

UNITED STATES BREAKS RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

Kaiser Warned That Ruthless Sacrifice of American Lives and Rights Means War.

German Ambassador Given Passports and Gerard Recalled from Berlin

Feeling of Regret in Berlin That Note Was Given Interpretation Not Intended

Wilson Suggests All Neutrals Join U. S. in Break—President Still Hopeful of Avoiding War But Preparations Are Being Made for Possible Early Hostilities—Germany Accedes to Demand for Release of 72 Americans

President Wilson has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and warned the kaiser that ruthless sacrifice of American lives and rights means war.

Similar action is awaited for Austria when she notifies this government that she joins in the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare.

The President made formal announcement of his action to the country and to the world Saturday at a joint session of Congress.

Passports have been handed to Count von Bernstorff, Ambassador Gerard with all his staff and all American consuls have been ordered out of Germany.

Two years of diplomatic negotiation, marked with frequent crises, and attended with the loss of more than 200 American lives on the high seas have culminated with an act which in all the history of the world always has led to war.

At the request of the President, Congress immediately after hearing his address began work on new laws framed by the Department of Justice to check conspiracies and plots against the United States which cannot now be reached under existing statutes.

The question of conveying American merchant ships through the submarine blockade has been taken up and is being considered as one of the next moves by this government.

Germany Will Release American Prisoners With the notice of severance of relations the United States sent to Berlin a demand for the immediate release of 72 Americans taken from ships captured by German raiders in the South Atlantic.

Wilson Suggests All Neutrals Join U. S. in Break

Besides breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany, President Wilson has made a bold stroke to range the moral force of all other neutral countries along with that of the United States in the interest of peace.

The President has suggested to all the other neutrals that they break off diplomatic relations with Germany as the United States has done, and has instructed all American diplomats in those countries to report immediately how the suggestion is received.

American Ship Sunk But Crew Was Warned and Given Opportunity to Escape

News of the torpedoing of the American ship Housatonic by a German submarine near the Sicily Islands caused a sensation Saturday, but the possibility that this would become a serious factor in the crisis with Germany apparently was eliminated yesterday by a dispatch from London to the effect that the ship was given warning, the crew took to the boats, the ship was torpedoed and the submarine towed the boats to a point off the English coast.

In his address to Congress Saturday the President said that if American lives were ruthlessly sacrificed he would come to Congress again and ask for authority to take any measures necessary to protect American lives and interests.

CLEARED OF MURDER CHARGE

Negroes Charged With Murder of Late Neill Shaw Go Free—Walter McNair Goes to Pen—Civil Court This Week

Foster McMillan and Arch Bethune, both colored, charged with the murder of the late Neill Shaw, who disappeared from his home in the Ten Mile section on the 26th of last July and whose scattered remains were found in woods about a mile from his home on November 14, go free.

Much interest had been created by the case and a crowd that filled the court room gathered to hear the trial, many of the crowd being from the Ten Mile section, where Mr. Shaw lived.

RECORDER'S COURT

The Story of the 5-Cent Egg, a Bottle, a Broken Head and a Broken Plate-glass Window is Here Set Forth

Douglass McLean, James Socratis and E. G. Parris, the two last-named being Greeks, were before Recorder E. M. Britt Saturday charged with an affray. The case against McLean was dismissed, while judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost as to Parris and Socratis.

Went to Jail Instead of Hymenal Altar

Just 4 hours before he was to leave for Dillon, S. C., to get married, Spurgeon Ivey, a young white man, who lives at the National cotton mill, was arrested and placed in jail on the charge of forgery.

MEET AT RED SPRINGS.

Meeting Will be Held February 7 to Organize Federal Farm Loan Association

Entertainment at Indian Normal Evening of February 9

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Recorders to be Elected by County as a Whole—Game Law for Robeson—Senator Gough Opposes Proposed Lien Law—He Favors Bill to Give Counties 90 Percent of Auto License Tax—Robeson's Senator Takes High Rank

Senator Frank Gough came home Saturday morning, the Senate having adjourned Friday until noon today, and returned last night to Raleigh. This is going to be a busy week in the Senate.

