

IMPORTANT NEWS
THE WORLD OVER

Happenings of This and Other Nations
For Seven Days Are Given.

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in the South
and Will Be Found in
Brief Paragraphs.

Domestic

Senator John H. Bankhead, who was in Atlanta, Ga., recently attending the great land show, says that the most important work of road building that is to be done is to be done over a period of five years, before the expiration of the five-year period the federal government will be making regular annual appropriations of from \$50,000,000 to \$75,000,000 for road construction.

That every able-bodied man in the country will be called upon for service in the event of hostilities between the United States and Germany is the opinion of Maj. Gen. William P. Daxall, U. S. A., retired, as expressed by him at his home in Augusta, Ga.

Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the commission for relief in Belgium, told members of the Philadelphia City Club in an address that there is no starvation in Belgium now and that there would not be any as long as the commission is given the funds to continue its work.

The United States destroyer Monaghan, Lamson and Sterett made a three weeks' recruiting cruise up the Mississippi river, and have returned to New Orleans, where they will remain till after Mardi Gras, which begins February 20.

The North Carolina house of representatives killed the bill designed to allow women to vote in municipal elections. It is the opinion among the senators in Raleigh that this action settles the suffrage question in North Carolina for many years.

The governor of Indiana has signed the "bone dry" law. Supporters of the measure say it is one of the most radical passed by any state in the Union. Pure grain alcohol for chemical and medicinal purposes will be allowed to be sold, as will also sacramental wines.

John J. Halpin, former police captain and chief of detectives of Chicago, convicted in 1915 of bribery and conspiracy, must serve from one to five years in the penitentiary, as the Illinois supreme court refuses to take up his case.

Ex-President Taft, speaking in Philadelphia, said that the policy of Washington and Jefferson regarding extending alliances was obsolete, and that the country must prepare to disregard that policy, as when this nation was given that warning it had only four million souls, but now has over one hundred million people.

Leading representatives of all industrial classes, capitalists, labor leaders, agriculturalists and professional men will compose a committee of fifty appointed in New York City to cooperate with the federal government, if the necessity arises, for national defense.

The plan announced in Philadelphia for the organization of an intercollegiate intelligence bureau to put at the disposal of the United States government the trained resources of the college world, has received the endorsement of Secretaries Daniels and Baker.

There is no immediate prospect of cheaper paper for the printing world, according to reports made to the National Paper Trade Association and the American Pulp and Paper Association at their annual convention in New York City.

Dr. Emil Oht, the German consul general at Seattle, Wash., has been notified by the German embassy at Washington that Great Britain refuses to grant safe conduct to two attaches of the consulate.

Dr. Eric Zoeffel, acting consul general for Germany at San Francisco, who until recently was stationed at Seattle, Wash., says that the employees at Seattle refused safe conduct were not entitled to such consideration, because the rule is that only those employed in Germany and sent to a consulate shall receive safe conduct home in case of a diplomatic break.

Washington
A telegram from Copenhagen says that Americans in Germany are being treated courteously and are being permitted to freely correspond with relatives and friends at home.

The course to be taken by the United States if Germany compels the use of force to safeguard American lives and rights has been determined, but details of the plans are not given out. It is known, however, that conveying and arming of merchant ships are being considered.

Another convention has been smashed to smithereens. When the president made his speech to congress the other day, the Supreme court as a body occupied seats in the assembly, which has never been done before except at presidential inaugurations.

Operations of all transportation of the Belgian relief commission has been suspended, and ships in American, Argentine, Indian and European ports have ordered to remain in port until further notice.

The crew of the interned German sunboat Geier at Honolulu set fire to the vessel.

After many weeks' consideration the senate interstate commerce committee has approved and reported to the senate a bill to supplement the Adamson railroad law, providing for investigation of controversies on common carriers, and giving the president authority to take over railroad, telegraph and telephone lines in times of military necessity.

Possibly the most serious fact confronting the American government in the German situation is the alleged detention of Ambassador Gerard by the German government. If it is shown that the American ambassador was forcibly detained or subjected to indignities of any kind, it will be very difficult for this government to overlook it, as such action upon the part of Germany would be contrary to all international law and precedent.

