

ARMED NEUTRALITY BILL FAILS TO REACH VOTE AFTER LONG DEBATE

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protecting American rights. That feature was omitted from the house bill, which also contained a prohibition objectionable to the president against the insurance by war risk bureau of vessels laden with munitions.

More than one senator declared passage of the senate bill would mean war sooner or later, but virtually without exception they added that they were ready to accept war on those terms. A few insisted that it would not mean war. None expressed any other belief than that it would be passed and then accepted some time tomorrow by the house.

Bill Taken Up.

The armed neutrality bill which would allow the arming of merchant ships was taken up in the senate late this afternoon immediately after the passage of the naval bill, a motion by Senator Chamberlain to substitute the army bill failing, 76 to 15. Chairman Stone, of the foreign relations committee, surrendered leadership of the measure on the floor to Senator Hitchcock and then began a fight to amend the bill so as to withhold protection from ships carrying munitions.

The bill as taken up differs essentially from that passed by the house last night. In addition to authorizing the arming of merchantmen it would extend authority to use "other instrumentalities" as requested by the president and would prohibit extension of war risk insurance to munition carrying ships. It was drafted by the senate foreign relations committee and has the president's endorsement.

Disclaims Responsibility. Senator Stone disclaimed any personal responsibility for the measure, which he had attempted to have changed in committee. He then proposed his amendment and turned the floor leadership over to Senator Hitchcock. The amendment follows:

Provided: That nothing herein shall authorize the president to employ or direct any person to manage or operate any arms placed on any merchant ship by the United States as herein authorized; and that no person shall be held liable for the arming of a belligerent nation engaged in war with another nation with which the United States is at peace; and

Provided further, That it shall not be lawful for any merchant ship supplied by the president with arms as herein provided to carry or convey as a part of her cargo any munitions or other supplies of war destined for delivery to the armed forces of a belligerent nation engaged in war with another nation with which the United States is at peace.

Hitchcock Talks. In his opening statement, Senator Hitchcock said the committee came to consider these requests attention was called to an old statute which prohibited United States vessels from assisting by force public vessels of other nations. Therefore the committee added authority to United States vessels to defend themselves against unlawful attack. It was feared that if this law was not repealed United States merchantmen would subject themselves to treatment as pirates if they were equipped with the power he seeks in assuming a position of armed neutrality.

Senator Lodge then read the cablegram sent to President Wilson by Senator G. Hoy, whose mother and sister were lost on the Laconia. In the message Hoy offered his services to the United States to fight and declared if no opportunity were given him by the United States to avenge the death of his mother and sister, he would enlist under a foreign flag.

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GERMANS PREPARE TO MAKE DEFINITE STAND IN WEST

British Face Enormous Task to Build Roads Across "No-Man's Land."

ISOLATED GROUPS OF GERMANS FOUND

Carrying Out to Letter Their Instructions to Hold Out Till Last.

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, (Via London, March 2.)—What may be termed the first stage of the German retreat plan on the Arras-Somme sectors, seems to have been about completed and the Germans are making a definite stand. Their line runs from Essarts, through Achiet-Le-Petit to about a thousand yards southeast of Bapaume. Along this line is the Loupart wood, situated on high ground, which is a typical German field fortress. The Germans are not expected to yield this line until further pressure is brought to bear against them.

Enormous Task. Meantime the task of connecting up their new positions and building roads through the former No Man's Land is proving an enormous one for the British, as all the Somme and Ancre area presents an aspect more or less of liquid mud, resulting from the week's thaw. The Germans undoubtedly timed their retreat to coincide with this condition of terrain. In other words, the Germans got started while the ground was in good condition, knowing that the British would have to pursue them when it was at its worst.

Carry Out Orders. In occupying the evacuated territory British patrols late after time have encountered isolated groups of German defensive troops, who were carrying out to the letter their instructions to hold positions to the bitter end. The remnants of these groups, when captured, have been loath to believe that their main armies had been withdrawn, declaring that they had no idea of the plans. One German who had been totally blinded by the British artillery fire, was found in a shell hole into which he had crawled and remained for thirty hours, hoping his comrades would find him. When told they had retreated several miles to the rear the man broke down and cried bitterly.

The weather is the baffling element in the present situation. It cleared beautifully yesterday afternoon, with a distinct touch of spring in the air, but during the night the thermometer fell to below the freezing point. Today the battle front is shrouded in impenetrable fog.

BRITISH CONTINUE ADVANCE AGAINST GERMANS IN WEST

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Russians made five fruitless attacks against Austro-German positions on the heights north of the Valley. Petrograd reports the fighting continues north of Jacob-Kimpelung high road. Rumanian detachments were forced to withdraw, Petrograd says, from a height north of the River Zava.

Turkish forces in their retreat from Kut-el-Amara, Tuesday had reached Aalsiyah, about forty miles southwest of Bagdad and fifty-two miles northwest of Kut. The British pursuit continues. London announces, and since February 23 the troops under General Maude have taken 4,300 prisoners and much booty, including guns and machine guns.

