

RUTHLESS SACRIFICE OF AMERICAN LIVES AND RIGHTS MEANS WAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.)

rights as the president said he would meet by asking congress for additional authority to act.

Only the establishment of the exact facts can determine whether the sinking of the ship was a new attack on American rights, or whether the case comes within the range of other American ships carrying contraband, destroyed in accordance with international law and presenting a case to be settled under its precepts.

Admittedly, if the Housatonic was sunk without warning, or with loss of American life, it will amount to little less than an act of war and be followed by all the consequences which the president so clearly pointed out in his address.

Neutral governments have been notified of the action of the United States and have openly been invited to follow its action if the new submarine campaign violates their rights.

Came With Crash.

The breaking of relations came with a crash, despite the fact that it had been discounted and practically determined upon last night. The president, returning from his night conference with the senators, determined that a break in relations was the only act "consistent with the dignity and the honor of the United States."

At 10:30 o'clock this morning it became known that Ambassador Gerard had been ordered home and that passports had been sent to Count von Bernstorff. Although there was no official confirmation of the president's decision, he formally announced it himself to congress, the knowledge spread rapidly.

While apparently deeply moved, he was not surprised. His first act was to ask Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, to come to the German embassy and prepare to take over its affairs. Then he informed his wife, an American-born woman, of the development and likewise told the embassy staff.

Joint Session.

President Wilson kept himself in seclusion during the morning, except for a brief conference with Secretary Lansing, until he left the white house for the capitol shortly before 2 o'clock. In preparation for the history-making event, the senate and house had assembled in the hall of the latter body.

As usual a committee of congressmen met the president and escorted him to the speaker's dias. The whole body rose and cheered as the president, grim-faced and solemn, took his place and began reading the document which is being heard 'round the world. Not a sound came from the floor or the galleries but the clear, calm tones of the president reading slowly and distinctly.

Reviews Situation.

Briefly he reviewed how last April the United States warned Germany, after the destruction of the Sussex that until the imperial government declared and effected an abandonment of that sort of submarine warfare, the United States would have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations altogether. Then he quoted from the German reply which gave assurances that no ships would be sunk without warning and provision for safety of the passengers and crew.

Nothing But Break Left.

When he told how the German proclamation left nothing for the honor and dignity of the United States but a break in relations and that he had ordered passports sent to Von Bernstorff and a recall

to Mr. Gerard, the assemblage broke into a cheer in which republicans and democrats alike joined. More applause greeted his declaration that only an overt act could convince him that Germany intended to violate American lives and rights, and there was prolonged applause and cheering when he concluded by announcing that should American ships and lives be sacrificed "in heedless contravention of the just and reasonable understanding of international law and the obvious dictates of humanity" he would again appear before congress to ask authority "to use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people."

As he concluded there were cheers of approval from both chambers and the president returned to the white house to discuss measures of precaution with Secretary Daniels, of the navy, and Secretary Baker, of the war department.

There were expressions of support and approval of the president's course as the joint session dissolved and both houses went back to their work.

Soon after Count Bernstorff's passports arrived, United States secret service men threw a guard about the ambassador and his suite to make certain that the hospitality of the United States is not violated while he remains on American soil. The status of Count Bernstorff, the Austrian ambassador, was undecided although he called at the state department to arrange for presenting his credentials to President Wilson.

The attempt to sink the torpedo boat Jacob Jones at Philadelphia today is recognized as an instance of some of the things which are being done but on the whole the agencies of the government believe they have made preparations to meet such exigencies or are prepared to meet them as they arise.

The president spoke as follows: "Gentlemen of the Congress: The Imperial German government on the thirty-first of January announced to this government and to the governments of the other neutral nations that on and after the first day of February, the president would adopt a policy with regard to use of submarines against all shipping seeking to pass through certain designated areas of the high seas to which it is clearly my duty to call your attention."

"Let me remind the congress that on the eighth of April, last, in view of the sinking of the twenty-fourth of March of the cross channel passenger steamer Sussex by a German submarine, without warning or notice, and the consequent loss of the lives of several citizens of the United States who were passengers aboard her, this government addressed a note to the Imperial German government, in which it made the following declaration: 'If it is still the purpose of the Imperial government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue. Unless the Imperial government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether.'

"In reply to this declaration, the Imperial German government gave this government the following assurance: 'The German government is prepared to do its utmost to confine the operations of war for the rest of its duration to the fighting forces of the belligerents, thereby also insuring the freedom of the seas, a principle upon which the German government believes now, as before, to be in agreement with the government of the United States.'