Civic and military organizations contemplating taking part in the inaugural ceremonies attendant upon March 4 are advised to make their intentions known to Robert N. Harper, chairman of the inaugural exercises, or they may be disappointed in getting quarters in Washington and a position in the line.

The many plants and immense resources of the American Sugar Refining company have been pledged to the government in the event of war.

Major General Pershing has been placed in supreme command of the El Paso district on the international border, and announces that he will make no changes at present.

There are reported to be 3,749 refugees from Mexico at Columbus, N. M., consisting of 3,030 Mexicans, 833 of whom are men, 574 men and 623 children under 12 years of age; 197 American, 80 men, 49 women and 68 children; Chinese 522.

An emergency appropriation of \$500,000 for relief, protection and transportation of American citizens in Europe has been asked by Secretary of State Lansing.

President Wilson's severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was formally approved by the senate by a vote of 78 to 5.

It is stated authoritatively that there is a perfect understanding between the United States and Japan on the working of the new immigration law and that on neither side is there any apprehension of friction or difficulty.

Besides breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany the president has made a bold stroke to align all neutral nations with his policy.

Congress overrode the veto of President Wilson on the immigration bill. Cleveland and Taft vetoed a similar measure, but it now becomes a law, regardless of the president's signature. Japan made an eleventh-hour protest, but congress utterly ignored it.

The grave question of peace or war with Germany is practically the sole topic of discussion in Washington.

European War

Fighting by moonlight and across frozen snow with the temperature much below zero the British troops have made material gains on the Somme front.

The Germans lost 34 airplanes in January, according to official report of the German war department.

The entente allies lost 55 air vessels during the month of January.

France announces that in order to relieve the coal shortage, theaters, concert halls and other places of amusement will be closed for four days each week street cars, omnibus and subway services will cease at 10 o'clock instead of a quarter after eleven at night; national galleries and museums will be closed entirely.

Sweden and other Scandinavian nations have decided to unite in a joint protest to Germany over the latter's submarine blockade.

Sweden is exposed to great possibilities of harm from the Germans and will not, therefore, at this time, join the United States in breaking diplomatic relations with Germany.

A Paris dispatch says that Germany is deporting all Roumanian males between the ages of 16 and 67 into Germany, although the French, Russians, Italians and Portuguese, protected by the Spanish legation, are left in Roumania.

No matter what happens, the United States will not be called upon for such sacrifices as the allies are making, writes Lord Sydenham in the London Evening Standard. He says there will be no "Somme" for the United States' soldiers.

Germany's submarine warfare apparently is growing in intensity. Seven neutral and eight belligerents constitute the additional boats reported to have sunk up to February 6.

A Berlin dispatch by way of London says that Germany has acceded to the American demands for the immediate release of the 72 Americans taken from the ships sunk by the raider in the Atlantic and brought to a German port aboard the steamer Yarrowdale.

HAS LITTLE HOPE OF AVOIDING WAR

BERLIN HAS NO EXPECTATION THAT HOSTILITIES WITH U. S. CAN BE PREVENTED.

RATHER DEFER THAN AVOID

Ultimate Hostilities Inevitable if President Adheres to Position That Loss of American Life is Hostile Act.

Copenhagen, via London.—Little hope or expectation prevails in Berlin that war with the United States is avoidable, or that a modus vivendi reconciling the policies of the two governments can be found.

There now is a desire on the part of the authorities and a vast bulk of the people to avoid actual hostilities in any way consistent with the general lines of the present submarine policy, but only in such a way. Accordingly, instructions were given, so the Associated Press has been reliably informed, to submarine commanders before they started on their February mission, to take the safe side when neutral vessels, particularly American, were in question, whenever possible.

Enemy merchantmen, when recognized as such, were ordered to be sunk at sight, but neutral merchantmen were to be warned when such action, in their judgment, was consistent with the object of the campaign and the safety of their own ships.

