

PRESIDENT WILSON WILL NOT ASK A DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST GERMANY

If Compelled to go Before Congress Again, Will Follow Literally the Words of the Address in Which He Announced the Break of Diplomatic Relations, and Request Authority to Protect American People and Seamen

PRESIDENT ANXIOUS TO AVOID WAR WITH GERMANY

No New Developments Indicate That Overt Act by Germany, Necessary to Precipitate Hostilities, Is Any Nearer at Hand.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—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. It was learned authoritatively after today's 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.

Anxious to Avoid War.

The president, it was stated, 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 convoying and arming of merchant ships are being considered.

No new development came today to indicate that the overt 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 an American life. Further information received about George Washington, the negro fireman lost on the Turino, indicated that he probably was a British subject.

The cabinet met today with all members present, except Secretary McAdoo. Just before the meeting most of the members attended a session of the council for national defense, called to discuss mobilization of the nation's resources as a result of many offers from manufacturing and other companies to place themselves at the disposal of the government in the event of trouble.

Questions Discussed.

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 preparations.

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.

Some resentment was expressed in administration quarters today over what was construed as an implication contained in Germany's request of Ambassador Gerard that old treaties between Prussia and the United States be reaffirmed that such action was necessary to make certain that the rights of Germans in this country guaranteed under those treaties, be made secure. It was reiterated that the American government fully intends acting according to the spirit of the treaties. While the treaty actually was abrogated by passage of the seamen's law, with a conflicting section, the government here looks upon the pact as at least furnishing the guiding principle under which it will act.

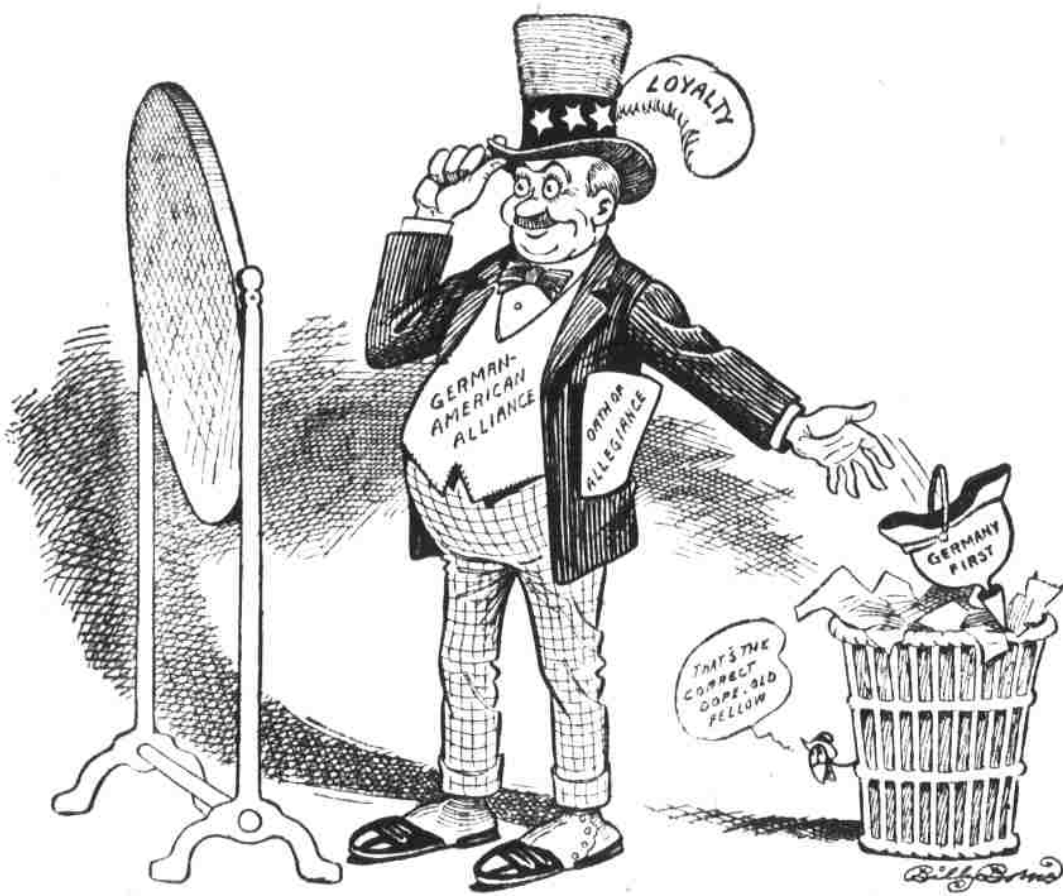
Neutrals' Action Gratifying.

