

U. S. MEANS BUSINESS

AMERICA WILL CARRY WAR TO GERMANS IF CONGRESS DECLARES STATE OF WAR

No Half-Way Measures Are Being Planned to Meet the German Menace on the High Seas and America, in Addition to Waging Active Warfare Against Kaiser, Will Aid the Allies in Every Way Possible

EXPEDITIONARY FORCES MAY BE SENT ABROAD

Suggestion Is Made That Huge Loan for Allies Can Be Floated Here, and the Supply of Munitions for Those Countries Greatly Increased.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The American government has decided upon sweeping measures to be put into effect following the expected declaration by congress soon after it meets April 2, that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Fully appreciating Germany's policy of acting in war first and talking afterwards, the government has determined to provide against every possible emergency.

Questions Involved.

Questions involved were discussed today at a cabinet meeting to which heads of departments carried reports on preparations already made and others contemplated.

Regretfully the government apparently has decided that since Germany is making war upon the United States through ruthless killing of Americans and destruction of their ships, the issue must be met with steps much more far-reaching than were attempts to protect individual merchant craft. Once a state of war is declared to exist, aggressive measures are expected to be taken.

Program Complete.

As outlined after today's cabinet meeting, the preparations of the government are not to be for a short war, or a war marked by half-way measures. A complete program has been prepared so that everything will be carried out in a systematic manner.

The exact measure of American participation in the war is not expected to be revealed until after the president addresses congress and until public sentiment crystallizes. So far as is known no political alliances with the entente allies is contemplated, although military as well as naval co-operation is possible, and the government will be unsparring in both money and supplies for the allies.

The president has not yet written his address to congress, although he has a general idea of what he will propose.

May Send Army Abroad.

Whether an army will be sent abroad is left to the future. But this possibility is being taken into consideration and the government proposes to be ready for it as soon as practicable.

Detailed plans requiring congressional action are expected to be complete when congress meets April 2. Prior to that time the democratic and republican leaders will confer with the president and members of the cabinet. Speaker Clark and Representative Kitchin returned to Washington today from the south.

The measures decided upon are military, naval, industrial and financial. They are understood to be most comprehensive.

Army Plans Drawn.

The army plans have been fully drawn. Their first object will be to fully protect the United States against any contingency.

The navy program contemplates the building of vessels of all classes as rapidly as possible and the manning of them as fast as they are completed. Secretary Daniels will confer with private builders tomorrow.

The industrial plans being co-ordinated by the Council of National Defense, include the mobilization of skilled and unskilled labor for the manufacture of munitions in as large quantities as possible and also for the continuance of all necessary industries.

Money a Factor.

Just how much money will be asked of congress has not been revealed. A movement is well under way for furnishing the entente allies with an enormous loan, either in the form of credits or money. It also is understood that

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GERMAN RETREAT APPEARS HALTED FOR THE PRESENT

Kaiser's Forces Seem Inclined to Give Battle Again in the West.

BRITISH, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO GAIN

French Troops Have Also Made Gains—Little Done on Other Fronts.

Temporarily, at least, the retirement of the German forces in France appears to have halted, as both the British and French communications report counter-attacks and stubborn resistance at various points along the front. Notwithstanding this apparent change in German tactics, the British report progress southeast of Arras, and the French, Paris says, have moved forward between one and a quarter and two and a half miles in the St. Quentin region.

French Make Gains.

The French troops also have made gains on the heights overlooking the Oise valley northeast of Tergnier and have repulsed German attacks before Thil, northeast of Rheims. Paris asserts that the Germans are inundating the Oise region and that the city of La Fere, thought to have been one of the strong points in the German line, is under water.

South of the Oise the French continue to advance.

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SUBMARINES SHOULD BE SUNK ON SIGHT BY U. S. SHIPS, TAFT DECLARES

Former President Asserts That State of War Actually Exists.

IS WILDLY CHEERED.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 23.—Former President Taft, speaking to a large crowd who wildly cheered his utterances, declared here today that armed American merchantmen should wait no warnings from submarines, but should "sink them on the spot." The former president asserted that the nation was already in effect at war with Germany—war forced upon it by act of lawless aggression which the nation cannot further condone without loss of prestige and self-respect.

After announcing that he was here to advocate a League to Enforce Peace, which he admitted seemed rather irrelevant in the face of the imminence of war, the former president said:

"We are now about to enter war. There are worse things than war, horrible though that be, and one of them is the dishonorable yielding by a nation of the violation of its rights and the killing of its people because they fear war."

"The men who stand on the decks of our vessels on the high seas," the former president said, "are standing on the equivalent of American soil. The nation which kills these seamen are doing us exactly the same wrong that they would do if they invaded our country and murdered our citizens."

In closing he asserted President Wilson had the constitutional power to arm American ships as his oath required him to protect Americans at home and abroad. Turning to preparedness he advocated universal military service as essential to adequate national defense.

