

DISCUSS PLAN TO HAVE CONGRESS ENDORSE THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT

LEADERS WITH THE PRESIDENT IN CONFERENCE

Consider What Action Congress Should Take in Connection With Policy Concerning Armed Merchantmen.

PRESIDENT SUMMONS CLARK AND KITCHIN

In Letter to Mr. Pou President Demanded That Congress Vote on Proposed Resolution of Warning.

Washington, March 1.—President Wilson had engagements today to confer with administration leaders of congress over the question of armed merchantmen.

The president's determination to throw down the gauntlet to congress on the subject caused deep surprise at the capitol, and was reached after yesterday's cabinet meeting.

The president's wishes were made known in a letter to Representative Pou of North Carolina, acting chairman of the house committee, asking that the matter be brought to a vote in the house.

In his communication the president calls attention to the fact that reports that congress is divided over the question of the government's foreign policy in being made "industrious use of" in foreign capitals.

The president added that while he believed these reports to be true, yet "so long as there are anywhere credited they cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks."

Administration leaders planned to bring the agitation in congress to an end by the adoption of a resolution endorsing the president's course.

The defeat of the pending resolution and a vote of confidence in the president, administration supporters point out, would enable the president to continue to contend for the principles of international law and humanity, with the solid backing of the government.

It was generally believed today that no action would be taken by either house before tomorrow.

After the president, Senators Kern and Stone and Representative Flood had been in conference for an hour, Speaker Clark and Majority Leader Kitchin of the house were summoned to join the conference.

Efforts are being made to decide on the form of action congress should take.

The president's letter to Mr. Pou, the signal that the administration was ready to give Germany a demonstration of unity, follows: "My Dear Mr. Pou: "Inasmuch as I learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of the committee on rules, is absent in Texas, I take the liberty of calling your attention (as ranking member of the committee), to a matter of grave concern to the country which can, I believe, be handled, under the rules of the house, only by that committee."

FLOOD SITUATION SEEMS IMPROVED

Investigation Said to Have Disclosed No Cases of Extreme Destitution.

New Orleans, March 1.—Relief workers in the inundated sections of northern Louisiana today were declared to be awaiting with interest advice from Washington as to the recommendations made in regard to relief work by the Mississippi River commission and Captain Hunt of the quartermaster's department of the United States army.

Reports from Baton Rouge today stated that Captain Hunt was in the state capital city, but no information was given as to the object of his visit.

According to early reports received here from lower Concordia parish, the relief work is well under way and with the exception of a few isolated cases of food and shelter from some of the more isolated sections, the situation in general was regarded as much improved.

It is known that among the elements leading to the president's action were repeated declarations of Germany's unyielding attitude expressed in inspired statements from Berlin by the highest officials of the German government.

Some of which even approached intonations of bad faith on the president's part because the United States would not accept the view that the Lusitania guarantees applied only to ships carrying no armament whatever.

No Decision. Washington, Feb. 29.—Germany's latest communication on submarine warfare was discussed in detail at the meeting of the cabinet today and also at a separate conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, but no conclusion was reached.

It was decided to await the arrival of data now on the way from Berlin in regard to instructions alleged to have been issued by the British admiralty to merchant vessels for attacks on submarines.

The cabinet members carefully avoided question on whether Germany's position as outlined by Count Von Bernstorff in his note to Secretary Lansing Monday was acceptable to the American government.

It was reiterated, however, that the United States would continue to stand firmly behind the position that attacks should not be made on merchantmen unarmed or armed for defensive purposes and this government would hold Germany to account if Americans suffered by violation of such principles.

The chief danger, it was said by officials, lies in possible attacks on ships carrying Americans.

FEB. BANK CLEARINGS IN SOUTH SHOW PROSPERITY

Enormously Increased Over February, 1915—More Money Than in Many Years.

Washington, March 1.—The February bank clearings in the larger cities of the south show enormous increases over the clearings of February, 1915, and are accepted as a true barometer of the improved business conditions throughout the south.

The report indicates that all lines are in better shape than a year ago, while money is more plentiful than it has been in years.

FRADY IS GUILTY; GIRL NOT GUILTY

Assuring the court that they were unable to ever agree as to the defendant Rickman, the jury in Superior court, which has tried the Arden case, was dismissed by Judge W. F. Harding at 12:45 o'clock this afternoon, after returning a verdict in which they found Edgar Frady guilty and Myrtle Frady not guilty.

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GERMANS HALT BEFORE VERDUN INNER DEFENSES

Experts Uncertain Whether Offensive Has Spent Force or Pause Is Prelude to More Intense Activity.

LULL ON VIRTUALLY ENTIRE VERDUN FRONT

No Important Developments at Army Point on the Line, Paris Official Statement Declares.

The German offensive against Verdun which has brought the German crown prince's armies up to the inner lines of the French defenses, has halted there, according to the official statement from Paris.

The lull which yesterday gave signs of setting in now extends virtually along the entire front where the desperate struggle has been going on for the past week or more.

There were no important developments at any point during the night, the French official statement asserts.