It is realized, however, that after the prompt and resolute stand taken by President Wilson, these orders could only be palliative and only defer, not avoid, an ultimate break. Also, that if President Wilson stood by his announcement that the destruction of American lives or ships would be regarded as an act of hostility, a casus belli must come sooner or later—probably sooner on account of the number of Americans on enemy ships. Moreover, there was the discretionary nature of the instructions to submarine commanders, who were informed that while the careful course toward neutrals was recommended and desired, they would no longer be subjected to punishment for departing from their former procedure of warning, if they found this advisable.

It is considered that the only possibility of the avoidance of hostilities would result from a modification of its standpoint by one or the other side, and before the Associated Press correspondent's departure from Berlin, there seemed no probability that Germany would give way this time or abandon the ruthless campaign now started.

FOUR MILLION DOLLAR FIRE LOSS IN PITTSBURG SUBURB.

Machine Shop of Union Switch and Signal Company Destroyed.

Pittsburgh.—The machine shop building of the Union Switch and Signal Company, the largest plant for the manufacture of switch signals in the United States, and until recently engaged in filling munition orders for the European Governments, located at Swissdale, a suburb, was destroyed by fire with a loss estimated at \$4,000,000. The cause of the fire has not been determined, although officials of the company believe it resulted from spontaneous combustion.

The blaze started in the packing department of the building and, fanned by a high wind, gained such headway that it was necessary to call out the fire departments from the adjoining boroughs of Braddock, Wilkinsburg, North Braddock and Rankin, and a part of the Pittsburgh department.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS HOLD CAUCUS AND APPROVE MEASURES

Washington.—The diplomatic breach with Germany having been indorsed by the Senate, Congress is devoting itself to important general business together with emergency measures necessitated by the strained international situation.

Emergency measures awaiting action in the Senate include espionage and conspiracy bills recommended by the Attorney General, and amendments to the shipping laws. The Senate expects to pass the Porto Rican citizenship bill during the early part of the present week, after which a fight again will be instituted for legislation in the pending postoffice appropriation increasing the rate on newspapers and periodicals and providing for one-cent drop letter postage. Revenue legislation also will be pressed in the Senate within a few days.

Revenue Bill Approved.

Democratic Senators, at their third revenue caucus, finally approved, with amendments and pledged their support to the bill passed by the House to provide approximately \$50,000,000 additional revenue to meet the anticipated treasury deficit. The House provisions to raise \$248,000,000 through additional taxes on inheritances and "excess profits," and for a bond issue of \$100,000,000 to pay for the Danish West Indies, Alaska Railroad and other expenses were modified only slightly.

WILSON DECIDES COURSE TO PURSUE

DETERMINES MOVE IN EVENT GERMANY MAKES USE OF FORCE NECESSARY.

PROTECT AMERICAN RIGHTS

If President Goes Before Congress it Will Not Be to Declare War, But to Protect American Rights.

Washington.—The course to be taken by the United States if Germany compels the use of force to safeguard American rights, has been determined. It was learned authoritatively after the Cabinet meeting that in the event President Wilson goes before Congress again, it will not be to ask for a declaration of war, but to follow literally the words of the address in which he announced the break of diplomatic relations, and request authority to use means deemed necessary to protect American seamen and people.

The President, it was said, is as anxious as ever to avoid war with Germany, but also is as determined as ever that American citizens and ships shall be free to travel the high seas unmolested. His next step, if taken, will be to enforce that right, and even then the issue of war or peace will be with Germany. Any hostile action will have to come in the form of an interference with an American right.

Details of the Government's plans are not discussed. It is known, however, that conveying and arming of merchant ships are being considered.

No new development came to indicate that the great act by Germany regarded as inevitable was nearer at hand. Fewer reports of ships sunk came in, and none told officially of the loss of American life. Further information received about George Washington, the negro fireman lost on the Turino indicated that he probably was a British subject.

Practically every member took to the Cabinet information about the activities of his department in connection with the general precautions being taken. Questions discussed included proposed emergency legislation, steps for protecting property, mail problems precipitated by the failure of ships to sail from American ports for Europe, economic issues and the Army and Navy preparation.

After the meeting, it was authoritatively stated that nothing had yet happened to change the course pursued by the Government since the break in relations with Germany.

