

# CONGRESS STILL DAWDLES

## SENATORS SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK REGARDLESS OF FATE OF U. S.

### ARMED NEUTRALITY BILL FAILS TO REACH A VOTE AFTER EXTENDED DEBATE

Senators Argue for Eight Hours and Then Recess Until 10 o'Clock This Morning Without Even Setting Time for Vote On the Measure So Earnestly Desired by President Wilson to Meet Emergencies

### NUMEROUS SENATORS STILL WANT TO TALK

No Serious Opposition to Measure But Ambitious Orators Refuse to Overlook Chance to Keep Their Voices and Gestures in Practice.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Early this morning, after more than eight hours' debate on the armed neutrality bill, in the senate, leaders reached an agreement for a recess until 10 a. m., without setting a time for a vote on the measure.

At 12:45 o'clock the recess was taken. The agreement was reached after Senator La Follette had withdrawn his objection to taking up the bill as passed by the house, with a view to substituting for it the broader senate measure approved by the president.

#### For Quick Action.

Democrats in charge of the bill proposed this step so it can go to conference immediately after the senate acts instead of having to be sent back to the house.

Senator La Follette, upon whose attitude virtually depends when a vote will be reached, declined to agree upon a time to vote. Numerous senators still have speeches to make and it probably will be late tomorrow before the bill goes to conference.

Administration leaders are confident that the house will accept the senate substitute.

#### Senators Talk.

The measure, for which the white house has announced it desires as a substitute for the less sweeping bill passed by the house last night, developed little evidence of determined opposition. It gave senators a long-awaited opportunity, however, to declare their convictions in the international crisis; and the debate proceeded with deliberation despite the knowledge that it now is senate action on which the president is waiting.

There were no party lines and most of the pacifist element of the senate declared a willingness to fall in behind the president in his move for an armed policy.

Senator Stone, head of the foreign relations committee, and by virtue of his position the logical administration spokesman on such questions, withdrew from the task as soon as the armed neutrality bill was brought in by his committee. He said candidly would not permit him to take the floor for the measure and submitted an amendment to exempt munitions carrying ships from the protection to be extended other merchantmen.

#### New Leaders Developed.

To Senator Hitchcock and Senator Lodge, the ranking democratic and republican committeemen, fell the leadership declined by the chairman.

Senator La Follette, about whose attitude there had been some uneasiness, announced that he would talk at length on the bill, but had no intention of filibustering.

As the debate proceeded into the night there were many predictions that it would be well toward morning before a vote could be reached.

The dramatic features of the situation were heightened by crowded galleries and the attendance of several cabinet members and many representatives on the floor as spectators. Among those in the diplomatic gallery was Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador.

#### Would Extend Authority.

The senate bill, in addition to authorizing the arming of merchant ships, would extend the authority requested by the president for use of "other instrumentalities" in

### ARMING OF SHIPS WAITS ONLY UPON CONGRESS' ACTION

President Is Ready to Give the Order as Soon as Given Authority.

### SENATE DEBATES ON ARMED NEUTRALITY

Cabinet Meets and Discusses Situation from Every Angle.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Arming of American ships to defy the German submarine menace waits only upon authority from congress, which probably will be given before another day passes.

It became known tonight that President Wilson is ready to give the order, and that the navy department has made its preparations, to begin equipping merchantmen for defence at a moment's notice.

The senate debated far into the night the bill approved by the president authorizing the arming of ships and the employment of "other instrumentalities" to protect American citizens and providing a bond issue of \$100,000,000.

Little opposition developed, and re-

### SENATE CONCURS IN THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT BILL AND IT IS NOW THE LAW

Victory Attends the Efforts of Buncombe's Senator and Representatives.

