can be abused without conscience and without limit without hurt to the party that utters it."

"He is the only man who would be charged with such things as these democrats do charge without holding his accusers to account. Yet the democrats can continue their program of abuse and vilification against Butler and each time the majority grows, if there is the slightest evidence of Butler activity in the state."

"Right now the democrats are planning to return themselves on the nigger cry, that universal refuge of the democratic political indigent. I do not believe one republican in North Carolina wants the 1900 amendment destroyed and the negroes re-admitted to the suffrage. But I'll guarantee that our party might openly commit itself to such a policy and it would not be hurt half so badly as the simple suggestion that Marion Butler might be re-admitted to state politics and standing in his party."

"For that reason his side in the News and Observer against 'that small but very active class of democratic machine republicans in our state' who, he says, have agreed not to attack the democratic machine, is altogether interesting. Let us suppose that Butler as our leader would attack the machine, imagine his appeal to the state to drive out the democrats for relief from high and oppressive taxes, of the laws and growing bond issues and the democracy's retort, 'Honor and Bond' beat us six years ago. Lord, what the democratic wits could get off on Butler's 'bond' records. I presume he isn't talking about the South Dakota bonds."

RUSSIAN OPERATIONS

Paris, Jan. 3.—News dispatches from Italy and Switzerland continue to affirm that the illness of the Kaiser is serious. It is stated that he was operated on Wednesday successfully but the nature of the operation was not specified.

COL. VAN HORN DEAD

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 3.—Col. Robert Thompson Van Horn, founder of the Kansas City Journal and pioneer journalist and statesman of the middle west died at his home here today at the age of 91 years.