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WILSON DEMANDS THAT GERMANY PUT AN END TO SUBMARINE BARBARITIES

In Words of Steel Clothed in Velvet the President Takes Up Sea Outrages With Berlin and Asks For Full Reparation—Meets Hearty Approval of the Public.

President Wilson's note to the German government calling attention "to the grave situation which has resulted" from violation of American rights on the high seas, culminating in the sinking of the Lusitania with a loss of more than 100 American lives, was presented by Ambassador Gerard to the German foreign office in Berlin Saturday.

The communication expresses the confident expectation of the United States "that the imperial German government will disavow the acts of which the government of the United States complains; that they will make reparation, so far as reparation is possible, for injuries which are without measure, and that they will take immediate steps to prevent the recurrence of anything so obviously subversive of the principles of warfare for which the imperial German government in the past so wisely and so firmly contended."

The note makes America champion of humanity and guardian of the "sacred freedom of the seas." It advises Germany firmly that the United States will no longer tolerate her present policy of attacking merchantmen with submarines, because it is impossible to guard the lives of neutral passengers.

Full reparation is demanded for the lives of those who went to the bottom with the Lusitania, the Gulflight and the Falaba, coupled with the positive announcement that excuses will not be accepted by the United States if there should be a recurrence of these attacks.

Brute force will not be allowed to interfere with the inalienable right of American citizens to travel the high seas upon peaceful missions.

In its conclusion, the note states that the "imperial German government will not expect the government of the United States to omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens and of safeguarding their free exercise and enjoyment."

The dignified, conservative and firm position assumed by President Wilson has met with the practically unanimous approval of the American people. Leading newspapers and public men of all shades of political opinion are enthusiastic in their commendation of the president's stand.

The President's Communication.

The full text of the note follows: "In view of recent acts of the German authorities in violation of American rights on the high seas, which culminated in the torpedoing and sinking of the British steamer Lusitania on May 7, 1915, by which over one hundred American citizens lost their lives, it is clearly wise and desirable that the government of the United States and the imperial government should come to a clear and full understanding as to the grave situation which has resulted.

"The sinking of the British passenger steamer Falaba by a German submarine on March 28, through which Leon C. Thrasher, an American citizen, was drowned; the attack on April 28 on the American vessel Cushing by a German aeroplane; the torpedoing on May 1 of the American vessel Gulflight by a German submarine, as a result of which two or more American citizens met their death; and, finally, the torpedoing and sinking of the steamship Lusitania constitute a series of events which the government of the United States has observed with growing concern, distress and amazement.

"Reading the humane and enlightened attitude hitherto assumed by the imperial German government in matters of international right, and particularly with regard to the freedom of the seas; having learned to recognize the German views and the German influence on the field of international obligation, as always engaged upon the side of justice and humanity; and having understood the instruction of the imperial Ger-

man government to its naval commanders to be upon the same plane of humane action prescribed by the naval codes of other nations, the government of the United States was loath to believe—it cannot now bring itself to believe—that these acts, so absolutely contrary to the rules, the practices and the spirit of modern warfare could have the countenance or sanction of that great government. It feels it to be its duty, therefore, to address the imperial German government concerning them with the utmost frankness and in the earnest hope that it is not mistaken in expecting action on the part of the imperial German government which will correct the unfortunate impressions which have been created and vindicate once more the position of that government with regard to the sacred freedom of the seas.

No Rights Are Surrendered.

"The government of the United States has been apprised that the imperial government considered themselves to be obliged by the extraordinary circumstances of the present war and the measures adopted by their adversaries in seeking to cut Germany off from all commerce to adopt methods of retaliation which go beyond the ordinary methods of warfare at sea, in the proclamation of a war zone from which they have warned neutral ships to keep away. This government has already taken occasion to inform the imperial German government that it cannot admit the adoption of such measures or such a warning of danger to operate as in any degree an abbreviation of the rights of American shipmasters or of American citizens bound on lawful errands as passengers or merchant ships of belligerent nationality; and that it must hold the imperial German government to a strict accountability for any infringement of those rights, intentional or incidental. It does not understand the imperial German government to question those rights. It assumes, on the contrary, that the imperial German government accept, as of course, the rule that the lives of non-combatants, whether they be of neutral citizenship of citizens of one of the nations at war, cannot lawfully or rightfully be put in jeopardy by the capture or destruction of an unarmed merchantman and recognize also, as all other nations do, the obligation to take the usual precaution of visit and search to ascertain whether a suspected merchantman is in fact carrying non-contraband of war under a neutral flag.

