

U. S. PREPARES TO FIGHT SUBMARINE CHASERS ARE ORDERED GERMANS ARE FLEEING ALONG WIDE FRONT SUPREME COURT O. K.'S ADAMSON LAW

PRESIDENT EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS THAT STATE OF WAR EXISTS

BRITISH AND FRENCH STILL ADVANCING AGAINST THE FLEEING GERMAN FORCES

News of Deaths of Several Americans Among the Crew of the Vigilancia, Sunk Without Warning, Tends to Hasten Day When United States Will Formally Enter War Against Kaiser

SUBMARINE "CHASERS" ORDERED BY DANIELS

President Keeping Own Counsel About Course He Intends to Pursue in Present Situation—Cabinet Meeting Probable Today.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—President Wilson is expected within the next forty-eight hours to indicate definitely that he believes a virtual state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Whether the president will hasten the extra session of congress, already called for April 16, or will take additional steps to protect American commerce without this move was not disclosed tonight.

A cabinet meeting probably will be held tomorrow afternoon, and at that time the situation arising out of the new acts of aggression on the part of Germany is expected to be thoroughly canvassed.

Preparing to Act.

Preparation for aggressive action to protect American rights began today when the president visited the navy department personally, and directed Secretary Daniels to utilize the \$15,000,000 made available by congress to hasten naval building plans.

Mapping Out Plans.

In addition to his conference with Secretary Daniels, the president saw Secretaries Lansing and McAdoo, and William Denman, chairman of the federal shipping board, and there was every indication that he was mapping out comprehensive plans for the protection of American interests in any eventuality.

It is generally conceded that already a virtual state of war exists with Germany, in spite of the technical armed neutrality status of the United States.

A suggestion advanced tonight was that the president might issue a call for congress to meet within ten days and in his proclamation point out the new situation facing the nation since he asked authority to establish a state of armed neutrality. No one professed, however, to be in the president's confidence.

The president authorized the expenditure of the

ADAMSON LAW WILL AVERT ALL FUTURE R. R. STRIKES; IS HELD CONSTITUTIONAL

In Epochal Decision, Divided Supreme Court Holds That Congress Has Right to Regulate All Questions Affecting Carriers Doing Interstate Business.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—In an epochal decision holding congress to be clothed with any and all power necessary to keep open the channels of interstate commerce, the Supreme court today, dividing five to four, sustained the Adamson law as constitutional and enforceable in every feature.

The immediate effect of the decision will be to fix a permanent eight-hour basic day in computing wage scales on interstate railroads, for which a nationwide strike twice has been threatened, and to give, effective from January 1 this year, increases in wages to trainmen of about twenty-five per cent, at a cost to the railroads estimated at from \$40,000,000 to \$60,000,000 a year.

Subject to Congress. The court, through Chief Justice White, decided both carriers and their employees, engaged in a business charged with a public interest, subject to right of congress to compulsorily arbitrate a dispute affecting the operation of that business.

"Whatever would be the right of an employee engaged in private business to demand such wages as he desires, to leave the employment if he does not get them and by contract of future transport as to which the same condition," said the opinion, "such rights are necessarily subject to limitation when employment is accepted in a business charged with a public interest."

In delivering the opinion, the chief justice departed at this point from his written text to emphasize the position of men operating trains in a time of national emergency by comparing them to soldiers facing an enemy.

Coming on the heels of the concession of the eight-hour basic day by the railroads at New York to avert the threatened strike, today's decision regarded as largely supplanting that agreement, and also, removing for all time, through the broadest interpretation of congressional authority outlined by the court, the probability of future interstate paralysis.

Joining in with the chief justice in sustaining the law were Justices McKenna and Holmes—his immediate seniors in point of service—and Justices Brandeis and Clarke, junior members. Dissenting for various reasons were Justices Day, Van Devanter, Pitney and McReynolds.

Public Right. The majority upheld the public right to have interstate commerce uninterrupted as a basic principle paramount to interests of the railroads or their operatives—both declared to be in public service and subject to the supreme take any action necessary to maintain freedom and uninterrupted of interstate commerce. Either as a law fixing wages or hours of labor, the court decided, congress had authority to enact the Adamson statute.

It also declared that the Adamson act is neither unworkable, confiscatory, experimental nor in excess of congressional power. It is not a wage-fixing statute, but in effect, was compulsory arbitration, a power "which it (congress) undoubtedly possessed" and "inevitably resulted from its authority to protect interstate commerce in dealing with a situation like that before it."

Concurring in the main principles enunciated by the majority, Justice McKenna expressed the opinion that the law is an hours of services and not a wage-fixing statute. He also suggested increase of railroad revenue probably would be provided if wage increases resulted.

Dissenting Opinions. Justices Day and McReynolds delivering individual views and Justices Pitney and Van Devanter joining in one announcement—variously asserted that the Adamson act is void because it is

NOTABLE ADVANCE OF FRENCH TROOPS ON WESTERN FRONT

People Shed Tears of Joy as French Re-Enter Captured Villages.

GERMANS' RETREAT IS MORE EXTENSIVE

Women and Children Credit America With Keeping Them Alive.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AT THE FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, Sunday, March 18. (Via Paris, March 19.)—The French troops made one of the most significant advances since the beginning of the war, yesterday and today. Along a sixty kilometre front, hundreds of square kilometres re-fell into the hands of the French, while the German's retreating movement gave no evidences of coming to a halt.

Among the first words from the women and children who had been for thirty-two months in the hands of the Germans, were expressions of gratitude to America.

"Americans have kept us alive; otherwise we would have died of hunger."

