

BOLD STROKE BY WILSON

ALL NEUTRAL NATIONS ARE INVITED TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE INSTRUCTED TO REPORT ON RECEPTION OF THIS IDEA

President Would Have All Neutral Nations Follow the Lead of the United States in Severing Diplomatic Relations With Germany, This Being the Only Important Move Made During a Day of Tense Waiting

HOUSATONIC PROPERLY WARNED BY SUBMARINE

Steps to protect American Citizens and Properly Against Action of Foreign Sympathizers Are Being Carried Forward Swiftly and Secretly.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—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. The opinion in diplomatic quarters here is that European neutrals, at the very doorstep of Germany, threatened by her military power, will hesitate to take such a step. The effect of the suggestion in other countries is being eagerly awaited.

Only Development.

This was the only known development of first importance which came out of a day of tense waiting which followed the actual announcement yesterday of the break with Germany.

News that the American steamer Housatonic had not been sunk without proper warning and that no lives had been lost dispelled a cloud which threatened the storm to follow the first overt act against the United States under the new war zone order.

Still hopeful that Germany will not ruthlessly sacrifice American lives or rights, the administration is awaiting developments, but leaving undone nothing to prepare the country for the eventuality of war.

Austrian Situation Unchanged.

The situation as to Austria is tonight unchanged. There is no doubt, however, that diplomatic relations will be broken with her when she announces her intention to adhere to Germany's course.

The president's invitation to neutrals to follow his action was contained in instructions to American diplomats to announce the break with Germany to the governments to which they are accredited. It was contained in the following note:

"You will immediately notify the government to which you are accredited that the United States, because of the German government's recent announcement of its intention to renew unrestricted submarine warfare, has no choice but to follow the course laid down in its note of April 18, 1916 (the Sussex note).

"It has therefore recalled the American ambassador from Berlin and has delivered passports to the German ambassador to the United States.

Will Protect Americans.

"Say also that the president is reluctant to believe Germany actually will carry out her threat against neutral commerce, but if it be done, the president will ask congress to authorize use of the national power to protect American citizens engaged in their peaceful and lawful errands on the seas.

"The course taken is, in the president's view, entirely in conformity with the principles he enunciated in his address to the senate January 12 (the address proposing a world league for peace).

"He believes it will make for the peace of the world

GERMANY FACING POSSIBILITY OF WORLD-WIDE BREAK

Wilson Has Suggested That All Neutrals Sever Relations With Teutons.

BERLIN RECEIVES PRESS DISPATCHES

Has Not Received Official Confirmation of Action by United States.

Germany faces the possibility of having the greater part of the neutral world sever diplomatic relations with her over her submarine policy. President Wilson has made the suggestion to all neutrals that they follow the example of the United States, saving his believes it will make for the peace of the world.

Official Germany as yet has said nothing with regard to the severing of the United States of diplomatic relations.

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LONDON WATCHING FOR NEWS OF RECEPTION OF SEVERANCE BY GERMANY

News of Rupture is Warmly Received by the British People.

THINK IT MEANS WAR.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—London has been engaged today in watching the successive editions of the Sunday papers for news as to how Germany takes the severance of diplomatic relations with the United States, but so far as any word from Berlin was concerned, the English people were disappointed. No dispatches appear to have been allowed to leave Berlin or Vienna, except official communications from military headquarters and a brief message to the effect that press dispatches had been received in the German capital announcing the rupture. There is no gaining the fact that the news of the rupture is warmly welcomed by the British public.

The "resident" swift decision came as an extreme surprise to the people of London who judged that another note to Berlin would precede any decisive action. And it is the general belief here that the president's action will be equally surprising to Berlin.

Great tributes are paid to the president's dignified and restrained tone in addressing congress and the opinion of the general public is that the rupture of relations means nothing less than war and there is much curiosity as to how hostilities will be provoked. In some quarters it is thought the seizure of German auxiliary cruisers in the United States may be regarded by the Germans as a warlike act, but whatever may prove a casus belli, it is assumed that Germany must have fully judged and been prepared for any outcome.