### NO OPPOSITION.

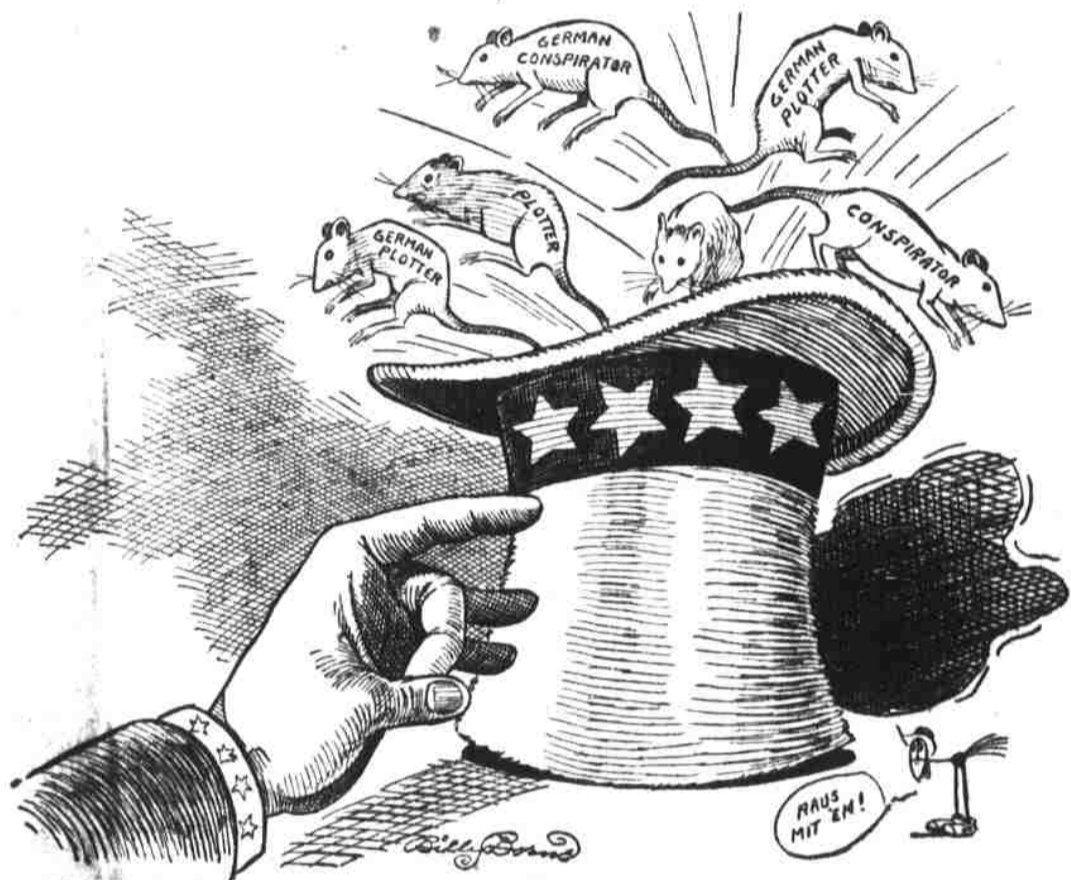
Citizen Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., March 2.

(By W. J. Martin.)

Following its triumphant passage in the house last night, after a brilliant plea by Representative Gallatin Roberts, the Australian ballot bill secured unanimous concurrence of the senate late this evening, and it was ordered enrolled for ratification. Thus the measure which gives the Australian or secret ballot to the counties of Buncombe, Henderson and Madison becomes a law after a remarkable fight in the state legislature.

The bill was introduced in the senate by Senator Thomas A. Jones, of Asheville, and was steered through the house by Representatives Roberts and Crowell, in the face of decided opposition. The bill, which was passed by the senate without a dissenting voice, came from the house elections committee with an unfavorable report, and was later tabled in the house. Representative Roberts after an eloquent appeal secured its reconsideration, and in a brilliant speech swept away the opposing majority and secured the final passage of the bill by a vote of sixty to forty-six. Senator Jones and Representatives Roberts and Crowell received many telegrams of congratulation yesterday from the three counties affected by the new elections law.

### Routing Them Out



### BRITISH CONTINUE ADVANCE AGAINST GERMANS IN WEST

No Details Given of Latest Advance of British on the Ancre.

### GERMANS PREPARE TO RESIST ADVANCE

Turkish Forces in Retreat from Kut-El-Amara Are in a Rout.

British troops have made additional progress north and south of the Ancre but the statement from the London war office gives no details of the latest advances. Northwest of Puisseux-Au-Mont, north of the Ancre, and in the region of Warlencourt, south of the Ancre and toward Bapaume, were the scenes of the latest gains.

The Germans apparently are preparing to make a stand on their present line south of Bapaume, as the British statement reports the repulse of attacks against British advanced positions near Guendecourt and Ligny-Thillois.

#### Definite Stand.

A staff correspondent of The Associated Press with the British armies reports that the Germans now are making a definite stand on a line running from Escaut, through Achiet-le-Petit to southeast of Bapaume.

In the fighting on the Ancre region the British Friday captured 124 prisoners, three machine guns and four trench mortars. Berlin reports the repulse of local attacks near Souches and in the Ancre region, with the capture of prisoners.

On the remainder of the front in France only raids and artillery duels have taken place.

On the eastern front there has been marked activity in Galicia, and in Roumania. On the east bank of the Narayuvka river in Galicia, German storming detachments blew up Russian positions and took 170 prisoners.

In the Valputna, Berlin records, the

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### PASSAGE OF "BONE DRY" LEGISLATION BY NORTH CAROLINA SENATE A WASTE OF VALUABLE TIME, LAW MAKERS SAY

Measure Has Not the Slightest Chance of Securing Standing On House Calendar Because That Body Has Already Passed On Question, and Rules Forbid Its Consideration—McNider Ouster Bill As Passed, Applies to Buncombe County.

Citizen Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., March 2.

(By W. J. Martin.)

