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**GERMANY GIVES ASSURANCE**

WILL SPARE AMERICAN SHIPS CARRYING CONDITIONAL CONTRABAND OF WAR.

Germany, in a note on the case of the ship William P. Frye, has given the United States formal assurance that American vessels carrying conditional contraband will under no circumstances be destroyed, even though deemed lawful prizes. The right to destroy American merchantmen if carrying absolute contraband is reserved, but the promise is given that this will be done only in case of extreme necessity, as provided by the declaration of London.

These assurances, together with the acceptance by Germany of the two proposals of the United States—the one to name a joint commission of experts to fix the indemnity for the loss of the Frye and the other to submit to The Hague the dispute over the meaning of the treaty of 1828—produced a favorable effect in official quarters.

Just what the practical operation of the new assurances will be officials were keenly interested to learn for under the lists of contraband proclaimed by Germany in retaliation for acts of Great Britain, nearly everything previously known as conditional contraband has been made absolute. It is not known as yet what attitude the United States will take in its next note, but it is understood that it may reiterate its insistence that the treaty of 1828 and not existing international law make American vessels immune from destruction irrespective of their cargoes. Germany, however, is anxious to submit to arbitration what the meaning of the treaty is on this point and it is possible that if no further cases of damage occur during the pendency of the arbitration proceedings, the American government will be disposed to await the decision of the arbitral tribunal.

One thing which attracted attention in connection with the German note was the evident necessity of submarine commanders under their new orders to exercise the right of visit and search with respect to all American vessels to determine the nature of their cargoes.

The fact that Germany referred to its desire to demonstrate "its conciliatory attitude" toward the United States was regarded by many officials as evidence that the Berlin foreign office was disposed to avail itself of every opportunity to remove causes that have led to the strained relations between the two governments.

**Text of German Note.**

Following is the text of the German note:

"With regard first to the ascertainment of the damage by experts, the German government believes that it should dispense with the nomination of an umpire. In the cases of the ascertainment of damages hitherto arranged between the German government and a neutral government from similar causes, the experts named by the two parties have always reached an agreement as to the amount of the damage without difficulty; should it not be possible, however, to reach an agreement on some point it could probably be settled by diplomatic negotiation. Assuming that the American government agrees to this the German government names as its expert Dr. Kepny, of Bremen, director of the North German Lloyds; it begs to await the designation of the American expert.

"The German government declares that it agrees to the proposal of the American government to separate the question of indemnity from the question of the interpretation of the Prussian-American treaties of 1785, 1799 and 1828. It therefore again expressly states that in making payment it does not acknowledge the violation of the treaty as contended by the American side, but it will admit that the settlement of the question of indemnity does not prejudice the arrangement of the differences of opinion of the treaty rights, and that this dispute is left to be decided by The Hague Tribunal of Arbitration.

"The negotiations relative to the signing of the compromise provided by article fifty-two of The Hague arbitration convention would best be conducted between the foreign office and the American embassy at Berlin in view of the difficulties in the way of instructing the imperial ambassador at Washington. In case the American government agrees the foreign office is prepared to submit to the embassy a draft of such a compromise.

"The American government's inquiry whether the German government will govern its naval operations in accordance with the German or the American interpretation of the treaty stipulations in question, pending the arbitral proceedings, has been carefully considered by the German government. From the standpoint of law and equity it is not prevented in its opinion from proceeding against American ships carrying contraband

according to its interpretation until the question is settled by arbitration.

"For the German government does not need to depart from the application of generally recognized rules of the law of maritime war, as the declaration of London unless and insofar as an exception based on a treaty is established beyond all doubt. In the case of the present difference of opinion between the German and the American government such an exception could not be taken to be established except on the ground of the arbitral award. Moreover, the disadvantages to Germany which would ensue from the American interpretation of the treaty stipulations would be so much greater as to be out of proportion to those which the German interpretation would entail for the United States. For whereas the American interpretation would materially impede Germany in her conduct of warfare, hardly any particular disadvantage to American citizens would result from the German interpretation, since they receive full reparation for any property damage sustained.

"Nevertheless, the German government, in order to furnish the American government evidence of its conciliatory attitude, has issued orders to the German naval forces not to destroy American merchantmen which have loaded conditional contraband even when the conditions of international law are present, but to permit them to continue their voyage unhindered if it is not possible to take them into port. On the other hand it must reserve to itself the right to destroy vessels carrying absolute contraband wherever such destruction is permissible according to the provisions of the declaration of London."