The effect of the tying up of ships in American harbors because of fear that they will be sunk if they pass through the war zone, is one of the questions being given careful consideration. The enforced idleness of the merchant fleet is a subject of growing exasperation.

RED CROSS PREPARED TO CARE FOR ARMY OF MILION.

According to Reports to Washington Headquarters—Chapters Are Ready For Field Service.

Washington.—An expert hospital force sufficient to care for an army of a million men, could be mobilized by the Red Cross within a few days after an outbreak of hostilities, in the belief of officials at headquarters of the society here.

Since this call was issued February 3 instructing Red Cross chapters throughout the country to place themselves on a footing for field work, many encouraging reports have been returned to headquarters, together with a great flood of personal offers of service. Eliot Wadsworth, acting chairman, estimated that the force which could be mobilized immediately in case of war would include:

Twenty-six completely equipped army and navy base hospital units, with a total personnel of 1,250 nurses and aids.

A hospital base reserve of 415 nurses and 525 nurses' aids.

A corps of expert instructors in surgical dressings, totalling about 120.

Thirty-two partially complete, navy detachments of 20 nurses each.

One hundred and fifteen local emergency detachments.

"With the customary assignment of 10 patients to each nurse," he added, "we could thus take care of 50,000 sick and wounded at once. In the earlier stages of war, the proportion of sick and wounded is about five per cent. In other words, we are prepared today to give expert nursing service to an army of 1,000,000 men."

"No National emergency has ever found the Red Cross better prepared than it is today."

SPEEDING UP WORK ON BIG WAR SHIPS

ALL WORKING FORCES DOUBLED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE RUSHED TO LIMIT.

SEC. DANIELS SUGGESTS SPEED

All Possible Steps to Prepare For Any Orders in Event That Country Enters into War—Just Waiting For Word to Go.

Washington.—Construction work on warships building at the plants of the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., the Fore River Shipbuilding Company and the Electric Boat Company will be speeded up to the limit of these plants. Work on the two superdreadnaughts building at the Newport News yard is proceeding under doubled crews at the suggestion of Secretary Daniels, and the Secretary accepted the proposal of the other two plants to similarly hasten work on the war vessels they are building.

At the Newport News plant it is estimated that the battleship Mississippi, recently launched, can be completed by midsummer instead of January 1, 1918, as called for in the contract. The keel of one of the four new battleships recently contracted for by the Mississippi instead of a merchant vessel, as had been intended.

Representatives of the Fore River and Electric Boat Company called on Mr. Daniels, offering to rush work on destroyers and submarines, for which they would set aside private work. They were told to go ahead at full speed. The plan is to get the vessels launched as soon as possible, freeing stocks for then new set of destroyers and submarines to be authorized in the pending navy bill.

Mr. Wilson called again on both Secretary Baker and Secretary Daniels, in their offices. Neither Secretary would say what had been discussed, but it is known that both were in a position to assure the Commander-in-Chief that all possible preliminary steps had been taken to carry out whatever orders he may give if the United States is drawn into the war.

"We are just waiting for the word to go," was the way one official expressed it.

SAFE CONDUCT FOR COUNT BERNSTORFF.

Will Be Given by Great Britain, the Foreign Office Informs Ambassador.

London.—Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States, will be given safe conduct so far as it is within the power of the British Government to bestow. This announcement was made by the Foreign Office. It followed a conference between A. J. Balfour, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Page.

The two were closeted for nearly an hour. Both were non-committal on their deliberations, but at the conclusion of the conference, the Foreign Office authorized announcement of Great Britain's decision to accede to Washington's request, made two days ago. At the same time, the Foreign Office cabled its decision to the State Department at Washington. It is said that Great Britain is ready to grant Count von Bernstorff safe conduct, but that it could not guarantee the former Ambassador's safety against the acts of his own countrymen. The British Government has expressed itself as anxious to meet the State Department's wishes.

GERMANY PROPOSES TO RE-AFFIRM TREATIES.

Berlin, via London.—The German Foreign Office asked James W. Gerard, the American Ambassador, to sign a proposal reaffirming the treaties of 1799 and 1828. The Ambassador referred the Government officials to Spanish and Swiss intermediaries.