The administration is understood to be highly gratified by the action taken by many of the neutrals in protesting with varying degrees of firmness against Germany's new submarine policy. While none has so far followed the lead and suggestion of the United States, by breaking off diplomatic relations, nevertheless the expression of sentiment was said to be the chief object desired by President Wilson in suggesting action to them.

There were no sensations to disturb the capital today. Preparations went on with quiet thoroughness for all eventualities. Within a short time, perhaps a few days, officials fear that Germany will take the step which will

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)

As It Should Be



SUFFRAGE BILL BY ROBERTS IS BADLY BEATEN WHEN IT COMES TO A VOTE IN LOWER HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Measure Providing for Giving Women Vote in Municipal Elections on Vote of Such Municipalities Fails to Pass—Prohibition Measure, Up Under Unfavorable Report, Is Also Greeted With "Thumbs Down" Sign by the N. C. Legislature.

SENATE BUREAU, Raleigh, N. C., February 9.

(By W. J. Marred.) The bill by Roberts of Buncombe, to give the franchise to women in municipal elections where the majority of the voters so petitioned, went down in defeat in the house today by a vote of 40 to 53, after a most strenuous argument heard by ladies, suffragists and others, who thronged the galleries.

The house also voted against the Page bill to enable any county to elect its own school board on petition of the majority. This vote was 40 to 61.

Prohibition Bill Defeated. Also, the house received the state anti-saloon league bill limiting receipts of liquor to two quarts per year instead of two per month, with unfavorable report from the liquor traffic committee and refused, 27 to 41, to re-refer when friends of the bill pleaded that if re-referred friends of the measure could get up an acceptable bill. It looks decidedly like there will be no further prohibition legislation this session.

The senate thrashed out the question of allowing individual counties to elect boards of education and voted 22 to 24 against the Burgwyn bill to allow Bertie county this privilege. Tonight the members of the senate and house were special guests of the Wake County Alumni association of the A. and M. college, for a big dinner in honor especially of the graduates of the county board of education in the counties and appointment by the governor so as to assure democratic control in all the counties, was displayed as a special order for the day and set as special order for next Thursday.

New Bills. New bills were introduced as follows: Linn—Amend the statute of limitations relative to municipalities. Thompson—Amend the law relative to the exemption of certain entertainments from tax. President Gardner laid before the

senate the bill to allow Bertie county to elect her board of school commissioners as a special order. It was introduced by Senator Burgwyn who charged Senator Oates with having striven to block the bill all along and he wanted that senator to explain why his 2,500 democrats in Bertie could not be allowed this elective privilege. He said "if you don't trust the people they will not trust you."

Senator McColl opposed the bill. Senator Brenner thought that Bertie should have the privilege asked as purely a local matter. Senator Holderness agreed with him.

Senator Oates insisted there was a state school system that must be maintained and charged the republicans with making political capital of the schools.

Senator Jones, of Buncombe, could not understand the much talked of debt of gratitude to western county democracy. The democracy does not, he insisted, require him to be inconsistent and dishonest. Democracy can be maintained by being just, he insisted. He believed that any set of county officers who wrecked the school system of a county would be thrown out of office. He wanted fair play and would not sacrifice principle to keep mountain counties from going republican. The previous question was moved by Senator Justice, the roll call vote was 22 to 24 against the bill.

Senator Harding offered out of order a bill to require the proper observance of the Sabbath. Also a bill by request, relative to allotment of widows' dower and allowance. And a bill to put Pitt county under the law of the state trunkline on the public highways. The senate adjourned to 11 o'clock Saturday morning.

New bills and resolutions were offered as follows in the house. Haymore—Amend the revival relative to the branding of fertilizer. Ray, of Macon—Provide a system of uniform accounting and examination of the state officers.

Breese—Reward officers for the capture of distillers. Horne—Enlarge the jurisdiction of the corporation commission in the right of eminent domain. Lloyd—Repeal the 1917 act rela-

tive to allowing commissioners to remove graves. Matthews, of Maconburg—Provide for the maintenance of roads in North Carolina.

Debate on Page Bill. The house launched on the debate on the Page bill to provide machinery for selecting county boards of education by the people where the people so petitioned.

Representative Holding insisted that the records of these counties that elect their boards have really been hindered in their educational progress by the change from the state system. This was challenged by Mr. Kittrell, who rejoiced that he, Page and Beasley, had been designated "agitators." Noah, Wilson, Aycock and Joyner were recognized as "agitators," while the Egyptians, Pharoahs and Seducers were typical standpatters. He denied that republicans had any patent on the real democratic product of local self-government.

Representative Joyner, of Northampton, told of having had to get his marriage license from a negro back in the republican populist days. He wanted to stand by the west and hold the schools for democracy which the selection policy could do.