This was absolutely spontaneous, the stricken people not being aware that an American correspondent was present.

These people are the first in north-eastern France to have an opportunity to give free expression of their feelings and their appreciation of the American effort in their behalf is an example of the general sentiment in the stricken districts.

Signs of a hasty German departure are visible everywhere, especially in the villages and towns, in the shape of houses blown to fragments by the explosion of incendiary bombs. In the distance burning villages showed that the retreat was still progressing. Here and there were a few corpses of German soldiers, who had evidently been killed while acting as rear-guard to former German positions.

At Malungra farm, the Germans evidently opposed with some considerable resistance the French advance, the ground about being pierced with shell holes like a sieve. Further along the villages of Candor and Lagny, many women and children still remained, the rapid retirement not permitting the Germans to carry them off with the mayor, the assistant mayor and other officials. They asserted that everything they grew in their gardens was requisitioned by the Germans and the sole means of sustaining life was the food distributed by the Americans. Every

Supply columns are proceeding in every direction following the French pursuing troops who keep close on the heels of the retreating Germans, not allowing them a moment's respite.

The Associated Press correspondent entered the area re-conquered at Lassigny, which suffered badly, not a house escaping damage. The joy of the inhabitants at the almost incredible sight of French soldiers entering a town within an hour after the Germans departed on Saturday afternoon, was extraordinary. Every passing Frenchman or ally being embraced.

The correspondent spoke with many women who declared that they owed their own lives as well as those of their children to American relief in the occupied territory.

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Germans Are Devastating the Country in Their Retreat, Which Is Being Conducted Over a Wide Front—Many Villages Are Captured by Allies.

The British and French forces in France are still pressing rapidly behind the retreating Germans all along the front from the region of Arras to the northeast of Soissons.

Forty more villages have been taken by the British, who during Monday's operations gained ground at various points, extending from two to eight miles in depth, while twenty additional villages and small towns, in addition to 100 occupied during the last three days, have been recaptured by the French. So rapid has been the advance of the French that they have penetrated beyond the village of Ham, twelve miles southwest of St. Quentin, and beyond Chaulnes, which lies some fifteen miles north of the line from which the offensive was started. These operations from the south and southwest are menacing the St. Quentin-Laon line and if the rapidity of the movement is kept up for any length of time will menace the town of St. Quentin itself.

Devastating Country. The Germans in their retreat are devastating the country, burning villages and destroying orchards and even blowing up farm lands, in which great craters have been left by explosions. In addition, bridges have been destroyed and roads of communication cut. The in-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

SUBMARINE WANTONLY FIRES ON AN OPEN BOAT FROM RELIEF STEAMER

Eight Men in Boat Are Killed by Exploding Shell.

STEAMER ESCAPES.

LONDON, March 20.—A boat containing the first, second and third mates and five seamen of the Dutch steamer Sellen (Selene) chartered by the Belgian Relief Commission, has been shelled by a submarine and all the occupants killed, according to a Reuter dispatch from Stavanger.

"The Dutch steamer Sellen," says the dispatch, "has reached here (Stavanger, Norway), bound for New York in ballast. She left Rotterdam Friday, bearing the usual designation of the Belgian relief committee and was attacked at 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon by a German submarine.

"The Sellen did not stop, but after some shots, lowered a lifeboat in which the first, second and third mates and five seamen embarked. The boat was then struck by a shell and all eight were killed.

"The Sellen put on full speed ahead and the submarine disappeared."

No Dutch steamer Sellen is listed in available shipping registers. There is a Dutch motor tank Selene of 3,738 tons gross, which was last reported sailing from Philadelphia January 21, for Gothenburg, Sweden.

CONVENTION CALLED.

CHICAGO, March 19.—The national executive committee of the socialist party today sent out a call for what it termed "an emergency national convention" to consider the attitude of the organization toward impending war. The convention will be held in St. Louis, Mo., beginning April 7.

THE WEATHER. WASHINGTON, March 19.—Forecast for North Carolina: Fair warmer Tuesday; Wednesday fair.

AMERICANS AMONG LOST WHEN VIGILANCIA WAS SUNK WITHOUT WARNING

Fifteen Members of Crew of Stricken Steamer Were Killed.

CAPTAIN TALKS.

FALMOUTH, March 19.—(Via London.)—Fifteen members of the crew of the American steamer Vigilancia, lost their lives when the steamer was torpedoed by a German submarine. The survivors were in lifeboats from Friday morning until Sunday afternoon.

Among those drowned were several American citizens, including Third Officer Nels P. North and Third Engineer Carl Adeholde. This information was given out by Captain Frank A. Middleton, of New York, who with the survivors of the Vigilancia, has reached the mainland and probably will make affidavits tomorrow before the American consul.

To the Associated Press, Captain Middleton said today that his vessel was sunk without warning. It was 10 o'clock Friday morning when the weather clear, when the ship was struck by a torpedo on the starboard side near the No. 3 hatch. Two torpedoes were fired at the steamer, but the first passed harmlessly astern. Between seven and ten minutes after the steamer was struck she foundered.

Two lifeboats were lowered from the Vigilancia and the crew of forty-three men got into them. Owing to the swell of the ocean, however, twenty-five men were thrown into the water. The boats of the captain and the mates picked up ten of the men, but the other fifteen were drowned.

Third Officer North, of the Vigilancia, was born in Denmark, but was a naturalized American. The name of Engineer Adeholde was not contained in the list of the crew given out in New York Sunday night. This list said there were forty-five men in the ship's company of whom twenty-one including Captain Middleton, were Americans.