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WORLD IS NOTIFIED BY UNITED STATES

Of Intention to Arm American Merchant Ships to Resist Attacks By German U-Boats

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The United States government today took the only formal step that will precede the sailing for the war zone of American merchant ships armed to resist attacks by German submarines. Notice to the world of the intention to place an armed guard on merchantmen was given in a communication sent by the State Department to all embassies and legations in Washington.

The statement, which it is assumed will be transmitted to Germany by the Swiss minister, follows:

"In view of the announcement of the Imperial German government on January 31, 1917, that all ships, those of neutrals, included, met within certain zones of the high seas, would be sunk without any precaution being taken for the safety of the persons on board and without the exercise of visit and search, the government of the United States has determined to place upon all American merchant vessels sailing through the barred areas an armed guard for the protection of the vessels and the lives of the persons on board."

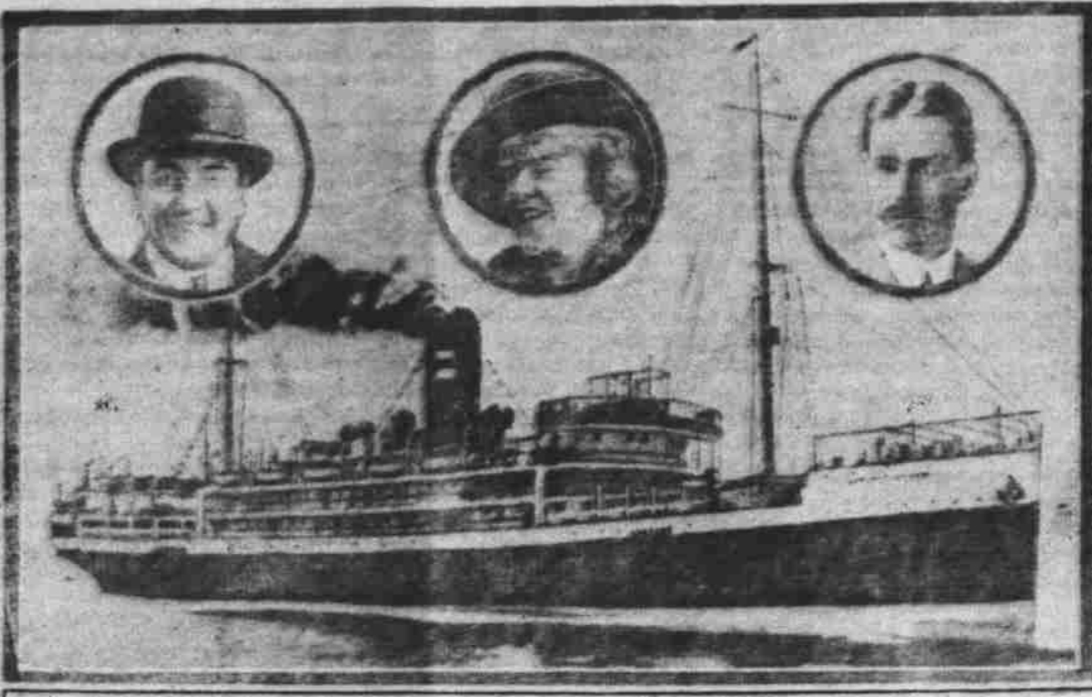
Official Reticent

Officials continued to be reticent today about the arming of ships and the probable date the first would be ready to sail. All such details are regarded as military secrets. In fact, there is a general disposition to avoid discussing any phase of the situation pending the outcome of the defiance of the submarine menace by American vessels with naval guns and gunners on board.

Speculation continues as to the part the United States may play if forced into actual hostilities by Germany. In official quarters the opinion is very clear that President Wilson for the present at least is contemplating no more direct connection than is necessary to protect American rights on the high seas. Preparations for an eventuality are going forward, but the President is known still to cling to the hope that there will be no actual clash between America's armed merchantmen and German submarines.

The President, who has been confined to his bed for several days by a cold, was able today to discuss international questions with Secretary Lansing. He probably will be in his room for a day or two longer, however, and the usual cabinet meeting tomorrow is expected to be cancelled.

Spanish Ship Which Brought The American Embassy Back From Europe



JAMES W. GERARD MRS. JAMES W. GERARD JOSEPH C. GREW

The Spanish ship Infanta Isabel which brought former Ambassador Gerard and Mrs. Gerard along with

other members of the embassy, including Joseph C. Grew, counselor back from Europe. The ship was

not conveyed by an American warship. She docked at Havana; and the Americans sailed north from there.