Representative Doughton insisted the public school system is a democratic institution and that if republicans got control in their counties they would block progress and hinder development all they could. He said he never expected to offer for a public office again but wanted to go back home this time with the knowledge that he had done his duty by the 50,000 people of the state who lived with him back in the mountain sections of the state where change to election of boards would do untold harm to the schools.

Tribute to Doughton. Representative Brumitt, the last speaker, paid tribute to Mr. Doughton but insisted that Doughton had opposed the bill being for and 61 against.

The Roberts of Buncombe, bill for municipal equal suffrage came up. Mr. (Continued on Page Two.)

NO PROHIBITION AGAINST STRIKES IN RAILROAD BILL

Committee Reports Favorably on Bill to Supplement Adamson Law.

GIVES GOVERNMENT RIGHTS OVER ROADS

Contains Provision to Prevent Obstruction of United States Mails.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—After many weeks' consideration the senate interstate commerce committee today 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 strike or lockout in those of military necessity. There is no prohibition in the measure against the right to strike or lockout to which the railroad brotherhoods have vigorously objected, but there is a provision to prevent obstruction of the mails or of interstate commerce.

Chairman Newlands expects to call up the bill as soon as possible. It is much like that introduced in the house earlier in the week and may be passed at the present session. It is expected to meet the views of the administration, since it has become apparent that a more stringent bill virtually would have no chance of getting through before adjournment.

Under the terms of the bill when the present federal mediation and conciliation board fails to settle a railroad labor controversy, the president shall enlarge the board by the addition of one representative of the carriers and one of the men. The enlarged board's report shall be made within three months and contain regulations "according to the merits and substantial justice of the case which shall be published."

Prohibition Section. The prohibition section makes it a misdemeanor punishable with six months' imprisonment for any person who "knowingly and willfully" by physical force or threats or intimidation

(Continued on Page Two.)

LABOR AGITATOR FOUND GUILTY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER IN BOMB CASE

Tried in Connection With Explosion That Cost Ten Lives.

MOTHER MAKES SCENE SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9.—Thomas J. Mooney, labor agitator, was convicted of murder in the first degree by a jury in the Superior court here tonight for a bomb explosion costing ten lives during a preparedness parade July 22, 1916. When the jury announced their verdict Mooney's mother began to scream and the court room was thrown into violent confusion. Miss Anna Mooney, sister of the prisoner, collapsed and was carried out in a faint. The mother then became so violent that the judge ordered her removed. Screaming and fighting she was dragged from the court room. Mooney received the verdict unmoved. His wife, Rena, was not in the court room. Mooney, his wife, Rena, Israel Weinberg, Warren K. Billings and Edward Nolan were arrested within a week after the explosion of the bomb at Stuart and Market streets on the afternoon of July 22, last. All were indicted for murder. Billings, the first to be brought to trial was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The case against him hinged on his whereabouts immediately prior to the explosion. The prosecution sought to prove that the bomb was contained in a suitcase taken to the scene by Mooney and his associates in an automobile. The defense sought to establish that Mooney and the others were far away from the scene just before and at the time the bomb exploded. Mooney was known as a labor agitator for several years.

BRITISH TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYER HITS MINE

Is Sunk in English Channel, Admiralty Says—of An Older Type.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—A British torpedo boat destroyer of an older type, the British admiralty announced tonight, struck a mine in the English channel Thursday night and sank. All the officers and all of the crew, except five, were lost. The official statement follows: "A torpedo boat of an older type, employed in patrol duty in the English channel, struck a mine last night and sank. All the officers were lost. There were five survivors among the crew."

The oldest type of destroyers in the British navy is known as class A, built between 1893 and 1895. The average displacement is 310 tons, length 260 feet and beam nineteen feet. Two of these vessels have a complement of forty-five men each, while the other ten carry fifty men each.

The next oldest type, class B, have an average displacement of about 400 tons and complement of sixty men each.

RUSSIAN SCHOONER SAILS. PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 9.—The Russian schooner Uranus, loaded with lumber sailed from here today for Swansea, Wales. One of the crew, claiming American citizenship, gave his name as Frances and his home as a Virginia

GERARD WILL RETURN TO U. S. VIA SWITZERLAND

Arrangements for Departure of American Ambassador Are Complete.

BERLIN, Feb. 9. (Via London, Feb. 9.)—Former Ambassador Gerard and his party will return to the United States via Switzerland and Spain, and probably will leave Berlin Saturday evening. In Spain they will board a liner for the United States. Arrangements for the departure of Mr. Gerard and his party were practically completed today. The delay was caused by the number of passports to be made out and because of the lack of news of the movements of Count von Bernstorff.