Submarine Attacks Inhuman.

"The government of the United States, therefore, desires to call the attention of the imperial German government with the utmost earnestness to the fact that the objection to their present method of attack against the trade of their enemies lies in the practical impossibility of employing submarines in the destruction of commerce without disregarding those rules of fairness, reason, justice and humanity which all modern opinion regards as imperative. It is practically impossible for the officers of a submarine to visit a merchantman at sea and examine her papers and cargo. It is practically impossible for them to make a prize of her; and, if they cannot put a prize crew on board of her, they cannot sink her without leaving her crew and all on board of her to the mercy of the sea in her small boats. These facts it is understood the imperial German government frankly admit. We are informed that in the instances of which we have spoken time, enough for even that poor measure of safety was not given, and in at least two of the cases cited not so much as a warning was received. Manifestly, submarines cannot be used against merchantmen, as the last few weeks have shown, without an inevitable violation of many sacred principles of justice and humanity.

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"American citizens, act within their indisputable rights in taking their ships and in traveling wherever their legitimate business calls them upon the high seas, and exercise those rights in what should be the well-justified confidence that their lives will not be endangered by acts done in clear violation of universally acknowledged international obligations, and certainly in the confidence that their own government will sustain them in the exercise of their rights.

Newspaper Warning Irregular.

"There was recently published in the newspapers of the United States, I regret to inform the imperial German government, a formal warning, purporting to come from the imperial German embassy at Washington, addressed to the people of the United States and stating, in effect, that any citizen of the United States who exercised his right of free travel upon the seas would do so at his peril, if his journey should take him within the zone of waters within which the imperial German navy was using submarines against the commerce of Great Britain and France, notwithstanding the respectful but very earnest protest of his government, the government of the United States. I do not refer to this for the purpose of calling the attention of the imperial government at this time to the surprising irregularity of a communication from the imperial German embassy at Washington addressed to the people of the United States through the newspapers, but only for the purpose of pointing out that no warning that an unlawful and inhuman act will be committed can possibly be accepted as an excuse or palliation for that act or as an abatement of the responsibility for its commission.

"Long acquainted as this government has been with the character of the imperial German government, and with the high principles of equity by which they have in the past been actuated and guided, the government of the United States cannot believe that the commanders of the vessels which committed these acts of lawlessness did so except under a misapprehension of the orders issued by the imperial German naval authorities. It takes it for granted that, at least within the practical possibilities of every such case, the commanders even of submarines were expected to do nothing that would involve the lives of non-combatants or the safety of neutral ships, even at the cost of failing of their object of capture or destruction. It confidently expects, therefore, that the imperial German government will disavow the acts of which the government of the United States complains; that they will make reparation so far as reparation is possible for the injuries which are without measure, and that they will take immediate steps to prevent the recurrence of anything so obviously subversive of the principles of warfare for which the imperial German government has in the past so wisely and so firmly contended.

People Expect Prompt Action.

"The government and people of the United States look to the imperial German government for just, prompt and enlightened action in this vital matter with the greater confidence because the United States and Germany are bound together, not only by special ties of friendship, but also by the explicit stipulations of the treaty of 1828 between the United States and the kingdom of Prussia.

"Expressions of regret and offers of reparation in case of the destruction of neutral ships sunk by mistake, while they may satisfy international obligations, if no loss of life results, cannot justify or excuse a practice, the natural and necessary effect of which is to subject neutral nations and neutral persons to new and immeasurable risks.

"The imperial German government will not expect the government of the United States to omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and of safeguarding their free exercise and enjoyment."

GERMANY MAY ASK FOR COURT OF ARBITRATION.

In view of telegraphic and cable delays and the probable necessity for conferences between the German foreign minister and the imperial chancellor, and doubtless with Emperor William himself, a week may elapse

before a reply is received to President Wilson's note.

In the interim confidence prevails among high officials in Washington and is shared in German official quarters that there will be no submarine attacks on passenger vessels while the questions at issue are being resolved.

The intimation which came in press dispatches indirectly from Berlin to the effect that Germany would willingly submit the questions raised by the American note to arbitration was received with much interest, and it was indicated that if there was a suspension of submarine warfare on merchant ships while the discussion was in progress, the plan might be given serious consideration.