**Did Not Ask Bryan to be Peace Envoy.**

Louis N. Hammerling, of New York, president of the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers, called at the White House Thursday to assure President Wilson that his organization has nothing to do with representations of William Fargo, of Brooklyn, that editors of foreign newspapers in this country wanted W. J. Bryan to go abroad to work for peace. Dr. Fargo saw Mr. Bryan recently to extend such an invitation.

Mr. Hammerling declared that Dr. Fargo does not represent the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers, which Mr. Hammerling said included in its membership practically all newspapers in the United States published in foreign languages.

"Our association," said Mr. Hammerling, "stands behind the president and will do nothing to embarrass him. We have nothing to do with Mr. Bryan and do not want him to go abroad."

**Indicted For Election Frauds.**

The grand jury of the Superior court of New Hanover county has returned indictments against Mayor Parker Quince Moore, Councilman W. F. Jones, Louis M. Bunting and W. J. Bradshaw and former Councilman D. N. Chadwick, Jr., of Wilmington, for alleged violation of election laws in the last municipal election and one against John J. Furlong, now superintendent of streets and formerly recorder of the county, for violating election laws in the special trolley line franchise election last fall, when he is alleged to have used money or other things of value to influence certain persons. The indictments follow an investigation that was started at the June term of court.

**Americans in Manila.**

An interesting feature of the recent census in the Philippines is the increase of Americans in Manila. The count showed that of the total population of 266,934 in that city 3,584 were American men and 1,890 American women, a total of 5,474. The American birth rate, too, was the highest of all classes, the percentage being 39.16 per thousand, and the death rate was lower than all other classes of inhabitants, with one exception. The permanent American population in Manila has increased by more than 20 per cent in the last five years. This does not indicate, however, that the American population in the Philippines is increasing—in fact, the contrary is said to be true—but it shows rather a tendency of the Americans in the islands to concentrate in Manila.

**E. G. Hudson's Statement.**

E. G. Hudson, merchant of Chamblee, Ga., says Foley Cathartic Tablets are the "best on earth" for a thorough cleansing movement of the bowels without the slightest inconvenience or sickening and no bad effects. They certainly do relieve indigestion or constipation quickly and liven up the liver. They make you feel light, free and energetic. Conyers & Sykes. adv.

In Germany one man in every 213 goes to college; in the United States one in 2,000, and in England one in 5,000.

**IS WILLING TO SUBMIT HIS CLAIMS TO PRIMARY.**

Hon. Charles M. Stedman spent Thursday in Durham and while there was interviewed by the Durham correspondent of the Raleigh News and Observer in regard to his candidacy for re-election to Congress. The interview was reported as follows:

"When my campaign begins the boys will know it," was the statement of Major Charles Marly Stedman, congressman from the fifth congressional district, this afternoon in an interview given to the News and Observer. The statement was issued on the presumption that Gen. Beverly S. Royster, of Oxford, or Senator Victor S. Bryant, of Durham, might be candidates for the congressional toga. Major Stedman was disinclined to take stock in the rumors of the candidacy of these two gentlemen.

"But in any case," he said, "I am a pronounced candidate for re-election, and should opposition develop I am willing to submit the contest to a primary. I do not want the job unless my candidacy is the will of the majority of the district. Unless serious opposition develops, which has not come to the surface, I shall not begin my campaign actively for re-election for some time yet."

Major Stedman admitted that he had heard of rumors that General Royster would be a candidate, and his visit to Durham today was of a political nature. "I have nothing but the warmest regards for General Royster and Mr. Bryant," said Major Stedman. "The latter nominated me for governor when I was a candidate, and the former supported me for that position. I have given little attention to my candidacy, as I have not heard of a single candidate soliciting votes in opposition to my re-election."

**Requested to Resign.**

A press report from Burlington says: "At a meeting of the board of aldermen Monday night a resolution was passed requesting Alderman T. D. Fogleman to hand in his resignation as a member of the board. This action grew out of the recent prosecution of Mr. Fogleman for repairing a wooden building within the fire limits of the city. The work was done in the dead hours of the night, with a large force of carpenters, while the mayor and fire chief were absent attending the tournament."

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