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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
Directors of the committee on arrangements for the Confederate veterans' reunion to be held in Washington the week of June, have held the first of a series of weekly meetings, planned between now and June. A sub-committee was named to investigate the advisability of holding assemblies of the veterans in a convention hall, or in a big tent located in the middle of the group of sleeping tents on the campus near the Washington monument.

Washington citizens have contributed ten thousand dollars to entertain the Confederate veterans' reunion, and all the old veterans are looking forward to the "biggest time" of their lives.

News that the postmaster general will after April 1 make appointments of all postmasters of the first, second and third classes subject to competitive examinations, has set the "patronage" congressmen in a frenzy. It is stated that President Wilson is heartily accord with the plan.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 enlisted men in the United States army will be given commissions. Sixty men from each regiment will be selected and appointed, not upon examination but for their military fitness. This announcement has sent joy to thousands of enlisted men who are glad of the opportunity to prove that enlisted men will make good commanders.

The latest report is that all the National Guardsmen will be mustered out of the service by April 1.

The United States Supreme court has decreed restoration to her English owners of the liner Appam and cargo, brought into Hampton Roads more than a year ago by a prize crew from the German raider Moewe. Ship and cargo, valued at between three and four million dollars, must be delivered within thirty days, as the court's order is final.

In the Supreme court's decision restoring the Appam to her English owners, it is pointed out that Secretary Lansing was right in holding that prizes coming into American ports unaccompanied by captor warships have the right to remain only long enough to make themselves seaworthy.

It is pointed out that if United States ports were used to harbor prize ships, it would mean that American harbors would become havens of safety into which prizes might be safely brought and indefinitely kept.

The federal grand jury which has been investigating the high cost of food and fuel in New York City has returned two indictments naming as defendants in the first 108 corporations and fifty-five individuals; in the second, ten corporations and sixteen individuals in the business of producing or selling coal.

Four men are dead, another is believed to be in a dying condition and eight other men are suffering from serious injuries as the result of an explosion in the assembling room of an automobile plant in Cincinnati, Ohio.

James W. Faigle, only a few years ago a millionaire, died in the poor house at Chicago, and was given a pauper's burial.

Washington

The Austrian note is said to contain a paragraph which takes full responsibility for submarine operations in the Adriatic and Mediterranean, and further states that encroachments in those waters need not be feared. This paragraph is regarded as hopeful.

President Wilson has renominated Dr. Cary T. Grayson as medical director in the navy with rank of rear admiral.

Brig. Gen. Hunter Liggett has been nominated for major general in the army, vice Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, deceased.

The impression is growing that the president will call an extra session of congress.

Vice President Marshall holds that the senate cannot act on bills unless the house is called in special session at the same time the senate is called.

The president has placed squarely before the senate the responsibility for changing its rules so that filibustering by a small group of senators cannot prevent action by congress.

It is pointed out that the president has a right to convoy United States vessels, but this plan is opposed by the navy department for strategic reasons.

It is suggested that the shipping board take over United States merchantmen, arm them as naval auxiliaries and send them abroad, but it is hardly probable that this plan will be adopted.

Official confirmation has been received of the safe arrival at Bordeaux of the French Line steamship Chicago, which sailed from New York February 19 with 141 passengers, 90 of whom were Americans.

A determination to arm United States merchantmen if a legal way to do so can be found is generally apparent.

President Wilson, from a sick bed, ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of congress to meet April 16.

Details of the government's armed neutrality plans for defending the merchant marine are withheld to avoid endangering Americans and their ships by permitting the information to reach Germany. The only statement at the white house and the navy department is that the president has determined to fully protect American rights.

The action of President Wilson in arming merchant ships was taken only after the president became firmly convinced that Germany is actually proceeding with her campaign of ruthlessness and has in deed made efforts to plot with Mexico and Japan against the territorial integrity of the United States.

The press of the nation is requested by Secretary Daniels to refrain from discussing the arming of merchantmen.