MANY YEARS OF SYSTEMATIC PREPARATION BUILT UP THE GERMAN WAR MACHINE—U. S. MAINTAINING RESOURCES TO MEET THE CRISIS

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Since the day when the German military machine started on its march through Belgium, the world has resumed with praise for Teutonic efficiency. The thoroughness of the preparation for war in the German Empire under Prussia's leadership was held up as a model for other peoples. This efficiency, covering all branches of economic endeavor was the result of years of intense and systematic preparation. Its one aim was war and the wonderful economic development which made Hamburg and Bremen the great free ports, lives of industry was, while apparently peaceful in its motive, ultimately designed for expansion by arms.

Yet, without a blare of trumpets, machinery which eventually will be fully as efficient has been moving in America. Beginning with the farms east and west of the Alleghenies where food for millions, not only for Americans, but those in other lands has been produced, and in the cotton fields of the South and in the factories everywhere from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a vast industrial host working for peaceful ends is now entering upon a period of activity. Whether actual war is entered into or not, there will be a demonstration of American efficiency.

oped by naval training, it is such a type as is to be desired. The lads from the naval stations showed that this training in the school room and on the playground, was of the sort that made real men.

At these naval training stations the spirit is like that existing at a high class college or university. The football teams, baseball nines and racing crews are good ones and the animal spirits of young Americans are given full play. Many a man making a success of life today owes his position in the world to the training he obtained in the United States Navy where every opportunity is given for the development of latent talent. From the time when the boys don their uniforms and their terms of enlistment have expired, they are given excellent, fatherly treatment by their commanders and officers. The Navy holds open the door for young men of this country, and if a young man is willing to take advantage of his opportunity, the way is open which leads to success.

Plans are rapidly developing to make the business forces of the country virtually an auxiliary of the War Department in the matter of purchasing supplies for the army. In each locality a committee of business men will act as advisors to the district depot quartermasters of the army. They will attempt to obtain the co-operation of other business men to keep all profits an army contracts down to a reasonable figure.

ORDERED TO REPORT THURSDAY FOR ORDERS CONCERNING STRIKE

ALLIANCE, OHIO, March 15.—Three hundred engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen on the Alliance division of the New York Central railroad were today ordered to report "after noon Thursday" at the Ohio building for orders concerning the strike situation.

It was learned from an authoritative source that the orders would be to quit work Saturday night at 6 o'clock unless the conference in New York between the brotherhoods and the railroads succeeds or unless the Supreme court upholds the Adamson eight-hour law. Passenger trains are to run five days after Saturday, but in no case are government troops or munitions to be delayed.

RESERVES GUARDING THE BIG RESERVOIR

Alleged Plot to Blow Up Dam Brought Out the Guards

NEW YORK, MARCH 15.—A force of police under command of Major Joseph Norton was sent tonight to Boonton, N. J. by Jersey City authorities to guard the seven billion gallon reservoir which forms the water supply of Jersey City. The reservoir has a shore line of eight miles.

This step was taken immediately upon the disclosure of an alleged German plot to dynamite the dam of the reservoir which holds in check enough water to flood the entire Hackaway and Passaic valleys.

So urgent did the Jersey City commissioners consider the situation that they telephoned to the governor to implore him to send the militia for guard duty.

They told the governor that if the dam was dynamited the waters released would wipe out all the municipalities and munition factories in that territory.

IOWA RESENTS FILIBUSTER

Legislature Adopts Res. Denouncing Action of Its Senators

DES MOINES, IOWA, March 15.—A resolution that the Iowa General Assembly recognizes that the action of Senators Cummings and Keayon by assailing in the filibuster against the armed neutrality stippling bill in the United States Senate held up the State as an object for scorn and consideration in the Lower branch of is expected to be taken up for contempt and reprobation their action, the Legislature today. The resolution was introduced yesterday but was laid over until today.

If you pay your subscription between this and the 1st of April you will receive the paper twice a week instead of once.

NEW YORK STATE TO VOTE ON THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE QUESTION

ALBANY, N. Y., March 15.—The resolution to provide for a referendum on the woman suffrage question at a state election next November was passed in the senate tonight by a vote of 39 to 7.

Tonight action was the last step in the legislature to procedure preliminary to referring the subject to the electorate. The measure is concerned with amending the state constitution and consequently does not have to receive the approval of the governor.

DECISION ON ADAMSON LAW IS WITHHELD BY SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The decision upon the constitutionality of the Adamson railroad law was today again withheld by the Supreme Court.

WANTS AMERICAN TRADE CO-OPERATE WITH PARIS



Bernard J. Shoniger, representative of the Paris Chamber of Commerce, has been in the United States to discuss to bankers and merchants the economic changes which will follow the war. He insists that bankers must co-operate with merchants and exporters more closely if the United States is to hold and gain French trade.