Following the stormy "bone-dry" legislation indulged in after last night, there has been a sane sort of survey of the legislative bearings that show the legislation to be the veriest sort of "clap trap" politics according to the best informed law makers of the general assembly.

#### No Standing in House.

The fact is that there is not the slightest possibility of the senate substitute measure getting any sort of a standing on the house calendar since the special rule for the closing days of the session specifically bars from consideration any bill the subject matter of which has been adversely passed upon on the floor of the house or unfavorably reported from committee.

The house has been all through the bone-dry and intermediate stages of prohibition legislation, even to unfavorable report of the proposed prohibition commissioner bill that Senator Oates offered in the senate after he had joined in voting for Minority Leader in the house. There seems to be no the slightest possibility of the recent North Carolina two quart-per-month importation act being in any way disturbed so far as

this house of representatives is concerned.

#### To Amend Constitution.

Bills to amend the constitution passed the senate today in rapid succession, subject to ratification by the people. There were the Sales bill for initiative and referendum; the Governor Bickett measure, to exempt taxation notes and mortgages to the amount of \$3,000 when given for purchase of farm homes; and the Oates bill to amend the constitution to assure six months' schools for every county. One other, that to limit state officers to two successive terms of office and county officers to three terms (another Governor Bickett proposition), went to the last because passage was useless since the house had tabled a duplicate.

When the Sales bill for constitutional amendment to incorporate the principle of initiative and referendum to be submitted to the voters of the state came up, Senator Sales spoke for the bill, insisting that while the principle has become associated with demagoguery in this state, the real principle has not been lost. He believed the people were most always right and he thought they should be allowed to make their own mistakes to say the least. The vote was 35 to

12, and the measure was sent to the house.

#### Other Bills Passed.

Other bills passed in the following order: Provide for retirement bonds for counties; financial machinery for municipalities; amend Avery road law; allow a woman on the Nash county board of education.

Senator Harding introduced out of order his agreed bill appropriating \$150,000 for new buildings for the state school for the blind to be erected on the new site near the city, and it was given immediate passage and sent to the house.

Relative disposal of waste from mines in Mitchell county; amend Gaston liquor law and include Catawba county.

The senate recessed to 8 o'clock.

#### Bills in House.

Bills were offered as follows in the house: Taylor, of Edgecombe—Provide maintenance of the state museum.

Breece—Restrict adjustment by mayor in certain cases.

Congress—Joint resolution for an investigation by a special legislative commission as to gambling by mem-

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### "BONE DRY" AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED IN REPORT

Measure Now Goes to President Wilson — Becomes Effective When Signed.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Without a roll call and with practically no debate, the senate late today adopted the conference report on the postal appropriation bill, which carries the Reed "bone dry" amendment, prohibiting the shipment of intoxicating liquors into states which forbid its sale and manufacture. The measure now goes to the president and prohibition champions prepared to send petitions to the white house, because of the belief expressed in some quarters that the president might veto the bill.

Although the appropriations carried in the bill are for the fiscal year beginning in July, the "bone dry" amendment would become effective immediately upon the attaching of the president's signature.

Besides its prohibition against liquor shipments in interstate commerce, the Reed amendment bars from the mails, newspapers and other publications containing liquor advertisements when such publications are to be sent into states which prohibit by law the publication or circulation of advertisements.

### INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA IS NOT IN ANY PERIL

Law and Order Will Soon Be Re-Established, Ferrara Declares.

HAVANA, March 2.—The independence of Cuba is not in peril and order soon will be re-established, according to the reply sent tonight by Wilfredo Fernandez, member of the house of representatives and a conservative leader, to Dr. Orestes Ferrara, representative in the United States of the liberal revolutionary movement. Dr. Ferrara in a cablegram sent last night to Fernandez offered the retirement of all military chiefs of the Cuban revolutionaries from public life, if the principle of "preserve independence and liberty" in Cuba and prevent American intervention in Cuban affairs.

Publication of Dr. Ferrara's cablegram here today created a sensation and the belief was expressed that the revolutionary leaders, seeing their defeat near, wished to make the best arrangements possible.

### MEXICO IS PRO-ALLY IN SYMPATHIES IS STATED

Andres Garcia Says There Is No Pro-German Sentiment in Country.

EL PASO, Texas, March 2.—"Mexico is pro-ally in its sympathies and any effort to spread German propaganda there would meet with little encouragement among the Mexican people," Andres Garcia, inspector-general of Mexican consulates, said tonight upon his return from Mexico City, where he was in conference with General Carranza, Minister Candido Aguilar of the department of foreign relations and General Alvaro Obregon, minister of war.

"If there are any Germans or Mexicans with German sympathies trying to influence public opinion in Mexico through official or semi-official positions, they will be discharged as soon as discovered, I am sure," said Mr. Garcia.

There are not more than six men in the Mexican army with German names and they have been with the constitutionalist movement from its inception.

#### THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Forecast for North Carolina: Rain Saturday and probably Sunday; little change in temperature.

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