In legislation proposed in regard to the last-named item, crop liens, Mr. Gough is very much interested. A bill was introduced by Mr. Person of Franklin and Mr. Gough gave notice to Mr. Person that he would oppose the bill.

Senator Gough is opposed to the bill which proposes to give back to counties 70 percent of the auto license tax, this 70 percent to be spent absolutely under the direction of the State Highway commission.

Game Law

Senator Gough says the best he can do on the game law for Robeson is to make the open season from November 25 to February 25.

Election of Recorders

The law providing for the election of recorders has been changed so that the entire county will elect the recorders for each district, instead of each recorder being elected only by the voters of his district.

TIME EXTENDED

For Men's Gift Day at R. D. Caldwell & Son, Saturday, Feb. 10th.

Walter McNair Gets 20 Years in Pen

Walter McNair, colored, who was charged with killing Arch Currie, another negro, near St. Paul several months ago, was sentenced to 20 years in the State prison.

Walter McNair returned Friday to her home at Fayetteville after visiting at the home of Mrs. N. A. McLean, Elm street.

Infant Dies of Measles

An infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilkins, who live in Howellsville township, died yesterday morning of measles.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Bill Offered Providing for Rotation in Office—Would Limit State Officers to 2 Terms and County Officers to 3 Terms—Bill for Optional Form of Municipal Government—Other Matters Engaging Attention of Legislators at Raleigh

The official bill for providing optional forms of municipal government under the constitutional amendments was offered in the House Thursday by Pegram of Durham.

Speaker Murphy, after consultation with Gov. Bickett, introduced in the House Friday a rotation-in-office bill to amend the constitution to prescribe that no State office shall be held by the same person for more than two terms in succession and no offices filled by election in any county shall be held by the same person for more than 3 successive terms.

Rotation in Office Bill

Following is the vital clause of the bill: "No office of this State for the administration of State affairs shall be held for more than two full terms, in succession by any person, and no office of any county for the administration of county affairs shall be held for more than three full terms in succession by any person, provided that nothing herein contained shall apply to any office in the judicial, educational or legislative or health departments of the State or a county, or to any office which is filled by appointment and not by election, and appointments to an unexpired term of any office held prior to the time that this section goes into effect shall not be counted."

The Senate took another week-end recess Friday, cutting out Saturday entirely and adjourning to noon Monday.

Firemen's Relief Fund

The House passed Friday the amendment to the law as to the State firemen's relief fund designed to cut out the exemption of North Carolina fire insurance companies from the payment of the tax.

Bills for popular election of county boards of education were introduced in the House Friday by Pegram and McLendon, despite the facts that these bills were understood to be under unfavorable majority and favorable minority report from the committees on education.

The House passed Friday bills prohibiting the sale of impure foods and drugs and directing the State Treasurer to pay \$15,000, expenses incurred in mobilization of State troops.

Mr. Beasley introduced a joint resolution in the House for a committee of two Senators and 3 Representatives to investigate the prisons of the State.

The Senate has passed a bill putting husband and wife on exactly the same footing in suits for divorce.

Mr. Gough introduced the bill, published in The Robesonian a week ago today, to authorize the commissioners of Robeson to pay expenses of Confederate veterans to the reunion at Washington.

The House Saturday passed a bill to authorize the State Highway commission to receive from the Federal government the State's portion of the \$85,000,000 road fund.

The House has set the suffrage question as it is to come up this session as a special order for February 9. This is the bill recently published in The Robesonian, to allow any town to extend the franchise to its women in elections on municipal issues.

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BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

—St. Paul Messenger: Mr. Ira McIntyre and family moved here last week from Dundarrach, and are at home on Broad street.