Senators still hope that war with Germany will be avoided, but say that the issue rests entirely with Germany. About five hundred marines and bluejackets have been landed from the cruiser Olympia, the mine layer San Francisco and the gunboat Petrel at Santiago, Cuba, to protect United States interests in Cuba.

A newspaper correspondent in Havana, Cuba, sends the report that the leader of the Cuban rebellion, Jose Miguel Gomez, and his staff, have been captured, and are prisoners in the toils of the Cuban government forces. The news set the crowds in Havana to cheering vociferously, and it is added that the rebellion is practically at an end.

Austria holds that neutrals are responsible for losses they suffer by entering territory where war-like operations are taking place.

Some of the more pessimistic in Washington credit Germany with trying to force Austria to take a step which that country does not wish to take. It is pointed out by this circle that Germany naturally wishes all her allies to take the same course with the United States, which she has pursued, and is urging her great influence to that end. However, it is generally conceded that President Wilson will deal with the Austrian note on its merits.

European War

Holland newspapers publish a statement from Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, in which he observes that the German government has spoken its last word to the United States, and that the whole matter is now up to President Wilson, going so far as to say that Germany is determined to carry the submarine war to the end, the results of which have been satisfactory to the central powers. He says that the condition of all the armies of the central powers is perfectly satisfactory to Germany.

The British transport Mendi, carrying South African native laborers, sank after a collision on February 21, and the report is that 625 persons lost their lives. The collision occurred off the Isle of Wight.

The British government makes no secret of its intention to purchase the Canadian wheat crop, and the British premier says that unrestricted submarine warfare will in no way hamper the delivery of the crop to British ports, as the English navy is better equipped now than ever before to guard and equip its merchant ships.

Great Britain bought the Australian wheat crop last year, but it is pointed out that three trips can be made to and from Canada while one is made to Australia, and that as a matter of expediency the Canadian crop is the most accessible.

The last of the Americans taken from vessels sunk by the German raider in the south Atlantic and taken to Swinemunde in January on board the captured British steamer Yarrowdale have been released and are now on the Swiss frontier, where they will be cared for by American consuls.

Bitter fighting is reported in the Champagne sector, and the French report that the Germans have been repulsed at every point, and some prisoners taken.

Count Zeppelin, the inventor of the airship bearing his name, is dead at Charlottenburg, near Berlin. Death resulted from inflammation of the lungs, superinduced by pneumonia. The count's death is mourned by all Germany, as he was considered the "Edison" of the imperial empire, and his place in German industrialism will not be filled for many years.

The British officers in Mesopotamia report that the Turks are demoralized, and are leaving behind them large quantities of stores. War material abandoned by the Turks is said to be strewn over eighty miles of territory.

East of Bouchavesnes, in the Somme sector, the British report the raiding of a German trench and the scattering of the German forces who were massing for a counter attack.

The torpedo boat destroyer Cassini of the Mediterranean French patrol service was torpedoed by a submarine. The vessel sank in two minutes. The captain, six officers and 100 of the crew perished.

The Russians claim to have captured Asadabad summit, a strategic position ten miles southwest of Hamadan, Persia, from the Turks.

According to Lord Bryce, former British ambassador to the United States, massacres of Armenians are inspired by the desire of the Turkish ruling classes to eliminate all Christians from Turkish dominions.

RESOURCES OF THE NATION ARE READY

SHOULD SUBMARINE ATTACK
AMERICAN SHIP ALL FORCES
WILL RESIST.

SHIP OWNERS ARE NOTIFIED

Vessels May Now Mount Guns and
Will Have Full Backing of Govern-
ment Forces, But Shoot-on-Sight
Policy is Not Announced.

Washington.—The United States Government has begun actual preparations for arming Germany's submarine warfare. Ship owners have been notified of President Wilson's decision that he has full authority to proceed with this policy, details were taken up so there might be as little delay as possible in granting requests for defensive armament.

When vessels sail under the policy of armed neutrality, they will have the full backing of the Administration, expressed in the form of naval guns and gunners and war risk insurance. It was made clear that the entire resources of the United States will be ready for action should Germany attack an American armed ship in violation of the warning of the American Government.