GERARD'S COURSE IS GIVEN APPROVAL.

Washington.—Ambassador Gerard's refusal to enter into any sort of negotiations with the German Foreign Office is approved by the State Department as the only possible course for him to pursue in view of his status of a private citizen. Any communication from the German Government regarding a treaty or any other subject would have to be carried out through the Spanish or Swiss diplomatic representatives in Berlin.

FIRST AMERICAN VICTIM OF SUBMARINE WAS NEGRO.

London.—The British steamer Turino has been sunk by a submarine, resulting in the death of an American negro fireman named George Washington, according to a report to the American Embassy from Queenstown, Calcutta, Bay, another American from Fillmore, Utah, is among survivors.

The Turino, of 2,762 tons net, was last reported as sailing from Norfolk January 19 to Liverpool.

CONGRESS ADDS BIG INCREASES TO BILL

APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEFENSE ON PENDING MEASURES ARE INCREASED.

PARTY LINES ARE FORGOTTEN

Plans Made to Put Through Additional Measures to Put the Country in Complete Readiness For Any Emergency.

Washington.—Big increases were added to national defense appropriation measures in Congress and plans made to put through quickly other far-reaching provisions to prepare the country for whatever may follow the break with Germany.

The House, hurrying the annual naval bill toward completion, wrote into it additional appropriations totaling \$15,000,000, of which more than \$5,000,000 is for ammunition for merchant auxiliaries of the fleet and nearly \$2,000,000 for anti-aircraft guns to defend naval stations. Three separate administration bills designed to expedite naval construction were put into form and introduced during the day for consideration before the end of the week.

In the Senate, an executive session to consider nominations occupied much time but a bill was put through increasing the penalties for making threats against the president of the United States and the Republicans agreed at an informal conference to support a plan for authorization of 100 submarines, in addition to those provided for in the regular building program.

Army Appropriation.

While the House was debating the naval bill, the military committee brought in the annual army appropriation measure carrying a total of \$247,000,000 and including a provision requested by Secretary Baker under which the full membership of the army general staff may be brought to Washington in emergencies to work on war problems. Among the largest items for new equipment are authorizations of \$5,000,000 for aviation, \$11,000,000 for equipment and stores of the reserve corps, and \$5,500,000 for automatic machine guns for the army and National Guard.

The annual fortifications bill, one most advanced of the trio of big annual defense supply measures, neared completion when the Senate approved the conference report embodying provision against purchase of any supplies at a price 25 per cent in excess of the cost of manufacture by the government. The House is expected to approve the report in a few days.

LITTLE PRECAUTIONARY WORK TO BE DONE NOW

Not Much More Remains to be Done Unless War Comes.

Washington.—All precautionary and preparatory steps the military arms of the government have been authorized to take are under way, and little remains to be done now unless actual war should follow the break with Germany. On the surface, the war and navy departments fell back to almost the quiet routine of normal times.

Navy officials are studying the annual naval appropriation bill on which the House labored during the day. The measure is being made the vehicle of extending to the president almost unlimited powers. There will be no delay in the exercise of some of these as soon as the measure has been passed and approved, as the navy always must bear the first shock of a foreign war.

Additional censorship precautions at radio plants have been ordered, and Secretary Daniels said he would renew his plan to Congress for establishment of a government monopoly over the two appropriation bills cover the land forces, the army and fortifications bills, are already well on their way through Congress, and carry sufficient funds for present emergencies.

NEWSPAPER MEN ARE ADVISED TO LEAVE BERLIN

Copenhagen, via London.—A dispatch received from Berlin by The Berlingske Tidende says James W. Gerard, the retiring American ambassador to Germany, has advised the American newspaper correspondents to leave Germany as soon as possible and to proceed the safest way to the United States, by way of Switzerland or Spain. The ambassador, adds the dispatch, will stay for some days in Berlin, settling up urgent business.

BIG RUSH OF FOREIGNERS TO BECOME U. S. CITIZENS

New York.—More than 900 persons of Teutonic birth renounced allegiance to the emperors of Germany and Austria in this city and took out first papers entitling them to become citizens of the United States. The rush at the various naturalization bureaus was so great that extra clerks had to be assigned to duty to accommodate men and women who suddenly had decided to become citizens of the United States.