GERMAN AEROPLANES COULD ATTACK COAST CITIES

Admiral Peary Addresses Preparedness Meeting For Children

BALTIMORE, MD., March 15.—Rear Admiral Peary, in an address heretoday at a preparedness meeting for children, declared that the United States must spend energy, brains and money generously on its defense or it would find with war on its hands a host of aeroplanes sailing over its seaboard cities dropping bombs.

He said that in a few months three ships entered Hampton Roads without any hint being given of their coming. The Appam, smallest of the three, he said, could easily have housed a squad of aeroplanes and each could have carried a thousand pounds of explosives.

ORGANIZED LABOR OFFERS SERVICES IN CASE OF WAR

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Organized labor in America through its representatives in conference here last night offered its services to the country in every field of activity if, despite all endeavors and hopes, the United States should be drawn into war.

The action was taken by unanimous vote of more than one hundred and fifty delegates from national and international trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and five brotherhoods. In all, about three million American workers were represented in the conference called to determine and announce the part to be claimed by labor in national preparedness plans.

Remember that if you pay your subscription in full and add one dollar for the coming year that you will receive the Index twice a week instead of once a week as heretofore.

THE GERMANS HAD MANY SPY AGENTS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 15.—The number of agents engaged by Captain Franz von Papen and Wolf von Izell to foment revolution in India was definitely placed at forty today by the Federal authorities.

These men go from \$40,000 to \$100,000 each. Three of them, two natives of the province of Bengal in India, are Government prisoners. More than half of the remaining thirty-seven are living in seclusion in this city.

Their whereabouts, however, are known to the Department of Justice and today District Attorney Marshall, his first assistant, John A. Knox and Captain William M. O'Leary, discussed the possibility of making more arrests.

The one thing that is holding back the prosecution of these is the legal difficulty of proving a case against the accused. While frankly admitting the receipt of large sums from German embassies, the three men under arrest declare that they did not carry out their promises.

GOVERNOR T. W. BICKETT VISITS VICE-PRESIDENT MARSHALL

RALEIGH, March 13.—Governor Bickett called on Vice-President Marshall, who spent several hours in the city. The vice-president and Mrs. Marshall are on a brief tour of the South.

TO MAKE ONE SUBMARINE EVERY 3 DAYS FOR U. S.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., March 15.—One submarine ready for service every three days is the job that the Lake Torpedo Boat Co. has undertaken at the behest of the United States Government.

Richard H. M. Robinson, former commander in the navy yards, and manager of the company, has assured the government officials that by co-operation between his company and the other manufacturing plants of Bridgeport, forty-seven undersea boats can be delivered in six months or at a rate of one every three days.

V. P. I. PROFESSOR SHOTS YOUNG MAN

BLACKSBURG, VA., March 15.—Stockton High, Jr., son of Captain Stockton Beth, of Whitesburg, was shot three times through the body at an early hour this morning at the home of Professor of mathematics at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and lies at the point of death in a Roanoke hospital where he was rushed by physicians. Neither Professor nor Mrs. Weaver will give a statement regarding the affair and Professor Weaver will not admit or deny that he fired the shots.

HARRY K. THAW IS DECLARED INSANE AGAIN

Adjudged a Lunatic and Will Be Placed in Pennsylvania Asylum

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 15.—Harry K. Thaw was today adjudged a lunatic by the common pleas court of this city and under the law cannot be taken to New York on requisition to stand trial on charges of assaulting a Kansas City boy. Thaw will be removed in the hospital here pending his removal to a Pennsylvania asylum.

The court's decision was based on a report from a lunacy commission.

SAYS THE OVERT ACT HAS BEEN COMMITTED ALREADY

Another American Boat Loaded With Foodstuffs Sunk Without Warning

NEW YORK, March 15.—"If this does not constitute an overt act, I do not know what does," was the comment late today of John Stephendis, of the firm of Stephendis, Benas and Company, owners of the Algonquin, the American vessel sunk by a German submarine. He said he would be in Washington tomorrow to take up the matter with President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, of the State Department.

"I am sorry," said he shipowner, "if the destruction of my ship must be the casus belli, but I believe that this occurrence must be the subject of action of some kind against the German government. The Algonquin was loaded with foodstuffs. She flew the American flag and the flag was also painted on her sides. The cargo was insured for \$1,200,000. The vessel herself insured for \$200,000. The underwriters declining to take any greater risks on it because of the heavy insurance of the cargo."

OFFICERS WHO FOUGHT DUEL SAID TO BE RECOVERED FROM WOUNDS

BUENOS AIRES, March 15.—Rear Admiral Juan A. Martin and Captain Diogenes Aguirre, of the Argentine navy, who have been nominally ill but who are reported ready to have fought a duel with one another, are recovering.

It is understood that the fight was with swords, that it was over a professional difference of opinion, that it occurred in the patio, or courtyard, of a house in the Buenos Aires suburb of Belgrano and that both the principals were wounded.