The State Department's view of defensive armament, was that the mere appearance of a German submarine periscope near an American armed vessel would entitle the ship to take all measures of protection on the presumption that the U-boat's purpose was hostile. This was based on Germany's announcement that her submarines would attack without warning any belligerent or neutral merchantmen encountered within the barred zone.

Whether this position will be embodied in instructions to commanders of American armed ships, and whether arms and ammunition will be furnished to vessels carrying contraband were up for discussion, but no announcement on either point was authorized.

President Wilson's attitude has been that no steps of a belligerent character should be taken and that if a state of war comes, it must be through Germany's commission of acts in clear violation of international law. Despite the State Department's ruling, some officials are known to feel that in line with this policy the United States should not sanction a shoot-on-sight program which might be construed as aggression.

TORNADO IN INDIANA KILLS MORE THAN SCORE.

Newcastle Wrecked by Storm, Dage
Estimated at \$1,000,000.

Newcastle, Ind.—Twenty-one are known to have been killed, several are missing, more than 100 persons were injured, some fatally and property damaged to the extent of \$1,000,000 was the toll of a tornado which struck Newcastle.

The damage was roughly estimated at \$1,000,000, but may exceed that figure. The storm swept over the city in a southwesterly direction, demolishing practically everything in its path almost two blocks wide and more than ten blocks long. For several hours the city was entirely cut off from communication.

Appeals for help were sent out by Mayor Leeb Watkins, and Governor Goodrich was asked to send troops to police the city, which is in darkness owing to the demolition of the power plant.

The exact number of dead my not be known for a day or two, as practically all the bodies thus far found have been dug out of the wreckage.

Although the skies had been threatening during the early afternoon, there was little warning of the approaching tornado. A huge funnel-shaped cloud suddenly appeared in the west, hanging low and sweeping toward the city. Groups of persons in the streets began seeking shelter, men and women running wildly through the streets.

GEN. CARRANZA ELECTED PRES. IDENT WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

Mexico City.—Gen. Venustiano Carranza was elected President of Mexico by what is believed to have been the largest vote ever cast in the Republic.

Although the voters had the privilege of writing in or declaring any name they desired, General Carranza received all but a few scattering ballots. The estimated vote cast runs all the way from several hundred thousand to a million.

APPALLING TOTAL OF TEN MILLION IS WAR'S TOLL.

Washington.—More than 10,000,000 men are recorded as killed, wounded, captured or missing in the European War in the first complete tabulation of official and authenticated semi-official reports of the various belligerents. Among the military proper, 4,441,200 are reported dead; 2,598,500 wounded and 2,564,500 captured and missing. Among civilians, another 400,000 are figured as either dead or wounded through the war.

ORDERS STATE OF ARMED NEUTRALITY

PRESIDENT WILSON TAKES ONLY
STEP TO KEEP MERCHANT
MARINE AFLOAT.

SITUATION IS VERY GRAVE

Calls Special Session of Congress for
April 16.—Decision Came Quickly
Following Action of Senate Amend-
ing Rules to Stop Filibustering.

Washington.—President Wilson from a sick bed ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare, and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of Congress to meet April 16. The President's decision came suddenly, following the action of the Senate in revising its rules to permit prompt action on important questions and the submission of formal opinions by Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory that he has the power to arm merchantmen without action by Congress.

Details of the Government's armed neutrality plans for defending the merchant marine were withheld to avoid endangering Americans and their ships by permitting the information to reach Germany.

The decision, coming at the end of a period of tense waiting, was generally hailed as the natural and unavoidable next step in the policy adopted by the President when the broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and gave warning that the United States could not tolerate attacks on American ships and citizens in violation of international law.

Fraught with the grave possibility of war with Germany, the action was taken by President Wilson only after he was convinced that Germany actually was proceeding with her campaign of ruthlessness.

Long before the order was given from the White House, all necessary preparations for the arming of merchantmen had been completed at the Navy Department. Secretary Daniels, however, issued an appeal to the press of the Nation to refrain from discussion of these preparations.