NAVAL MILITIA IS REORGANIZED

GENERAL ORDERS WERE ISSUED BY THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL REGARDING IT.

LIEUT. WILSON IN COMMAND

Commissioned Officers Take Drop in Rank Under the New Rules Governing Them.

Raleigh.—Reorganization of the naval militia of the state to conform to Federal regulations has just been completed, and general orders were issued by the Adjutant-General regarding it. The militia is organized into a battalion, comprising the second division of New Bern, fifth division from Elizabeth City and the sixth division from Washington.

In the reorganization scheme all the officers are reduced one peg in rank, and Lieut. J. Kenyon Wilson, of Elizabeth City, is made commanding officer. Other officers are: J. C. B. Ehringhaus, lieutenant, executive and navigation; E. E. Williams, lieutenant, engineering officer; R. Duval Jones, passed assistant surgeon, with rank of lieutenant, medical officer; Claud B. Williams, assistant surgeon, with rank of lieutenant, junior grade as assistant medical officer; Everard H. Baker, passed assistant paymaster, with rank of lieutenant, paymaster; B. F. Huske, chaplain, rank of lieutenant. The warrant officers are L. W. Nelson, boatswain; J. L. Bell, machinist, and J. K. Hollowell, pharmacist.

Funeral of Soldier at Newton.

Newton.—The funeral of Patrick Thornburg, of Company A, Hickory, who was knocked from a car at Knoxville and killed, when the troop train bearing the National Guard companies, passed under a bridge, was held from the residence of his father, George Thornburg. Interment was made in Eastview Cemetery with military honors, a detail of 15 men, his comrades, being sent from Company A.

Rev. V. L. Fulmer, of the Lutheran church, conducted the services; "taps" was sounded over the flag-draped, wreath-covered grave, and three volleys fired. The young soldier is survived by his wife and an infant which he had not seen; his parents and several brothers and sisters.

Fifty-Five Pass Law Examination.

Raleigh.—Fifty-five applicants for license to practice law in North Carolina were successful in the examination prepared by Justice Walker for the court, according to announcement of the court. Two out of the five negroes who took the examination passed.

Mr. J. R. Golder and Mr. O. F. Johnson, were the two Raleigh applicants for license who were successful. They were prepared for the examination by Judge George Pell and were the only ones applying for license with his certificate.

Twenty-six of those who applied for license failed before the court, or a percentage of 2.

Negro Falls Eight Stories.

Asheville.—Walter Griffith, a young negro, is in the Mission Hospital, suffering from a fractured skull and other injuries received in a plunge of eight stories down an elevator shaft at the Langren Hotel here. In addition to volplaning down this number of stories to the hard floor of an elevator, Walter was accompanied on the aerial journey by a trunk, and despite this combination of circumstances, he has a good chance of recovery. The negro as wheeling the trunk on a truck and did not notice that the gate guarding the freight elevator was open.

State Normal Has Big Fire.

Greensboro.—One of the dormitory buildings of the North Carolina State Normal College, located here, was destroyed by fire. Thirty young lady students in the structure escaped uninjured. The students lost all their personal effects. The property loss is placed at \$10,000.

Bonds For Bridges.

Shelby.—The county commissioners decided on a bond issue of \$80,000 to bear four and a half per cent interest. The question of the issue will not be submitted to a vote of the people because the money is needed to replace a public necessity, namely the July washed away bridges of the Shelby. The commissioners have gone ahead with the bridge work, however, and erected and contracted for something like \$60,000 worth of new steel bridges. Three new steel bridges were contracted for.

Many Bankers at Gastonia.

Gastonia.—The bankers of North Carolina enjoyed a great meeting at Gastonia. There were some 100 bankers in Gastonia from all parts of the state as well as from South Carolina and Virginia. The address of welcome was made by Mayor C. B. Armstrong, and the response was made by Mr. W. S. Blakeney, of Monroe, president of the North Carolina Bankers' Association. Mr. J. H. Spark, president of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce read the address of Mr. W. P. G. Harding, who was unable to be present.