For the second day since the beginning of the German unrestricted submarine campaign, no reports of any vessels having been sunk were issued Friday. The final period of grace for sailing ships in the Atlantic ocean expired March 1, says an announcement by the German admiralty, which adds that from March 3 no special warning will be given any boats by submarines.

ONE TO JOCK. Inmate Passenger (as the train moves out)—Why didn't you put my luggage in your blithering old sack?
Porter—There's nader sense in yer trunk than there is in yer hair, mon. It's you that's in the wrong train!—Sketch (London).

CONGRESS CLEARS WAY FOR PASSAGE OF NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL

House Formally Disagrees to Senate Amendments to the Measure.

GOES TO CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Congress finally cleared the way for final enactment of the \$335,000,000 naval appropriation bill tonight after straightening out a controversy between the two houses which for a time threatened to kill the measure and force an extra session.

Late tonight the house formally disagreed to all senate amendments and sent the measure to conference. The action was regarded however as largely perfunctory, for with the difference over the bond issue cleared away it appeared there was little doubt of a final agreement, on other details.

The trouble was over the refusal of the house to accept an amendment by the senate authorizing a bond issue of \$150,000,000 to meet additional expenses provided for in the bill as it passed the senate late this afternoon.

The house leaders, pointing out that revenue legislation could originate only in the house, promptly passed a resolution to that effect and sent it over to the senate.

After hurried conferences between republican and democratic leaders, fearful that to reopen debate on the bill would mean its failure, the senate without a roll call re-passed the measure with the bond issue provision eliminated.

At the last moment Senator Jones succeeded in attaching an amendment striking out the clause making it a crime for shipbuilding and other industrial concerns to refuse to surrender their plants to the government in time of war or other emergency.

The senate's action was greeted with cheer in the house, where it was conceded that any difficulty over the Jones amendment could be quickly smoothed out.

GUNS TO ARM AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIPS READY AT VARIOUS NAVY YARDS

Await Only Word from the President Before Being Placed.

CREWS AVAILABLE.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—With guns, mounts and ammunition for arming American merchant ships already assembled at navy yards, putting the weapons aboard can begin immediately on orders from President Wilson.

Every important Atlantic coast navy yard is ready to undertake work on ships in its district on instructions from the department. It is expected that upon President Wilson's direction that applications of American ships for guns be compiled with, the commandant of navy yards would be instructed specifically to equip each ship for which application is made.

Aside from a blanket application from the American line covering all its ships, the navy department now has only requests for guns for a few vessels.

The work would be done at navy yards. Ships first scheduled to sail would be the first armed and navy officials expect little delay in getting them ready for sea.

Under the senate bill a full complement of guns may be placed on board each ship. The big liners which would carry six six-inch guns each for war purposes probably would carry two or more for defense against submarines.

The question of providing gun crews would be taken up for each ship separately, according to the present plans. If former navy gunners are available they will be employed. If not, enlisted crews from the navy yards or reserve warships will be assigned to man the guns.

It is possible that machine guns would be placed aboard merchant ships as well as the big rifles.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect the Head. Because of its tonic and laxative effect, Laxative Bromo Quinine can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c. Adv.

CITIZEN WANT ADS BRING RESULTS

BILL TO DISPLACE FEDERAL JUDGES BEATEN IN HOUSE

Congressman Britt Makes Speech—Votes Against the Measure.

MAKES JUDICIARY PARTY FOOTBALL

One Branch of Government Where Experience Counts for the Most.

Citizen Bureau, Washington, D. C. March 2.

(By Nixon S. Plummer.) Congressman Webb's bill to create additional United States District judges in specified districts, was defeated today in the house by a vote of 200 to 192, after extended debate. All the North Carolina congressmen voted for the measure with the exception of Congressman Britt, who voted against the bill and made a speech denouncing it.

Reverses Principles. "It proposes a direct reversal of the principle that merit should be regarded, that efficiency should be promoted and that our non-partisan judiciary should be maintained. It makes judicial appointments the football of party politics and divests congress of its constitutional power to create judgeships and places that power in the hands of the president of the United States.

"Our judiciary is pre-eminently the one branch of our government where experience and uninterrupted tenure count for most. The suggestion that a sane and healthy judge who has attained the age of seventy, is incapacitated for service by the weight of years is falsely contradicted by common experience.

Law Difficult Science. "The law is a difficult and laborious science; so its administration on the bench. No man can master it in a day, or a year, or a decade. It requires long, patient and unremitting toil. This bill flouts experience and disregards ability. Far from promoting the administration of justice, it would severely hinder it. That judges of seventy should not be forcibly retired is illustrated by the case of District Judge James Edward Boyd of the Western District, North Carolina. Although nearly seventy, he is vigorous, strong, active and enthusiastically anxious to serve.

"Yet under the provisions of this bill, his services would almost certainly be dispensed with and his place filled with some untried and inexperienced lawyer."