"The German government, guided by this idea, notified the government of the United States that the German naval forces have received the following orders: 'In accordance with the general principles of visit and search and destruction of the sea, as recognized by international law, such vessels, both within and without the area declared as naval war zone, shall not be sunk without warning and without saving human lives, unless these ships attempt to escape or offer resistance.'

"But," it added, "neutrals cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, shall, for the sake of neutral interest, restrict the use of effective weapons if her enemy is permitted to continue to apply to all methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. Such a demand would be incompatible with the character of neutrality and the German government is convinced that the government of the United States does not think of making such a demand, knowing that the government of the United States has repeatedly declared that it is determined to restore the principle of the freedom of the seas from whatever quarter it has been violated."

"To this the government of the United States replied on the eighth of May accepting, of course, the assurance given, but adding: 'The government of the United States feels it necessary to state that it takes it for granted that the Imperial German government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy in any way contingent upon the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the government of the United States and any other belligerent government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages in the Imperial government's note of the eighth instant might appear to be susceptible of that construction. In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding, the government of the United States notifies the Imperial government that it cannot for a moment entertain much less discuss a suggestion that respect for German naval authorities for the rights of citizens of the United States upon the high seas should in any way or in the slightest degree be made contingent upon the conduct of any other government affecting the rights of neutrals and non-combatants. Responsibility in such matters rests, not jointly, but relatively, from the joint action relative to the note of the eighth of May.

"There was an unusual attendance of diplomats. Practically all the South American neutrals came to their reserved places to listen to the history making address. The gravity of the situation was further emphasized by the presence of the Justices of Supreme court and members of the cabinet.

The assemblage burst into applause as the president declared he had directed the secretary of state to announce "to the excellency the German ambassador that all diplomatic relations between the United States and the German empire were severed."

There were cheers and hand-clapping, republicans and democrats joining in the jubilation. There was more cheering when the

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GERMAN RAIDERS SEIZED AT PHILADELPHIA BY AUTHORITIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

harbor traffic at Cristobal has been stopped, and strict protective measures have been taken throughout the canal zone. The steamers seized are the Savoia, of 2,614 gross tons, the Grunewald, of 4,707 gross tons, the Sachsenwald, of 3,559 gross tons, and the Prinz Sigismund of 4,689 gross tons.

The vessels have been in the harbor since the beginning of the war.

APPAM CREW REMOVED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Lieutenant Hans Berg and his German prize crew were removed from the liner Appam at Newport News, Va., today, by coast guard cutters under direction of a United States marshal. The ship is in the custody of the Federal court pending appeal to the Supreme court from a decision awarding her to her English owners. Lieutenant Berg had been allowed to retain possession of the vessel under bond given by the German government.

UNDER GUARD.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 3.—Lieutenant Berg and the twenty-seven men from the German prize ship Appam brought ashore this afternoon are under guard here by order of the administration authorities to prevent their attempting to leave the country.

GERMAN "PREPAREDNESS."

BOSTON, Feb. 3.—The North German Lloyd steamer Kronprinzessin

Cecilie, which was seized by United States Marshal Mitchell on a civil process tonight, was found to be crippled beyond the possibility of early usefulness, according to an official who assisted in their seizure. The liner's boilers were said to have been cleared of all water. The fires were burning at top capacity and countless valves in the engine room had been mutilated, transferred or removed entirely, this official stated.

president declared he could not believe that Germany would not regard her obligation and intended to destroy "American ships and take the lives of American citizens." Louder cheering greeted the announcement that the president would come to congress again to ask authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people" should "American ships and American lives" be sacrificed. When the president concluded congress arose again and cheered and remained standing while the president left the chamber and hurried back to the white house. Before leaving the president went to Speaker Clark's office with the committee of senators and representatives who escorted him and each shook hands with him.

When the president reached the white house he conferred there with Secretary of War Baker and Secretary of the Navy Daniels.

While the president was addressing congress, law adviser Woolsey, of the state department, was at the German embassy with a communication for Count von Bernstorff.

The communication contained passports for the ambassador, his wife, the embassy staff and his suite, which comprised more than a hundred persons. A note, believed to be substantially the same as the president's address to congress, was included.

MILITARY MATTER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Sailings of American merchant vessels for the

prohibited war zone were stated officially at the state department today to have become a military matter. No interpretation was given to indicate whether the means that the ships will be armed, conveyed or held in port. Whether the "government will arm ships or convey them is a subject not finally decided, but a definite announcement is expected shortly.