Unofficial commentators in the entente capitals admit that they are at a loss to determine whether the German drive has spent its force or whether the pause is simply a prelude to the renewal of the attack from their hard won positions at Verdun and elsewhere on the front.

The possibility is indicated by military observers that the crown prince's armies are gathering their forces for a new and concentrated attack at some selected point and that the thrusts which are now being made here and there are for the purpose of feeling out a favorable point for the attack.

The Germans' it is noted, needed time to emplace their heavy guns and possibly even now these may have been brought up behind the advanced infantry lines close to the fortress where they can concentrate their fire on the strong French position.

Meanwhile the French forces are delivering vigorous counter attacks in the stronger positions their lines now occupy, they are holding firmer.

Estimates of the number of Germans engaged in the great battle are considerably larger than the 300,000 believed to have been engaged in the initial operations.

Some authorities now declare that as many as 750,000 men are now concentrated on the German side, strong reinforcements having arrived.

The Russians are energetically continuing their campaign against the Turks in Armenia. Advances from Petrograd declare that the Turkish forces are hurriedly evacuating Trebizond on the black sea and other nearby towns along the coast in the Caucasus.

Recent dispatches said that the Russians were closing in on Trebizond both from the east along the coast and from Erzerum, which the Russians captured some time ago.

ARMY BILLS TO BE READY SOON

Measures for Increasing Military Strength of U. S. Will Probably Be Offered in Both Houses Next Week.

HOUSE BEGINS TODAY FINAL REVIEW OF BILL

Senate Committee Agrees to Insert Only General Provision for Federalization of National Guard.

Washington, March 1.—The campaign for national preparedness will enter a new phase in congress next week, when in all probability bills providing for increasing the army to an extent never before contemplated in time of peace will be introduced in both the house and senate.

The house military committee was to begin today its final review of the measure tentatively agreed upon last week and the final vote probably will be taken Thursday.

The senate committee agreed yesterday to insert only a general provision for federalization of the national guard in its regular army reorganization measure, leaving the task of putting this legislation in final shape to the joint conference to which the two bills will go.

By this action the senate committee made it possible to bring out its bill also next week.

Before the house naval committee Rear Admiral Knight continued yesterday his recommendations that every facility in the country be employed to hasten construction of a fleet equal to those of any two nations except Great Britain.

Admiral Knight said he believed it would take two years and a half to make the navy efficient enough to meet the present German fleet with any measure of success.

The time limit he set was the minimum required to build nine battle cruisers and eight fast scouts. He said it would take eighteen months to put the ships of the Atlantic in full commission, in readiness for war.

Not that we would not make a good showing against any force in much less time," he said.

Representative Farr asked if it would not be necessary to begin construction immediately in all available government yards if a great number of capital ships were to be built in a hurry.

He called attention to published figures stating that in the last ten years Germany had built one hundred and seventy-three fighting ships, England two hundred and fifty-two and the United States sixty-four.

Admiral Knight said he understood a sub-committee of the naval committee would be named later to investigate the subject of ship building facilities, public and private.

He advised that the Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Mare Island and Puget Sound yards be equipped immediately for their maximum output of big ships.

Major General Barnett, commander of the marine corps, followed Admiral Knight, urging that one hundred and fifty officers, fifty-two warrant officers and 2,379 men be added to the corps to bring it up to the strength advocated by the general board and approved by Secretary Daniels, which is on the basis of one-fifth of the strength of the navy personnel.

He asked also that the one-fifth standard be written into permanent law, and said Secretary Daniels approved this proposal, although it was an increase over what had originally been asked for by the department.

ARMY OFFICER SITS IN CABINET MEETING

Washington, Feb. 29.—Major General Hugh L. Scott, secretary of war, attended the cabinet meeting today. White house historians say that it was the first time since the war of the states that an army officer has sat in the cabinet.

Italy Seizes German Ships. London, March 1.—It was announced in the house of commons today that the Italian government had requisitioned 34 of the 31 German steamers interned in Italian ports.

Recent reports from London were to the effect that grave interest was being displayed in England over the possibility of a declaration of war on Germany by Italy when the Italian parliament opened March 1.

FACTIONALISM APPEARS AMONG G. O. P. LEADERS

PARIS MAKING HEAVY SHIPMENTS OF DRESSES

U. S. Importations of Model Gowns and Other Millinery Is Colossal.

New York, March 1.—American dressmakers and manufacturers of women's dresses are buying model gowns in Paris to such an extent that the room devoted to model gowns in the United States appraisers building has assumed the proportions of a wholesale establishment.

Heavy shipments of spring gowns, coats, tailored frocks and hats for the retail stores also are arriving.

The customs officials, who had accepted the early report that spring importations of dresses from Paris would be smaller than usual, are surprised at the amount of importations; and they are now making preparations to handle as much of this class of imports as they did before the beginning of the war.

The steamer California, which arrived Monday, brought a large consignment of women's clothing.