The President's action sent a thrill through the Senate, meeting in special session and through the Government Departments. Still hoping that war with Germany will be avoided, officials and Senators declared that the issue rests entirely with Germany.

FIRST COLLISION WITH SUB- MARINE MEANS WAR.

Washington.—Armed neutrality will be the status of the United States the moment that the first merchant ship under the American flag puts to sea with cannon mounted for defense.

President Wilson made this clear in his address to Congress February 26, when he asked specific authority to arm merchant ships for defense against submarines, the steps he ordered upon his own responsibility.

Writers on international law have held that armed neutrality consists in placing the country in a position to defend itself and its neutrality against threatened attacks or inroads by belligerents. This state of preparedness may last an indefinite length of time, through good fortune in avoiding contact with belligerent forces afloat or ashore, or through the design of the belligerent to confine its declaration of purpose to infringe the neutrality of a country to mere threats unsupported by action.

AMERICAN SEAMEN HELD BY GERMANY ARE GIVEN RELEASE.

Berlin, by wireless to Tuckerton, N. J.—Fifty-nine Americans taken from vessels sunk by the German raider in the south Atlantic and brought to Swinemunde on January 1 on board the captured British steamer Yarrowdale, were released from quarantine and left for the Swiss frontier. The route over which they departed was the one chosen for their return by the United States Government.

GERMAN SEAMEN GUILTY OF SINKING SHIP.

Florence, S. C.—Eight officers and men of the German Hansa Line freighter Liebenfels, which began sinking in Charleston harbor on the night of January 31, were found guilty of sinking the vessel in a navigable stream by a jury in the United States District Court here. They were acquitted, however, of a charge of conspiracy to sink the steamer. Capt. Johann R. Klattenhoff is ill and was the only one of the men not tried.

WITHDRAW WARNING AGAINST FOREIGN LOANS.

Washington.—In a statement reiterating his warning to American banks not to invest too heavily in foreign securities had been misunderstood, the Federal Reserve Board said it regarded the placing of foreign loans as a natural and proper means of settling trade balances, and gave notice that the country's gold reserve now "has been materially strengthened and supplies a broad basis for additional credit."

HAS AUTHORITY TO ARM VESSELS

AGAINST SUBMARINES RULING OF
SECRETARY LANSING AND AT-
TORNEY GEN. GREGORY.

WHAT COURSE HE WILL PURSUE

Whether to Act on This Advice or
Call Special Session of Congress Will
Be Determined Soon by President.

Washington.—Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory have advised President Wilson that he has full authority to arm American merchant ships against illegal attacks by German submarines.

It was to these two officers, the Government's authority respectively on international questions and law, that the President referred the contention raised in the Senate that old statutes enacted to authorize merchantmen to resist pirates raised an insuperable bar to the step he desired to take to meet the submarine menace. They have reported that the statutes have no application to the present situation.

Whether the President will act immediately in accordance with this opinion, or will wait to call a special session of Congress to pass a resolution similar to that killed by a filibuster during the last session was not revealed at this time.

In view of the action of the Senate in revising its rules to prevent another filibuster, it was thought in some Administration quarters that the President would immediately call an extra session.

One problem involved is the probable difficulty over the organization of the next House because of the almost evenly distributed balance of power between the Democrats and Republicans. A long drawn-out fight, such as has marked the organization of more than one House, probably would delay action on the armed neutrality question, a contingency which the President is determined to avoid.

It is taken for granted in all quarters that before July 1 Mr. Wilson will summon an extra session of Congress. The only question open was whether it will be called immediately. At least a week's notice is considered imperative.

Many officials expect a decision by the President, either to call an extra session immediately, or to arm American merchantmen on his own authority, before the end of another week.

REPORT MEXICO AND GERMANY CONNECTED BY WIRELESS.

Washington.—Information reached the Government from a semi-official source that through a powerful wireless telegraph plant in Mexico City direct communication between the Mexican Capital and Germany has been established.