Whether armament or convey would be taken by Germany as an act of war in itself is uncertain, but it is not doubted that an attempt to reeater a German undersea boat would lead to hostilities.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Orders issued today by the navy department forbid all officials divulging movements of war vessels. It was announced the Atlantic fleet would continue its maneuvers near Guantanamo.

Issuance of passports to Germany has been suspended. Governor Manning, of South Carolina, was the first of several executives to telegraph the president approval of his course.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Feb. 3.—The breaking off of relations between the United States and Germany, although expected, has caused a great sensation among all classes. The attitude of the United States is approved.

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—It was reported tonight in diplomatic circles, but unconfirmed by any American official source, that President Wilson is advising neutrals of his action in severing diplomatic relations with Germany has invited other neutrals to follow his course.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A long dispatch received today from Ambassador Penfield, in Vienna, is understood to announce the adhesion of Austria to Germany's course. The status of the new Austrian ambassador who arrived Thursday, was stated officially this afternoon to be undecided.

PRECAUTIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY TAKEN

(Continued from Page One.)

even if war is to come immediately. It is highly improbable that any element of the great organized fighting unit of the navy would be employed in convoy or other duty that would scatter its elements.

NORFOLK, Feb. 3.—Under orders issued tonight the batteries at Fort Wool, in Hampton Roads, have been manned by forces from Fortress Monroe. In time of peace only a few men are kept on duty at Fort Wool. Strangers have been barred from the reservation at Fort Monroe. Guards have been stationed at all approaches and all batteries there, and guards have been put on the mine docks and all government wharves.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Steps to strengthen the federal statutes under which prosecutions may be brought against those committing offenses in the United States to further the interests of foreign governments were hastened in congress today after the break with Germany was announced. Seventeen bills submitted by the justice department several months ago to facilitate prosecution of such offenders were approved by a senate sub-committee when word came that President Wilson wanted action on them hastened, and they probably will get to the floor of the senate early next week.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 3.—The coastguard cutter Yamacraw, the battleship Arkansas and a squad of thirty artillerymen and a lieutenant from Fort Monroe tonight are doing neutrality duty there. Collector of Customs Norman R. Hamilton had ordered that a close watch be kept on the German steamer Arcadia and the Austrian steamer Budapest, tied up here for safety.

The collector said that he had received no advice relative to the disposition of the steamer. The artillerymen were sent over to guard the Appam. The Yamacraw and Arkansas are on duty near the cape.

Extra watchmen have been placed on duty at the shipyard where the battleship Mississippi is being completed. Yard officials anticipate no trouble but wish to be on the safe side. Shipyard activities at this port are normal, according to the collector of customs.

EL PASO, Texas, Feb. 3.—An order received at military headquarters today speeding up the departure of the Sixth Pennsylvania infantry by ten days is taken here by military officers to mean the state troops will be used in eastern military depots because of the crisis with Germany. The regiment will leave the sixth instead of the sixteenth of this month.

GALVESTON, Texas, Feb. 3.—The American steamer Housatonic, which was sunk today off the Solby Islands, was commanded by Captain T. A. Enzor, of New York, and of the crew of thirty-seven men which sailed aboard the vessel from Galveston, twenty-five were Americans.

Ralph Jones, Denmark, was first mate; Paul Boness, Chicago, second mate; L. Solem, Norway, a naturalized American, boatswain; and David Loudon, Scotland, also a naturalized American, chief engineer. Others of the crew included J. M. Giese, of Gleason, South Carolina, and L. M. Fritchett, Tennessee. About twenty-five members of the crew were shipwrecked here.

SPED TROOPS DEPARTURE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The note handed to Count von Bernstorff with his passport, conveying a formal notification that the United States had severed diplomatic relations conforms closely in substance to President Wilson's address to congress.

Signed by Secretary Lansing and addressed to the ambassador, the communication reviews tersely the diplomatic correspondence between the two governments since the sinking of the Sussex, using the same quotations that were embodied by the president in his address. It then announces bluntly that "all diplomatic relations between the United States and the German empire are severed."

The note begins as follows: "The secretary of state to the German ambassador, 'Department of State, 'February 3, 1917. 'Excellency: 'In acknowledging the note with accompanying memorandum, which you delivered into my hands on the afternoon of January 31, and which announced the purpose of your government as to the future conduct of submarine warfare, I would direct your attention to the following statements appearing in the correspondence which has passed between the government of the United States and the

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