Spring Fever



CHIEF RAILROADS OF EAST PETITION INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION TO ALLOW INCREASES IN FREIGHT RATES

Western Railroads Notify Commission That They Will Also Ask for a General Increase in Freight Rates and it is Probable That the Southern Roads Will Also Make a Similar Request—Passengers Rates Will Not Be Affected.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The chief railroads of the east today petitioned the interstate commerce commission to amend its rules to permit a general increase in all freight rates. Western railroads notified the commission that they, too, would ask for a general increase in freight rates and probably will follow the eastern roads in asking for a suspension of the rules.

Southern roads are expected to take similar action.

The proposed increases probably will range between ten and fifteen per cent. In their application to the commission for a suspension of the rules, the eastern roads represent that they are sustaining and are threatened with enormous decreases in net operating income, "due to large increases in wages, in cost of fuel coal, other material, supplies and equipment and to increased cost of capital."

"Substantial increases in freight rates are imperatively demanded by their (the railroads) financial condition," the application reads. "The emergency requires that these increases should be made in the most expeditious manner and with the least possible delay."

The tentative plan of the railroads, so far as disclosed, is to request approval of a flat increase in freight rates on all commodities except coal, coke and ore. Upon these three items proposed specified increases of certain sums per ton, would be named.

Passenger fares exempt. Passenger fares would not be affected. The railroads' application today merely seeks to expedite proceedings

when the proposed increases shall have been filed with the commission. Under the usual procedure the roads would file tariffs proposing increases, which probably would be suspended from four to six months longer during the period of investigation as to the reasonableness of the proposed rates. In what the railroads characterize as an emergency they seek that the rules be suspended in order that the proposed increases may become effective without suspension and if possible upon less than the required thirty days' notice.

Inasmuch as the burden of increased operating costs has fallen upon eastern roads, it is assumed that the percentage of increase asked for by these lines will be greater than in the case of the western and southern roads. Unofficial opinions tonight were that the eastern roads would ask for a fifteen per cent increase and that the increases asked for by southern and western roads would be approximately ten per cent.

An average increase of twelve per cent throughout the country, returns to the interstate commerce commission show, would bring the railroads an additional revenue approximating \$25,000,000 annually on the basis of business done last year. Total receipts of the railroads for 1916 from freight traffic approximated \$2,750,000,000.

Expenses increased. Expenses of the railroads, the returns show, increased rapidly during the closing months of the year and early in the present year. This, it is explained, was due largely to the fact that until the latter part of 1916 the railroads purchased their fuel coal and other supplies on contracts made before the recent upward swing in

prices had reached its greatest momentum. Notwithstanding the fact that the roads of the country are experiencing a greater volume of business than a year ago, which then marked the high record, net income from operations, according to returns to the commission, has fallen appreciably below what it was a year ago, while expenses are much higher.

These and other statistics are expected to be submitted to the commission in support of the railroads' application. The commission is expected to pass promptly upon the application for a suspension of the rules, after which proposed increased rates will be filed, it is said, without loss of time. The proposal probably will be made the subject of investigation at hearings at which all parties of interest, including shippers, merchants and civic and commercial organizations, will be given an opportunity to state their views.

STORM WARNINGS.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Southwest storm warnings were displayed tonight on the Atlantic coast from Hatteras to Eastport, the weather bureau announced. There will be strong winds along the north and middle Atlantic seaboard.

ROCHAMBEAU SAFE.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The French line steamship Rochambeau arrived at Bordeaux safely yesterday, according to a cablegram received here today from one of the passengers. The Rochambeau left New York March 12, with 321 passengers, of whom 107 were American citizens.

ANOTHER TORNADO STRIKES INDIANA; MANY ARE KILLED

Between Twenty-five and Fifty Dead in New Albany as Result of Storm.

BLOCKS OF HOUSES ARE DEMOLISHED

Appeals for Aid Sent to Surrounding Towns and Response Is Quick.

NEW ALBANY, Ind., March 23.—Between twenty-five and fifty persons were killed and probably 100 or more were injured by a storm which late today swept the New Albany, demolishing scores of residences and several industrial plants.

Twenty-five bodies have been recovered and it is expected this number will be materially increased when all the debris of wrecked buildings has been cleared away. The lighting system for the residence section of the city was put out of commission by the storm, and the work of rescue is proceeding with difficulty.

At the intersection of State and Pearl streets it left the ground and then struck again at Vincennes street and the Charlestown road, nearly a mile away. At that point dwellings in three blocks were demolished.

In its progress along the Crocydon pike, the storm uprooted hundreds of trees and destroyed many small houses, many of whose occupants were killed.

The streets in the path of the storm were a mass of wreckage and it was soon seen that outside assistance was needed to meet the situation.