PASSAGE OF "BONE DRY" LEGISLATION A WASTE OF TIME IS DECLARED

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Speaker Murphy ruled that this resolution was out of order as the house is not a grand jury. Mr. Coggins argued that he was within his rights and the scope of the law governing the legislature in such matters and that investigating commission can be constituted courts in certain cases.

Speaker Murphy held that if Mr. Coggins had reason to go into possible original conduct of any members of the assembly, he had his remedy in articles of impeachment, especially if any have violated their oaths of office. He suggested that Mr. Coggins appeal from the chair but this was not done and the matter was dropped.

Bowman—Provide North Carolina farmers phosphate rock at a reasonable price.

Bills passed final reading: Provide for agricultural districts; teaching agriculture and home economics in rural schools; prohibit trespass on automobiles (sent to the senate by special messenger); amend the law as to the finance committee in folk.

The house refused to re-consider the newspaper advertising bill as tabled last night after numerous amendments were offered. The vote was by roll call, forty-eight to fifty-one, the demand for the roll call being by Representative Brummitt.

Prevent Secret Bond Sales. Prohibit sale of public bonds without notice; prevent accidents at railroad crossings; allow fifty cents per day increase and railroad fare for laborers in the legislature; probate and validate certain instruments.

The house passed the Page bill to make the crime of illicit distilling, a felony instead of a misdemeanor. Mr. Page insisted that blockading is necessarily a deliberate and premeditated crime with burglary and he wanted it so classified on the statute books. Representative Williams of Transylvania, was the only member to vote no.

The house had a long argument of the Grier bill to regulate the hours of work for women and girls and miners, numbers of amendments were offered to limit work in stores and other places to from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Saturdays and six days before Christmas excepted.

Mr. Dalton suggested that the bill would prevent women from appearing in theatricals and it was admitted that a literal construction would do this.

Mr. Page, in opposing the whole bill, said the measure is especially ill timed, the country is facing a food famine through having to share products with the allies, with prospects of still further division and scarcity another year in the light of present conditions. Men may have to be called from their homes without and the women may have to earn their own livings for their families.

Mr. Grier was entirely unwilling to share the women and girls and warring nations. He would share his sons if they were needed. He insisted that "early justice to the women"

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People who desire to open a modest Checking Account, invest money or embark in a Business Enterprise are invited to confer with the Officers of this Bank.

Central Bank & Trust Co.

South Park Square.

GREATEST SINGLE DAY'S GAIN IN TWO YEARS BRINGS BRITISH NEAR BAPAUME!

This map shows how Bapaume, which Germany has made a great strategic fortress, is threatened by the British advance along the Ancre—the greatest single day's gain since "stationary fighting" began. The line (1) shows the old battle line in this part of France; line (2), the battle line last July, after the first Somme rush; line (3), the line before the Bapaume dash, and line (4) inclosing the shaded territory the boundary of the district evacuated by the Germans in one day.

embodied in the bill" should have been given long ago.

The house recessed to a 9 o'clock.

Municipal Bill Passed. The house tonight passed without amendment, the municipal bill providing machinery for city government under the constitutional amendments and passed the substitute composite bill made up of the Pogram and the Brennen bills, the substitute being that worked out by the joint committee of the house and senate.

There was an effort through amendments by Grier and Doughton to change the basis of elections on the propositions to change the forms of government, but proposed amendments were voted down, the roll call being 48 to 52.

The bill then passed its readings.

Unfavorable Calendar. The house received tonight the John bone dry bill from the senate, passed late last night, and assigned it to the unfavorable calendar under the rule as subject matter on which the house has heretofore acted unfavorably. It is precluded from being stored for consideration by the fact that two-thirds majority would be necessary to put it on the calendar. The house tabled the bill by Ray, of Chatham, for two emergency judges, it proving impossible for the western and the eastern representatives to go together on any sort of an emergency judge and strict adjustment.

The senate tonight passed a bill to prohibit liquor advertisements in this state.

The Torrens land title bill; amend the law as to state printing; amend the general insurance laws; occurrence in house amendment to the Australian ballot bill, applying it to Buncombe, Henderson and Madison counties; regulate county bedding in Pamlico sound; Senate bill to prohibit certain practicing in hotels.

The McNider ouster bill stirred opposition, narrowly escaped being tabled and then passed to apply to a large number of counties including Buncombe, New Hanover, Brunswick, Robeson, Mecklenburg and many others.

For the invalid as well as those in perfect health Baker's Cocoa

is an ideal food beverage, pure, delicious and wholesome.

Walter Baker & Co. Ltd. ESTABLISHED 1700. DORCHESTER, MASS.

CANADA GIVES HER SONS TO HELP THE NAVY

First detachment of Canadian boys ever sent out of the dominion to reinforce the imperial navy. The boys, some wearing short trousers, were photographed in front of the recruiting office of the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve in Toronto.

CUNARD STEAMSHIP SUNK BY U-BOAT

THIS IS THE LACONIA, CUNARD LINER OF 18,000 TONS, SUNK WHILE EN ROUTE FROM NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL. MANY AMERICANS WERE REPORTED ON BOARD.