Officials realize that if confirmed this news is of great importance, and an investigation has been ordered. Through connection by Mexico City with the land telegraphs leading into the United States, Germany would be able to secure complete exemption from the censorship now imposed on its communications by the American Government at the wireless stations at Sayville and Tuckerton, and by the British and French Governments in their control of the Atlantic cables.

Far-reaching possibilities thus would be opened for the violation of American neutrality, or even for menacing the National safety in the critical situation existing. Sea raiders and submarines might be directed and full information concerning the departure of ships from American ports furnished.

SERIOUS SPEECH ON FOOD SITUATION MADE TO DIET.

London.—The Prussian food controller, Dr. George Michaelis, made in the Prussian Diet what The Koelnische Zeitung calls a serious speech on the food situation, says a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam. Doctor Michaelis declared that the distress was such that a more severe state of things, especially in the large industrial centers, could hardly be imagined.

CUBAN REVOLT LEADER IS NOW HELD PRISONER.

Havana.—Announcement was made at the President's Palace that a message had been received there stating that Jose Miguel Gomez, former President of Cuba, had been captured, his entire staff by Colonel Collazo, commander of the Government troops. The news of the capture of General Gomez came in a dispatch from the Secretary of the Interior, Colonel Aurelio Navia, who is commanding the campaign in Province of Santa Clara.

WAY IS CLEARED FOR A REVISION OF SENATE RULES.

Washington.—Democrats and Republicans of the Senate, in caucus cleared the way for early modification of Senate procedure so as to make filibusters such as defeated the armed neutrality bill impossible in the future. The Democrats voted unanimously to support a rule under which debate could be limited by a two-thirds vote, and the Republicans voted 30 to 2 to support the same change.

PRESIDENT TO TAKE NEW ACTION SOON

VERY LIKELY THAT FEW DAYS
WILL BRING MOVE IN SUB-
MARINE MATTER.

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS

That One Will Be Called Not Later
Than May 15 is Forecast of House
Leader Kitchin.—May Arm Ships.

Washington.—New action by President Wilson within the next few days in the situation resulting from the German unrestricted submarine campaign was forecast confidently in Administration quarters. If the form of the action has been determined upon, it was not revealed. The possibilities are the arming of American merchantmen by the Government in spite of old statutes constructed by some officials to prohibit such action, the conveying of the vessels by extra session of Congress, and the placing of American ships desiring to pass through the danger zone under Government control.

Reports conveyed to the President that the prospects are excellent for prompt and favorable action on his suggestion for a revision of the Senate rules so that action can be secured on an armed neutrality resolution were believed to bring the calling of an extra session nearer.

While some officials, notably those at the State Department, have advised the President that he has full power to arm merchantmen without congressional action, others feel that such a step would be stretching the law. It is pointed out, however, that any restrictions surrounding the arming of vessels do not apply to supplying convoys. The best judgment of the Navy Department has been against conveying for strategic reasons, but it was considered possible that if no other way is found, this course might be adopted.

The President was understood to feel that the tying up of American vessels in port cannot be allowed to continue much longer. He also believes that the Nation stands behind him in advocating steps to defend American lives and rights.

Mr. Wilson was forced to retire to his room by a cold but previously he conferred with Secretary Lansing about the German crisis and talked with Senators about closure.

When Representative Kitchin, the Democratic leader of the House, left for home, his parting information to his colleagues was that an extra session of Congress would be called not later than the middle of May. Mr. Kitchin made this prediction after a conference with President Wilson, although a Ca'net member was authority for the statement that an extra session is unlikely before "the first of June or the last of May."

IRISH QUESTION STARTS TROUBLE IN PARLIAMENT.

Lloyd-George Faces First Embarrassment as Premier.

London.—The presentation by the Irish Nationalists in the House of Commons of a resolution calling for the immediate application of the home rule statute to Ireland precipitated one of the most bitter sessions in months, and threw the home rule question back into its old position of uncertainty. The resolution forced the Government into a declaration of policy towards self-government, namely, that any part of Ireland that wished home rule could have it, but that no coercion would be employed to compel Ulster to accept. At the same time, the proposal drew from the Ulsterites the ultimatum that they would not accept, which, coupled with the Government's pronouncement, effectually crushed hopes for speedy settlement.

