

PRESIDENT ASKS FOR WAR

ARMED NEUTRALITY INEFFECTUAL

GERMANY'S WAR IS WAGED AGAINST MANKIND

CONGRESS IS STANDING BY THE PRESIDENT

UNMEASURED DENUNCIATION OF GERMANY'S POLICY, "A CHALLENGE TO ALL MANKIND," MARKS APPEAL OF PRESIDENT FOR WAR

Calmly and Dispassionately, the Chief Executive Reviews Long List of German Outrages, Points Out Futility of Armed Neutrality, and Asks Congress to Declare a State of War at Once.

CONGRESS IMMEDIATELY TAKES DESIRED ACTION

Bills Declaring State of War Exists Introduced in Both Houses and Will Be Acted on Today—Wild Patriotic Outburst Greets President Wilson, Marred Only by Silence of Few of "Little Group of Wilful Men"

Washington, April 2.—President Wilson tonight urged congress, assembled in joint session, to declare a state of war existing between the United States and Germany.

In a dispassionate but unmeasured denunciation of the course of the imperial government, which he characterized as a challenge to all mankind and a warfare against all nations, the president declared that neutrality no longer was feasible or desirable where the peace of the world was involved; that armed neutrality had become ineffectual enough at best and was likely to produce what it was meant to prevent, and urged that congress accept the gaug of battle with all the resources of the nation.

Nothing Less Than War.

"I advise that the congress declare the recent course of the imperial German government to be in fact nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States," said the president, "that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has been thrust upon it and that it take steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense but also to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the government of the German empire to terms and end the war."

Resolutions Introduced.

When the president had finished speaking resolutions to declare a state of war existing were introduced in both houses of congress, referred to appropriate committees, and will be debated tomorrow. There is no doubt of their passage.

The objects of the United States in entering the war, the president said, were to vindicate the principles of peace and justice against "selfish and autocratic power." Without selfish ends, for conquest or dominion, seeking no indemnities or material compensations for the sacrifices it shall make, the

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The Man of America's Destiny



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ARMY AND NAVY PREPARATIONS HAVE REACHED A STAGE GUARANTEEING ALL IMMEDIATE DEFENSE NEEDS AT PRESENT

All Sweeping Steps That Congress Is Expected to Authorize Will Be Carried Out Promptly as the Result of Plans Perfected by the Two Departments—More National Guardsmen Called Into Service for Police Duty in the U. S.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Army and navy preparations were believed by officials tonight to have reached a stage guaranteeing against all immediate defense needs and insuring that the more sweeping steps congress is expected to authorize can be carried out promptly.

More Guardsmen Called. During the day more national guardsmen were called into the federal service, for police duty, making a total of more than 40,000 of the state troops now assigned to guard against internal disorders. The war department also announced that in order not to handicap government construction work, all guardsmen who are government employes or employees of private plants doing government work will be mustered out.

The guard organizations called to-day are as follows: Virginia—Fourth infantry, First and Second coast artillery, Battery D, field artillery. West Virginia—Second infantry. Vermont—First infantry. Connecticut—Second and Fourth companies coast artillery. Many Recruits. Returns today from recruiting stations showed big gains in the number of men accepted by the army and navy. During March the gain in the army was 6,723, and while declining to go into details war department officials said the total strength was nearing the authorized peace maximum of 130,000.

The daily returns to the navy department showed that today had set a new record with 473 applicants accepted. Another indication of the government's preparations for a large army was evidenced today in the announcement that the old Fort Ringgold military reservation in Texas, had been restored to the war department for recruiting purposes. It is assumed that the transfer was made to provide training space. Departmental Plans Complete. War departmental plans for the mobilization of a wartime army have been completed for some days and are ready for submission to the military committees of the house and senate. No details of the proposal to be made as to the method of assembling the force have been given.

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FULL TEXT OF EPOCHAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS

Declares Armed Neutrality Worse Than Ineffectual and Asks Congress to Declare That State of War Exists—"Germany's War Is Against All Mankind."