HEARING IN CASE OF MRS. WARREN MARCH 20

Raleigh, March 1.—The hearing before Governor Craig of the appeal for commutation of the death sentence imposed on Mrs. Ida Ball Warren will take place March 20, a definite date having been set at the request of Judge E. B. Jones, attorney for Mrs. Warren.

Warren, Governor Craig had recently announced that the hearing would be held on or before March 20.

FOUR DEAD AND 75 ARE TRAPPED IN COAL MINE

Kempston, W. Va., Feb. 29.—Seventy-one men were trapped by an explosion in the mine of the Davis Coal and Coke company. Soon after the explosion two miners succeeded in working their way to the surface and rescuers brought out 37—four of whom were dead. It was feared that two others of the rescued would die.

BODY OF HENRY JAMES WILL BE CREMATED

London, March 1.—The body of Henry James, the novelist who died yesterday, will be cremated. The funeral services will be held Friday from a church near the late residence of the deceased. The place of interment for the ashes had not been decided on.

DIAZ IS PROCLAIMED REVOLUTION LEADER

San Antonio, Texas, March 1.—Felix Diaz has been proclaimed general-in-chief of the "reorganized national army of Mexico," and has established headquarters at Tierra Colorado, in the state of Vera Cruz, according to copies of a manifesto bearing Diaz's signature, received here tonight.

Washington, March 1.—Reports to the department of justice said General Felix Diaz, who hopes to start a new revolution in Mexico, left the United States on February 18 on a ship bound from Tampa, Fla., to Tierra, in the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico.

AMERICAN MURDERED BY FORCES OF VILLA

Washington, Feb. 29.—The murder of Grover C. Van by Villa forces at his home last night, 25 miles north of Durango, has been reported officially to the state department. No other details of the incident are given.

870 SAVED FROM SHIP. Paris, Feb. 29.—The French auxiliary cruiser Provence was sunk in the Mediterranean last Saturday. It was officially announced today. The ministry of marine places the number of survivors at 870.

Delegates to Republican Convention Divided on Question of Election of National Committeeman.

ONE FACTION FAVORS ELECTION OF BUTLER

Until Last Night Leaders Were Confident That Re-Election of Duncan would Be Mere Formality.

Raleigh, March 1.—Because of friction as regards the election of a national committeeman which developed at a late hour last night, delegates at the republican state convention which opened here today were divided into several factions today.

Until yesterday party leaders expressed confidence that there would be no factionalism and that plans for the endorsement of Charles E. Hughes for the presidential candidacy, the re-election of National Committeeman E. C. Duncan and the adoption of a state platform would be reduced to a mere formality.

The plans for the nomination of a state ticket were not completed but it is understood that the vote of the majority on this question would be unanimously accepted.

Former Senator Marion Butler is favored by many as a candidate to oppose Mr. Duncan, while a third faction is discussing the possibility of supporting former National Representative J. M. Morehead as a compromise candidate.

Naming of a Ticket. The convention will not nominate a ticket, in formal way. It will pick a list of candidates and give them its endorsement. That appears to be the view of nearly all now. Apparently first in the thought of his fellows is Grier Parsons of Ashe county, who made the race for corporation commissioner against Chairman E. L. Travis and led the ticket. It was said, Herbert F. Eawell of Carthage stands next and either may have it if he desires it. Tom Jefferson Harkins looks the most likely man for lieutenant governor and then choices circulate among an indefinite number of republicans. Nothing has been done toward a ticket from top to bottom.

'MASKED MARVEL' TO WRESTLE TONIGHT

Visitor Will Take on John Drake and Lawrence Parker at the Auditorium.

Much interest is being manifested in the wrestling matches to be staged at the Auditorium this evening at 8:30 o'clock between John Drake and Lawrence Parker of this city and wrestler who calls himself "The Masked Marvel of the middle west." It was believed at first the fellow was Mort Henderson, who has been wrestling in New York for some time as "The Masked Marvel," but it has been later learned that he is not the New York man.

That the bouts will be interesting is the statement of John Drake who says that he expects the visiting wrestler to give the local men a great run for their money. According to information received here "The masked marvel" threw four local men in Knoxville in 41 minutes and in Mascot, Tenn., near Knoxville, he is said to have thrown over four men in 28 minutes.

Drake and Parker have been working out during the past ten days in order to meet this fellow and they state that they will go on the mat tonight in good condition. Drake will wrestle him first.

It is probable that Drake will take on several wrestles in other cities in the state within the next few weeks, as two men are here now after him to sign contracts to wrestle in Charlotte, Raleigh and other places. He states that as he is now in condition, if he can arrange matters satisfactorily he might make several other matches.

Mrs. B. L. Northern and Miss Lucy Northern, mother and sister of Mrs. N. Buckner, who have been visiting here for some time, left on the Carolina Special this morning for Columbia, S. C., where they will visit relatives for a week before returning to their home in Lexington, Va.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Medd, a daughter, Mc Medd is chief wireless operator on the United States ship Michigan which is now in Cuban waters. Mrs. Medd is with her mother, Mrs. J. C. Moore, in Washington.

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