The greatest interest is being shown in all details of the naval strength of the United States, which here is considered a great factor in the situation.



PARTISANSHIP IS CAST ASIDE AND CONGRESS PREPARES TO BACK UP THE PRESIDENT IN EVERY MOVE HE MAKES

Calmly Awaiting Developments in the Diplomatic Breach With Germany, the Legislative Branch of the Government Prepares to Supply the Necessary Equipment in Case of War and to Guard, by Stringent Laws, Against Conspiracies.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Congress, aroused to patriotic support of the president, calmly awaits developments in the diplomatic breach with Germany.

Ready to act quickly and adequately in any emergency, administration leaders are in constant touch with executive departments. While hopeful that the break with the imperial German government will not force the United States into war, leaders already have cast partisanship aside. Legislative squabbles over minor matters have been tempered and the legislative branch is standing by to respond to any demand for protection of the nation in the international crisis.

Important Measures. Important measures bearing on the situation already are under consideration in both houses, among them the annual naval appropriation bill, carrying more than \$350,000,000 for naval maintenance and construction. There is a prospect of its passage before adjournment Tuesday night.

An amendment will be offered to appropriate an additional \$119,000,000 for the immediate completion of 113 war vessels heretofore authorized and now in various stages of construction in government and private yards. Another suggested by Secretary Daniels would empower the president to commandeer private shipbuilding yards and munition plants whenever in his opinion the interest of the country requires such action. Speaker Clark and other house leaders tonight

said they believed that the amendment would be adopted.

For More Submarines. In addition to the regular appropriation bill there is pending in the senate with growing sentiment in favor of its passage, a special bill by Senator Poinsett, providing for immediate construction of 100 submarines, in addition to seventeen carried in the regular appropriation bill.

The crisis also finds the house military committee ready with the current army bill carrying \$275,000,000 subject to any change that exigencies may demand.

Under existing law the president has authority to increase the regular army to full war strength of 285,000 in case of war or threatened war. He also has authority to call on the national guard, now having some 150,000 available men. The guards' full strength, 400,000, can not be acquired until the expiration of four years. Champions of universal military service are renewing their advocacy of pending legislation on that subject. Statutes Strengthened. To safeguard interests of the nation, against conspiracies, consideration is being rushed in the senate of measures suggested by the attorney-general to strengthen the statutes under which prosecutions may be brought against offenders within the United States who further the interests of foreign governments.

While awaiting developments, how-

ever, both houses are expected to keep a drive on general legislation and to go about regular business as calmly as possible. The senate will continue with the agricultural appropriation bill and tomorrow afternoon will proceed to vote in an attempt to pass the immigration bill over President Wilson's veto. The house overrode the veto last week.

Administration leaders hope to prevent discussion of international issues, but fear agitation from the pacifist element in congress. Efforts to arouse sentiment against American participation in the war are expected to come from the so-called "Bryan" or "pacifist" group and Mr. Bryan's presence in Washington and utterances on this subject yesterday and today, together with the arrival tonight of Henry Ford, have served to increase apprehension in this regard. Mr. Bryan, who has some following in both branches of congress, has been urging various alternatives, including a referendum on the question of war with Germany.

SNOW AT WILMINGTON.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 4.—Accompanied by a forty-mile gale which began blowing early tonight, snow began falling at midnight, following a downpour of rain. The storm is the first of its kind for this city in many years. No serious damage has been reported on account of the wind.

AUSTRIANS ARRESTED FOR DEFACING VESSEL

Charged With Conspiracy to Destroy a Vessel in American Waters.

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 4.—Warriors charged today to destroy a vessel in American waters and violation of immigration laws were sworn out here today against Captain Ivanich and nine members of the Austrian steamer Lucia, which has been tied up here since the war began. The charges were made by Bruce Weeks, collector of customs, who after an investigation declared that engine room equipment, of the steamer, including valves and pipes had been broken and damaged to such an extent that they could not be repaired within less than three months. Captain Ivanich and six members of his crew, were arrested on board the Lucia tonight because of high seas in the harbor only four of them were brought ashore. Customs Collector Weeks put men aboard the steamer to guard her. The captain and members of his crew will be given a preliminary hearing Monday before a United States commissioner.