WASHINGTON, April 2.—President Wilson spoke as follows:

"I have called the congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made, and made immediately, which it was neither right nor constitutionally permissible that I should assume the responsibility of making.

Extraordinary Announcement.

"On the third of February, last, I officially laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the imperial German government that on and after the first day of February it was its purpose to put aside all restraints of law or of humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach either the ports of Great Britain and Ireland or the western coasts of Europe or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany within the Mediterranean.

Seemed to Be Object.

"That had seemed to be the object of the German submarine warfare earlier in the war, but since April of last year the imperial government had somewhat restrained the commanders of its undersea craft in conformity with its promise then given to us that passenger boats should not be sunk and that due warning would be given to all other vessels which its submarines might seek to destroy, when no resistance was offered or escape at-

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AMERICAN ARMED STEAMER TORPEDOED BY GERMAN U-BOAT

NEW YORK, April 2.—The American steamship Astec, first armed merchant vessel to sail from a port on this side of the Atlantic, was sunk by a German submarine off an island near Brest, France. The cable message from the American consul at Brest that brought the news of the ship's sinking to her owners, the Oriental Navigation company, gave no inkling as to the fate of her crew. An Associated Press dispatch from Paris said, however, that while some of the men aboard the Astec were rescued, a number of them were missing and probably had perished. A French patrol boat picked up nineteen of the crew.

Thirty-nine in Crew. The Astec, under command of Captain Walter O'Brien, was manned by a crew of thirty-nine. Seventeen of this number, including the captain, were American citizens. The vessel was armed with two five-inch guns, one forward and one aft, manned by naval gunners under command of a warrant officer. The fear was expressed by the owners that the gunners on the Astec had no chance to show their skill.

The Astec, a slow-moving freighter of 3,723 tons, steamed from New York for Havre, March 18, with a full cargo of foodstuffs and general supplies valued at more than \$500,000. She was due at Havre tomorrow and probably was less than 100 miles from that port when torpedoed.

GUARD'S PERSONNEL. Late tonight, after hearing of the French admiralty dispatch indicating that all of the members of the naval guard were safe, Secretary Daniels made public the guard's personnel. It was composed of Lieutenant William F. Gresham and twelve enlisted men, detached from the crew of the gunboat Dolphin stationed here.

Following are the enlisted men, with the residences of their next of kin: James A. Blevins, boatswain's mate, second-class, Carter county, Tenn.; Thomas E. Dillon, quartermaster, first-class, Jersey City, N. J.; William H. Douglas, coxswain, Terre Haute, Ind.; John I. Eopolucci, boatswain's mate, first-class, Washington, D. C.; Adolf Hendrickson, coxswain, Minneapolis; Jacob Hilfiker, electrician,

third-class, Baltimore; Samuel Earl Israel, seaman, Hellsman, Ala.; Clarence H. Kelly, quartermaster, Trenton, N. J.; Joseph Kiewinsky, seaman, second-class, Newburg, W. Va.; Wm. F. Rominger, gunner's mate, second-class, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Joseph A. Ruoker, seaman, Roanoke, Ala.; and Clarence W. Whitney, quartermaster, second-class, Cincinnati.

NORTH CAROLINA GIVEN ANOTHER BIG COMMITTEE

John Small Chairman Rivers and Harbors Committee—Weaver's Assignments.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 2.—John Small tonight was made chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors, thus giving to North Carolina another big committee assignment. He secured his place by virtue of being at the top of the list. Representative Weaver went on expenditure in the interior department, insular affairs and the territories. Representative Robinson went on election number one, insular affairs and labor.

PROCLAIM LIBERTY.

Greenville, (S. C.) News: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the world and unto all the inhabitants thereof" was the noble and sublime message which the declaration of democracy rings out to the peoples of the earth this day.

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Forecast for North Carolina: Fair and cool; Tuesday; Wednesday probably fair.