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WEEKLY

THE GERMAN PEOPLE HAVE STAKED VERY EXISTENCE

New York, Feb. 2.—Germany's lines east and west holding firmly, her women and children and other non-combatants suffering under England's "starvation war," which is declared by German to be "inhuman warfare," their suggestion that a conference might end the war, answered by the allies with "thumbs down" convinced that they have a right to live and let live, the German people have staked their existence upon their last remaining strong card. Only time can tell whether it is a "trump." But successful or unsuccessful, the end of the war is now in sight.

In my article of last Sunday I described the submarine situation in Germany as being in the hands of the "big four"—the Kaiser, Hindenburg, Ludendorff and Bethmann-Hollweg—and that so-called "ruthless" submarine warfare could only come when Hindenburg found it necessary and gave the word.

Hindenburg has spoken. Reluctantly and yet confidently, the old field marshal has given his consent to the admiralty's long cherished plans against England—"the war of relations," or of "an eye for an eye" a tooth for a tooth," as the Germans are fond of calling it. For our "mothers, wives and children," will be the motto of every submarine commander.

Knowing something about Hindenburg and Ludendorff, as perhaps few foreigners do, I can say that the decision was not a light one for them. Steadily and strongly they have resisted the popular clamor and pressure for this form of retaliation against England's starvation blockade. Stern necessity alone can have persuaded them to resort to this policy and to risk a break, perhaps war, with the United States. Only hunger knocking at the vitals of the nation, intensified perhaps by the winter, can have dictated the decision. Overwhelming demand of the nation that there be visited upon England's non-combatants what England is doing to Germany's women and children, added to the military foresight of the German staff, can have unlocked the door to the last powerful weapon in Germany's national arsenal.

Today the German people are thinking only of self preservation and their national existence. Both of these are threatened by the reply of the allies to Germany's peace suggestion, at least the German people believe that, which amounts to the same thing. And they have resorted to "self preservation, the first law of nature," regardless of rules. It may be "madness," we may not approve but we should at least endeavor to understand. Germany and Great Britain are like two nations gone mad, intent upon slaughtering warriors and non-combatants alike, regardless of rules and rights of neutrals. Whether that slaughtering is done by the slow process of starvation or semi-starvation according to the disputed rules of international law or by the illegal method of ruthless submarine relation, is in the end the same to those who are hungry. The latter, however, strikes us. In answer to that the Germans point to the mental picture of the mother and child, whimpering for food, and say to us, "You don't have to get in the way. Keep away. With us it is grim necessity, not choice. Your women and children are not crying for food. Would you do otherwise? Would you regard disputed rules if the existence of the United States were at stake? Is there one American who would stop at anything to preserve his country, to keep his mother, wife or children from death or lifelong ill health through starvation? And if others whom you have no intention, no desire to harm, unnecessarily, in the way and intentionally or unintentionally had the effect of thwarting your efforts to save country, mother, wife or child, would you stop? Would you refuse to fight further and accept a foreign yoke? I ask would you as an American with country, mother, wife, child, at stake?"

That is the psychology of the German mind and the German masses today as I have learned to know it during the two and a half years of war. These quotations have been put to me time and again. I am not defending it but merely trying to explain it to those who tell me the "Germans have gone mad." We may condemn it but we also understand it.

A hungry stomach has not a very fine legal conscience. There is often a wide degree of privation of understanding, of actual suffering between "enough to get along on" and actual starvation. The German is proud. There are few beggars in Germany. He will not readily admit

GRIM-FACED AND SOLMN AS HE FACES CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson kept himself in seclusion during the morning, except for a brief conference with Secretary Lansing, until he left the White House for the Capitol shortly before 3 o'clock.

In preparation for the history-making event, the Senate and House had been assembled in the hall of the latter body. Justices of the Supreme Court and members of the Cabinet were present, and the diplomatic gallery was packed, principally with neutrals.

As usual, a committee of Congressmen met the President and escorted him to the Speaker's chair. The whole body rose and cheered as the President, grim-faced and solemn, took his place and began reading the document which is being heard round the world.

Not a sound came from the floor or the galleries but the clear, calm notes of the President reading slowly and distinctly. The assemblage of Senators Representatives and notables about him listened with closest attention to the words which may record one of the sadder moments of American history if not, indeed, of the world.

Briefly he reviewed how last April the United States warned Germany, after the destruction of the Sussex, that unless the Imperial Government declared and effected an abandonment of that sort of submarine warfare the United States would have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations although. Then he quoted from the German reply which gave assurance that no ships would be sunk without warning and provision for safety of passengers and crew.