An appeal was made to the city authorities of Louisville, who sent a large number of policemen to the scene. In addition every available officer from the Indiana state reformatory at Jeffersonville and from the Jeffersonville police force were hurried to the stricken district. A call was made on the governor for state troops and it was reported tonight that they were on the way. Hundreds of citizens from surrounding towns

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SURVIVORS OF AMERICAN TANK STEAMER ILLINOIS ARRIVE AT SOUTHAMPTON

Vessel Sunk by Gunfire from Submarine and Bombs. AMERICANS IN CREW.

SOUTHAMPTON (Via London), March 23.—Thirty-four survivors of the American tank steamer Illinois, which was sunk Sunday, March 18, twenty miles north of Alderney by a German submarine, arrived here today. Of the party sixteen are Americans, the others being Swedes and Spaniards. Captain H. Iverson made the following statement:

"We sailed on March 16. At 7:45 a. m. on the 18th, we sighted a submarine bearing down upon us from the southwest from a distance of approximately three miles. The submarine submerged and approached. About ten minutes later, the distance then from us being about two miles, the submarine opened fire. Immediately after backing for two minutes our vessel was stopped by the engineer on watch. The first shot went over our aerial and the second brought it down. The firing continued rapidly until the boats were well clear of the ship's side when the shooting ceased."

"The submarine then came close by alongside the lifeboats and ordered number one boat to come alongside the submarine. The submarine ordered aboard his crew to the lifeboat, which was then pulled to the Illinois. These men then placed seven minute bombs alongside the ship and in the engine room which exploded in due course."

"Our five men were taken off the submarine and I asked the commander if he would tow us toward land. He replied: 'I have no time.' We then proceeded under sail and oars for Alderney and ten miles from it we were picked up and taken in tow by two motor boats that had observed us and came to our assistance."

"The submarine commander took no measures for the safety of the crew and continued shelling until they were in their boats. The Illinois did not try to escape or resist. One man was injured by shell fire. The submarine had no flag showing when first observed. It was six and a half hours after shelling the Illinois when the crew reached the harbor."

PHYSICIANS OF STATE ARE TO BE ORGANIZED

Meeting Is Held at Greensboro and All Counties Will Be Organized.

GREENSBORO, N. C., March 23.—Physicians from many sections of North Carolina met here tonight at the call of Dr. J. W. Long of Greensboro, chairman of the state committee of the medical reserve corps of the Council of National Defense and decided that the doctors of North Carolina be organized in every county in the state and made ready for mobilization for war duty upon call. The counties of the state were apportioned among members of the profession for organization. The physicians agreed to go to the counties assigned to them and organize branches of the medical preparedness organization. Meeting with the North Carolina physicians tonight was Dr. Frank F. Simpson, secretary of the committee of American physicians.

HEARING ADVANCED. PHILADELPHIA, March 23.—The federal district court today changed from April 12 to April 19 the date for the beginning of the \$900,000 suit of the Baltimore Federal league club against organized baseball. The suit was brought a year ago to recover damages under the Sherman anti-trust law.

MEN WILL GET BACK PAY UNDER THE ADAMSON LAW

Railroad Managers and the Brotherhood Chiefs Agree on Application.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Railroad managers and representatives of the four trainmen's brotherhoods have agreed upon a tentative basis for the application of the Adamson law. It was announced tonight by Elisha Lee, chairman of the national conference committee of railway managers. The agreement, it was said, "covers the greater part of the wage schedules, in order that the increased wages according to the employees since January 1 may be paid as quickly as possible."

"A number of minor points," said Mr. Lee in a formal statement, "are still to be decided and a further conference will be held some time in April. If any differences arise as to the application of the law they will be referred to a joint board of eight, four to be appointed by the national conference committee of the railways and four by the brotherhoods."

The railroad managers and representatives of the brotherhoods began working out the details of the application of the Adamson law immediately after it was announced early last Monday that the threatened nationwide railroad strike had been averted by the managers acceding to the brotherhoods' demands for the eight-hour day.

SOLDIER GUARDING BIG GUN BATTERIES KILLED

Strangers, Halted When Close to Batteries, Shoot Sentry on Guard.

PORTLAND, Me., March 23.—Private John Poor, of the Third company coast artillery corps, died tonight from a bullet wound received when he tried to halt two strangers detected near the twelve-inch gun batteries at Fort Williams today.

Poor, who was twenty-two years old, enlisted a year ago. He was the son of Robert O. Poor, of Clarkdale, Ill. Although the batteries, which are on Cape Elizabeth near Portland and Headlight, have been heavily guarded since another sentry was fired on last Wednesday night, two prowlers succeeded early today in penetrating the lines to a point near the big guns.

Renewed precautions were taken tonight to guard all fortifications here. Lieutenant James O. Porter, a naval recruiting officer, at Rockland, Wednesday night declared that German submarines were known to be not far off the coast and that an attack on the Maine coast was by no means unlikely.