Arbitrations had been talked of in Washington before the press dispatches arrived. Some German officials had intimated that, although without advices from Berlin, they were confident from previous knowledge of the desire of the German government to remain friendly with the United States that arbitration would be welcomed. The difficulty of constituting a court or arbitration at this time, when most of the great powers whose participation might be desired are at war, was pointed out by some diplomatists, however, as making the plan impracticable.

POLICE OFFICERS ARE EXONERATED OF CHARGES.

The city commissioners Thursday conducted an investigation of charges brought by Rev. R. T. Weatherly and other colored people of the city against A. B. McFarland, a member of the police force. It was charged that the officer had searched Lila Smith, colored, who was accused of the larceny of a diamond ring, in a manner that was improper, illegal and humiliating and which in fact constituted an assault.

Chief Iseley made himself a party to the investigation and stated to the commissioners that he instructed Officer McFarland to make the search and was present when it was made in his office.

The Smith woman testified that she was forced to practically disrobe, while Chief Iseley and Officer McFarland swore that the search was made with the idea of saving the woman from embarrassment or humiliation.

The commissioners exonerated both Chief Iseley and Officer McFarland.

The negro is under bond to appear at the next criminal term of Superior court on the larceny charge made out by the officers.

Incidentally it might be stated that the police officers did not find the ring, but later it was discovered in the kitchen of the home where the woman had been employed as cook.

Following his exoneration, Mr. McFarland was re-elected a member of the police force, his election having been held up on account of the charges against him.

Rockefeller Wins Tax Suit.

John D. Rockefeller won an important victory in his fight to prevent the collection of taxes on \$311,000,000 in personal property by Cuyahoga county, Ohio, when Judge Clarke, in the United States District court, at Cleveland, granted an injunction sought by the oil magnate to restrain the collection. The taxes sought to be obtained amounted to about \$1,500,000, including a penalty of 50 per cent for failure to pay when due.

The assessment, which is held invalid, was made in February, 1914, when tax commissioners visited the Rockefeller summer home at Forest Hill. They served papers on the oil king, which alleged that he had remained in the county more than six months of the tax year and therefore, under the Ohio law, was a resident of Ohio for taxation purposes.

The judge held that Rockefeller was not a resident of Ohio under the meaning of the law.

The suit will be carried to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals by the attorneys for Cuyahoga county and, if the injunction is sustained there, it may be carried to the Supreme court.

World Court Congress.

The World Court Congress held its concluding session in Cleveland, O., Friday night with its delegates expressing the opinion that the latest movement toward world peace, as expressed in the congress' idea of an international court of justice, has been launched toward a conclusion that is bound to be successful.

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF FORM

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE READERS OF THE PATRIOT FAR AND NEAR.

Had Good Crowd.—The Southern Railway's excursion to Washington Thursday night carried 325 passengers from Greensboro and surrounding towns. The excursionists returned Saturday night.

Picnic and Fish Fry.—A large crowd enjoyed a picnic and fish fry Thursday at Watlington's pond, in Washington township. This is an annual event with the people of that section of the county.

Attend Grand Lodge.—Several members of the order in Greensboro will leave tonight and in the morning for Hendersonville to attend the annual meeting of the North Carolina Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows.

Endorse Plan.—The directors of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce have given their hearty endorsement to the plan to construct for the county a combination court house and business building on the present court house site.

Broke Bone in Leg.—While playing at his home on Sunday, the 9th inst., Edgar Cook, the 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cook, of Greensboro Route 2, had the misfortune to break the small bone in his right leg. He is recovering from the accident very satisfactorily.

Light Registration.—The indications are that the registration for the \$250,000 court house bond election to be held June 1 will be rather light. Next Saturday is the last day of registration, and unless there is a decided improvement during the week, perhaps not more than half the voters of the county will be registered and qualified to participate in the election.

New Dentist Here.—Dr. H. Kemp Foster, formerly of Liberty, has located in Greensboro for the practice of dentistry and his friends will be glad to know that he is meeting with success. Dr. Foster was located at Aberdeen for a while, but desiring a wider field, moved to this city. He is well equipped for the practice of his profession. Dr. Foster's office is located over the Greensboro National Bank.