A special train will leave Berlin Saturday evening at 3:10 o'clock for Switzerland via Basel and Berne. Two representatives of the foreign office will accompany the party to the border, which is expected to be reached early Sunday afternoon. The embassy representatives will enjoy the diplomatic privilege at the frontier, and baggage inspection formalities for the others of the party will be executed before leaving Berlin so as to avoid delay at the border.

The former ambassador and Mrs. Gerard will be accompanied by nearly all the embassy secretaries and attaches and members of the consular service in Germany—except a few ordered to Scandinavia or Holland, and by most of the newspaper correspondents. The train will carry in all about 200 persons when it leaves the capital and will be made up of sleepers and day coaches.

BALTIC ARRIVES SAFELY AT LIVERPOOL, IS REPORT

Two Americans Aboard and a Full Cargo of Munitions in Hold.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The steamship Baltic, of the White Star line, has arrived safely at Liverpool according to a cable message received here tonight by officers of the company. The message, besides announcing that the Baltic had reached her pier, said "all well."

The arrival of the Baltic removes from the danger zone another British vessel carrying United States citizens. There were two Americans among her forty-two passengers. The steamship took to England a full cargo of munitions.

No report had been received tonight from the Adriatic also of the White Star line, which sailed from New York last Sunday and which is believed to be inside the war zone. Officials of the line professed to feel no anxiety for her safety. There is one American passenger on the Adriatic.

The American line announced tonight that no decision had been reached as to the sailing of the steamship St. Louis and St. Paul, which have been indefinitely postponed. The crew of the St. Louis is still on board awaiting orders. The company flatly denied that it had been decided to mount guns on the St. Louis before she sailed.

'LEAK' PROBE WILL GO INTO BOOKS OF STOCK BROKERS

Such Action Is Prompted By Testimony of Washington Brower.

NEWSPAPER MEN ON WITNESS STAND

Associated Press Officials and Workers Deny Any Part in Recent Scandal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Stock exchange accounts held by members of congress will be examined by the "leak" inquiry committee as a result of the testimony of a Washington broker today, that certain representatives have traded through him. The account of every member as revealed by brokers' books will be inspected privately and if there is any suspicion that official information has been utilized in trading, public investigations of the transactions will be inaugurated.

Most of the local brokers' records are now in the possession of the committee and supplemental accounts will be obtained in New York when hearings are resumed there next week.

George B. Chipman, Washington manager for Harriman and company, New York brokers, testified that members of the house had been trading with him. He declared, however, that most of the accounts were investments. He did not think any representatives traded through him the week of December 20. He expressly stated that no senators had any accounts with him.

No Accounts. Eugene E. Thompson, manager of the Crane Harris and company brokerage office, denied that any members of congress had accounts with his firm.

Future activities of the committee depended largely on the result of investigation into congressional accounts. Present plans are to hold no more hearings here.

From interrogation of brokers today, the hearing was given over to the examination of newspapermen and employees of the government printing office. None of them gave information tending to help locate the "leak."

Newspaper Men Heard. Eight newspaper men who were advised confidentially by Secretary Lansing on December 20 of the coming of what developed to be President Wilson's peace note, told of the circumstances surrounding the conference and declared they did not violate the secretary's confidence. They were Stephen T. Early and Arthur Sweetser, The Associated Press; G. E. Garvin and Richard Hoeckel, The International News Service; Carl D. Grost, The Milwaukee Journal; A. J. Clark, The Washington Star and Charles D. Warner, The Christian Science Monitor.

Mr. Clark was questioned closely regarding his statement that the secretary said he did not want news of the statement to become public prematurely because of the effect it would have on the stock market. This was in contradiction of testimony previously given by the secretary, but in cor-

(Continued on Page Two.)

EXPERT HOSPITAL FORCE COULD BE MOBILIZED BY RED CROSS IN FEW DAYS

Encouraging Reports Are Received from Throughout Country.

PERSONAL OFFERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—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 is the belief of officials at headquarters of the society here.

Since the call was issued Saturday instructing 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. Elliot Wadsworth, acting chairman, estimates tonight 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 personnel of 1,250 nurses' aids.

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

Thirteen-one partially complete navy detachments of twenty nurses each.

One hundred and fifteen local emergency detachments.

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

Mr. Wadsworth said that all told the organization could put into the field 2,750 trained Red Cross nurses, and estimated that if thirty per cent of those whom the Red Cross had given elementary training responded to the call as nurses' aids, the total nursing personnel would be about 3,600.

"With the customary assignment of ten patients to each nurse," he added, "we could take care of fifty thousand sick and wounded at once."