The Nationalists, headed by their leader, John Redmond, were in conference, having withdrawn in a body from the House of Commons, and Mr. Lloyd-George was facing his first embarrassing situation since he assumed the Premiership.

ANOTHER FLOUR MILL FOR STATESVILLE.

Statesville.—Statesville's fourth flour mill is a certainty with the organization of the Sterling Mills, Inc. A five-story mill building and warehouse will be erected near the railroad station. Machinery will be installed capable of producing 500 barrels of flour per day. The building will be equipped with a 50,000-bushel elevator. Work will at once be begun on the building, and it is hoped that the machinery will be in operation within six months.

Three Bridges Washed Away.

Charlotte.—Two bridges spanning the Catawba river near Mount Holly, N. C., were swept away by the high water, caused by long continuous rains, one of them used by the Seaboard Air Line and Piedmont and Northern Interurban road and the other a toll bridge. Both were temporary structures erected in the place of permanent bridges washed away by the flood of last July. The Southern Railway bridge at Catawba Junction was also destroyed. The river reached a high water mark of 18 feet.

FAREWELL SPEECH OF PRES. GARDNER

ELOQUENT AND FORCEFUL WAS
SPEECH OF PRESIDENT OF
SENATE.

WAS SADNESS IN SEPARATION

Lieutenant Governor Thinks That Leg-
islature Has Worked Not in Vain
For Betterment of State.

Raleigh.—The views of President Gardner, of the Senate, on the work of sessions just ended were eloquently and forcefully expressed in his little speech accepting the silver service by the Senators.

The speech follows:
"This is one occasion in my life in which my real sentiments are suppressed and circumscribed by the utter poverty of words to express the thoughts that arise from within. I stand in this presence paralyzed as it were with a deep sense of obligation, love and affection for each member of this Senate and the silver token of your generous thoughtfulness will forever serve in my home as a perpetual and personal tribute to your memories, and as I drink in these goblets in the years that are to come, there shall go out from my heart a silent but spontaneous response to each of you and to the scattered forces of our lives."

"We leave in a few hours and one generation after another will assemble in these halls as our successors to work for the upbuilding of our dear Mother State, until on every hillside and every valley, by seashore or mountain brook, in the towns, counties and villages there shall filter the humanities, justice and social betterment of this General Assembly. The water is a little too high for the mill to grind tonight and we are a little too near our efforts to properly appreciate the significance of the constructive work of this assembly, but my sincere hope is that in the final analysis of our services the verdict of posterity will be that we labored not in vain for North Carolina."

"My association with you has been so delightfully happy that I reluctantly and with keen sorrow contemplate its dissolution, and standing with uncovered head in this presence, I declare to you with all the earnestness at my command that there is a feeling in my heart that after all we are strongly yet securely linked with each other in a common cause for a common good, and that our pulse beats and heart throbs will be striking harmonies with the vital forces of memory and forcefully tugging away at the final threads of our affection, and insinuating themselves into the warm and gentle glow of the sunset of forgetfulness."

"Let us here re-dedicate ourselves and pledge each other that we will henceforth love and serve North Carolina more devotedly, that we will ever be mindful that bitterness and passion may inflame the weak and degenerate to violence, but that this body of men will forever stand clean, upright and wholesome for the common good that underlies all difficulties of calling, class, party or creed, and which makes us all brethren, because we are children of the same God."

"To me there is a genuine element of sadness in this separation, and the pent-up emotions of my nature as I thank you and bid you farewell and God speed, are but the silent and indefinable expressions of one who deeply loves his friends, and of kinship with the race to which we belong, and membership in the immortal throng of God's children."

"May your efforts, aims and aspirations throughout life be covered with the blessings of the Great Jehovah in my earnest prayer as I bid you good bye."

Grading Interurban Road.

Salisbury.—The county commissioners have ordered a survey and estimate made on broadening and grading Salisbury avenue from Steele street in Salisbury through Spencer.