Masonic Officers.—At the meeting of the York rite Masonic bodies of this state in Asheville last week four Greensboro men were honored by election or appointment to office. Mr. C. M. Vanstory was elected right eminent grand commander of the Knights Templar; Mr. A. W. Fetter, grand inspector general, and Rev. Dr. Melton Clark was appointed grand prelate. Mr. John J. Phoenix was elected grand principal sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

Canning School.—A canning school for the benefit of the women of North Carolina will be conducted at the State Normal and Industrial College from May 31 to June 5 under the direction of Mrs. Jane McKimmon, of Raleigh, who is in charge of the girls' canning club work in the state. During the six days of the school a number of lectures of various subjects of interest to homemakers will be delivered by experts. Board and lodging will be provided at the college for those who may attend the school.

H. C. Edwards Dead.—Mr. H. C. Edwards, a well known citizen, died Friday morning at 11 o'clock at his home near Kernersville. He had been in feeble health for quite a while. Mr. Edwards was 83 years of age and is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Edwards is a sister of Mr. W. C. Boren, chairman of the Guilford county board of commissioners. The funeral was held from the Methodist church in Kernersville Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. C. P. Goode, the pastor.

Time Getting Short.—Beginning the first week in June, the delinquent tax list of the county will be advertised for four weeks, the sale of property upon which the taxes may remain unpaid to take place the first Monday in July. In this issue of The Patriot Sheriff Stafford gives notice that the advertised list will be made up and turned over to the printer on May 25, and he requests all delinquents who desire to save costs and do not wish to be advertised to pay their taxes by that date. It is understood that there are about the usual number of delinquent tax-payers in the county.

Oak Ridge Commencement.—The commencement exercises of Oak Ridge Institute opened yesterday with the baccalaureate sermon, which was preached by Rev. A. G. Dixon, of High Point. The class day exercises are to be held this afternoon and this evening at 8 o'clock the annual debate will take place. The oratorical contest will take place tomorrow morning at 10.30 o'clock and will be followed by the annual address by Gen. Julian S. Carr. In the afternoon Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge will make an address in presenting the diplomas.

Big Celebration.—Owing to the fact that July 4 this year will fall on Sunday, the annual celebration at the Guilford Battle Ground will be held on Saturday, July 3. The exercises will be made notable by the unveiling of the memorial monument to Gen. Nathanael Greene provided by the government. The governors of the states that had troops at the battle of Guilford Court House have been invited to attend. Representatives of a number of historical and patriotic organizations will also be present, and taken altogether, the celebration promises to be one of the best held in years.

More School Buildings.—The city commissioners have under serious consideration the question of increasing Greensboro's school facilities by the erection of additional buildings. Although several new buildings have been erected and others enlarged during the past few years, the cry still is for more room. The commissioners are considering the advisability of a \$50,000 school bond issue and probably will adopt this course. Greensboro's school buildings are entirely inadequate, and were it not for the fact that the training school at the State Normal and Industrial College houses about 400 children, the city would be in a sad plight indeed.

BUSINESS MEN TO SUPPORT COURT HOUSE BOND ISSUE.

A number of representative business men of the city held a meeting Friday night in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce and organized to work for the success of the \$250,000 court house bond election to be held June 1. Much interest was manifested in the matter and the opinion was freely expressed that the progressive county of Guilford cannot afford to turn down the proposition.

The following resolution was adopted as an expression of the sentiment of the meeting:

"Resolved, that it is the sense of this meeting that we favor the issue of bonds as proposed; that we express our confidence in the board of commissioners to properly protect the interests of the county and urge all voters of the county to vote their approval of the bonds on June 1."

The following were appointed members of a committee to conduct a campaign for the bond issue: John N. Wilson, chairman; N. L. Eure, H. L. Coble, C. W. Gold and C. M. Vanstory. This committee will appoint such sub-committees as may be needed to assist in the work.

Mr. Ceasar Cone stated that he came to the meeting as a seeker after light. A few days previously he had received a circular letter attacking the bond issue which he read with interest until he came to the end and saw there was no signature attached, whereupon he signed the communication to the waste basket as worthless. Before the meeting adjourned Mr. Cone said he had become convinced that he should support the bond issue and would do so heartily.

Methodist Bishops Uphold Wilson.

The college of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in session in Nashville, Tenn., sent the following telegram to President Wilson:

"The college of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, thanks God that our president, on whom rest at this time such great and unusual burdens, is a man of prayer, discretion, courage, patriotism and ability. As chief pastors of some millions of our American people, the college assures the president of its sympathy and prayers in its efforts to preserve the peace of our beloved country, and to protect the rights and honor of our citizens. At this hour and in all things may the hand of our God and the God of our fathers guide you and all who are associated with you in directing the destiny of Americans."