—The board of county commissioners and the county board of education are holding regular first-Monday meetings here today.

—Leila May, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Edwards, has been very sick for the past two weeks with a complication of diseases.

—Music pupils of Miss Christine Gower will give a recital in the high school auditorium Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The public is invited.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Pink Davis and Flora Hodges; Lloyd Rogers and Ruth Granger; Jas. Green and Mary Ida Trumble.

—Mr. J. R. Greene & Son have opened up a sales stable in the McIntyre building, First street. The Messrs. Green came here from Wilmington.

—Fire damaged the water tank at the Kingsdale lumber plant around \$700 Friday afternoon. The loss is covered by insurance. The blaze started from a spark from the smokestack. The high wind made the blaze difficult to control.

—Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McLean will be dinner guests this evening of Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and Mrs. Daniels at their home, Woming avenue, Washington, D. C. President and Mrs. Wilson, other Cabinet members and prominent men will be present.

—Mrs. T. C. Johnson went Saturday to Whiteville in response to a message stating that her father, Mr. A. F. Powell, was hurt a few days ago by falling off the porch at his home. Mr. Powell is 75 years old but it is not thought that he was seriously injured.

—Rev. Dr. G. E. Moorehouse, pastor of the Presbyterian church, has been confined to his room at the Presbyterian manse, Chestnut and Tenth streets, since Friday night with grippe. He was unable to fill either of his appointments at his church yesterday.

—Mr. Albert Boylin resigned Friday his position as agent at the local Southern Express company's office, which position he has held for about 3 years. Mr. Boylin is succeeded by Mr. A. S. Morrison, Jr., of Wadesboro. Mr. Boylin has not yet decided what he will do.

—Mr. O. F. Nance, a member of the Robesonian's composing force, had the left side of his head badly bruised early Friday morning when he was thrown from a bicycle and his head struck a post. He was unable to work Friday and Saturday, but is back on the job today.

—When Carrie McKay, colored, who works for Mrs. F. G. Whitley at the Lorraine hotel, failed to show up yesterday morning Mrs. Whitley became suspicious that something was wrong and upon investigation it was found that a coat suit belonging to Mrs. Whitley had disappeared.

—Sheriff R. E. Lewis and Night Policeman J. B. Boyle went to the home of Carrie in the "bottom" about 10:30 of the clock last night and located the coat suit, but failed to find the woman.

—Mr. M. G. McKenzie's right leg was sprained and his right arm and side painfully bruised about 7:30 Friday night when he was struck by an automobile driven by Miss Lou Fisher. The accident happened on Elm street where it crosses the Elizabethtown road. Mr. McKenzie started to cross the street in front of the auto. He was caught on the bumper and was carried several feet. While Mr. McKenzie was painfully hurt no bones were broken and his condition is somewhat better today. He says he lays no blame on the driver.

—Colonnade club members moved last week from the Bond residence, Chestnut street, to the Millsaps house, Elm street. This club is composed of the following young men: Messrs. V. B. McMillan, T. S. Golden, R. McA. Nixon, I. L. Grantham, O. H. Bracy, Fred Townsend, H. J. Singleton, E. M. McConnell and Dr. R. S. Beam. Dr. T. F. Costner and family will move into the house formerly occupied by the club on the 12th inst. Dr. Costner and family moved to Lumberton from Wilmington several weeks ago and are now at the Lorraine hotel.

Some Cold Snap—Coldest in Many Years

This section has been in the grip of one of the coldest snaps of many years since Friday. The break of day Friday morning found it snowing, but the clouds soon passed away and it continued to grow colder until Friday night, when the thermometer at the local government weather station registered 13 above zero.

It registered the same Saturday night. Some thermometers out in the open about town ran as low as 16 above zero. The government station reported 14 above zero last night.

A hard wind blew and some rain and snow fell last night, and it is still cold. The weather man promises warmer weather tomorrow, however.

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