CREW OF THE HOUSATONIC IS LANDED AT PENZANCE

Housatonic Was Warned ad Crew Saved Before Being Torpedoed.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The crew of the American steamship Housatonic has been landed at Penzance, England. The Housatonic was warned by the German submarine which sank her, according to John G. Stevens, American consul at Plymouth. Mr. Stevens today sent the following telegram to the Associated Press: "Total crew of thirty-seven of Housatonic landed at Penzance Saturday. Vessel torpedoed by a German submarine 12:30 Saturday. Warned. Crew towed ninety minutes by submarine toward land." Mr. Stevens telegraphed today to Robert P. Skinner, the American consul general, that the Housatonic was halted by a German submarine at noon and that, after being warned, the crew took to the boats. The Housatonic was then torpedoed and sunk and the submarine towed the boats to a point off the English coast.

AMERICANS CAPTURED BY RAIDERS RELEASED

Germany Accedes to Demands For Release of Seventy-Two Prisoners.

BERLIN, Feb. 4.—(Via London, Feb. 3.)—Germany today acceded to the American demands for the immediate release of the seventy-two Americans taken from ships sunk by the raider in the Atlantic and brought to a German port aboard the steamer Yarrowdale. One of the last things to be done by the United States government before severing diplomatic relations with Germany was to demand that the Americans taken by the German raider from British steamers Georgic, Mount Temple and Voltaire and who were being held in German prison camps be released. A Washington dispatch Saturday said there were sixty of these men. Germany, in holding them, had contended that as paid members of the crews of armed enemy merchantmen they were due no immunity.

LEGISLATORS TO TRY TO SPEED UP ALL LEGISLATION

Hope by This Means to Avoid Rush During Last Few Days.

SPECIAL ORDERS ON SCHEDULE FOR WEEK

Election of School Boards, Woman's Suffrage and Other Measures Up.

Citizen's Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., February 4. (By W. J. Martin.)

With the constitutional sixty days' limit already more than half spent the general assembly is to speed up considerably during the remaining weeks, if the leaders have their way, in the hope of averting a mad rush in the last days.

There are numbers of important special orders scheduled for this week. Those in the senate are scheduled as follows:

February 7.—Senator Kelly's bill to create a game commission for North Carolina and provide for better protection of birds and game; the bill by Senator Warren to increase the number of Superior court judges and judicial districts with judicial rotation in each district and the court weeks so adjusted that there will be always two of the judges without appointments and subject to assignment by the governor to hold emergency courts contemplated by the constitutional amendments.

County Examiners.

February 8.—Senator Davenport's bill to authorize the corporation commission to examine the accounts of county officers and to appoint county examiners.

February 9.—All the senate bills involving the appointment or election of county boards of education. Probably the Turner bill to provide a census.

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CROWDS IN PARIS BRAVE RECORD-BREAKING COLD DAY TO READ BULLETINS

President Wilson's Picture and Stars and Stripes Bring Cheers.

MUCH SATISFACTION.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—Word began to go about Paris in the early forenoon that the United States had broken with Germany. Bulletin marked "Washington official" were posted at the newspaper offices announcing that the German ambassador, Count von Bernstorff, had been handed his passports and the American Gerard had been recalled from Berlin.

It was the coldest day in many winters in Paris, yet crowds stood around the bulletin boards, with the thermometer registering five degrees above zero, eagerly reading the scraps of news as they filtered through. The people stamped their feet in the cold and talked of the possibility that the mid-winter might see it over, and of absolute and quick victory.

President Wilson's portrait and the Stars and Stripes were flashed on many screens and Sunday afternoon assemblies in the moving picture houses all over Paris cheered. Great satisfaction at the action of the United States is felt among leading Frenchmen, but there is no disposition to comment formally on events. The American embassy ceased to look after German interests at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, under instructions from Washington.

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Forecast for North Carolina: Partly cloudy Monday, snow flurries along the coast; decidedly colder with cold wave except extreme west portion, northwest coasts, strong on the coast. Tuesday, fair with rising temperature.