Germany's Renunciation. He recounted the provision the German Government attacked which in effect reserved to itself the right to suspend its promise if the United States did not secure relaxation of the British restraints on commerce, and then quoted from the reply of the United States which refused to consider a conditional pledge, and gave Germany final warning that it could not entertain or discuss any such suggestion.

The President did not refer to the long list of submarine operations which have been conducted in violation of the Sussex pledge, but proceeded at once to the new war zone order which became effective February 1.

When he told how the German proclamation left nothing for the honor and dignity of the United States, but a break in relations and that he had ordered passports sent to von Bernstorff and a recall to Mr. C. G. Ladd, the assemblage broke into a cheer in which Republicans and Democrats alike joined. More applause greeted his declaration that only an ever act could convince him that Germany intended to violate American lives and rights, and there was prolonged applause and cheering when he concluded by announcing that should American ships and lives be sacrificed "in heedless contravention of the just and reasonable understanding of international law and the obvious again appear before Congress to ask authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people."

Cheers of Approval. As he concluded, there were cheers of approval from both sides of the chamber and the President returned to the White House to discuss measures of precaution with Secretary Daniels, of the Navy, and Secretary Baker of the War Department.

There were expressions of support and approval of the President's course as the joint session dissolved and both houses went back to their work.

NEEDED INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

The notoriously inefficient management of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House has been impressed on that body by Hon. Clarence B. Miller of Minnesota. Hearings of the greatest importance have been held by that committee for the past six weeks, covering the items which will be included in the next Army appropriation bill. Not a word of those hearings has as yet appeared in print for the use of Congressmen. They are now an unintelligible mass of unindexed "gallery proofs." Congressman Miller declares that apparently the clerks, appointed by the Democratic chairman of the committee, are derelict in not having the hearings printed from day to day. "Why not discharge the clerks and get somebody else" pointedly inquired Mr. Miller. The House, however, voted to hire a special assistant to collect and index the hearings.

RELATIONS SERVED AND WARNING GIVEN KAISER

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and warned the Kaiser that ruthless sacrifice of American lives and rights means war.

Similar action is waiting for Austria when she joins the Campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare.

The president made formal announcement of his action to the country and to the world today at a joint session of Congress.

Passports have been handed Count von Bernstorff, Ambassador Gerard with all his staff and all American consuls, have been ordered out of Germany. All German consuls in the United States are expected to withdraw that the severance of relations may be complete. American interests in Germany have been turned over to Spain; German Diplomatic interests in the United States have been taken over by Switzerland. Foreign Diplomatic interests which the United States had in Charge in Germany have been turned over to various neutrals.

Two years of Diplomatic negotiation, marked with frequent crises, and attended with the loss of more than two hundred American lives on the high seas, have culminated with an act which in all the history of the world always has led to war. Every agency of the American government has been set in motion to protect the country against acts of German sympathizers. These moves are of necessity being kept secret.

With the act of severance of relations, the United States sent to Berlin a demand for the immediate release of sixty-four Americans taken from ships captured by German raiders in the South Atlantic.

At the request of the President, Congress immediately after hearing his address, began work on new laws framed by the Department of Justice to check conspiracies and plots against the United States which cannot now be reached under existing statutes.

The question of conveying American merchant ships through the submarine blockade has been taken up, and is being considered as one of the next moves by the Government.

Neutral Governments have been notified of the action of the United States, and have openly been invited to follow its action if the new submarine campaign violates their responsibilities.

The breaking of relations came with a crash, despite the fact that it had been discussed and practically determined upon last night. The President returning from his night conference with the Senators, determined that a break in relations was the only act "consistent with the dignity and the honor of the United States." He worked most of the night preparing his address to Congress.

Gerard Ordered Home.

At 10:55 o'clock this morning, it became known that Ambassador Gerard had been ordered home and that passports had been sent Count von Bernstorff. Although there was no official confirmation of the President's decision until he formally announced it himself to Congress, the knowledge spread rapidly. Count von Bernstorff heard it unofficially while talking with an Associated Press correspondent. While apparently deeply moved he was not surprised. His first act was to ask Dr. Paul Littor, the Swiss Minister, to come to the German Embassy and prepare to take over its affairs. Then he informed his wife, an American-born woman, of the development and likewise told the Embassy staff. His passports were not delivered until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. While the President was addressing Congress, one of Secretary Lansing's confidential assistants called at the Embassy and delivered the passports and a note in reply to the German declaration.

NOT A PARTISAN MOVE

Hon. Henry Allen Cooper of Wisconsin indignantly denies the insinuation of many Democrats that the investigation of the "Teak" in connection with the President's peace note is being urged by the Republicans for political purposes. Mr. Cooper characterizes such a motive as "thoroughly despicable." "And yet," he says, "it has been stated that we were prompted by that motive in urging investigation of charges which put a stain upon the reputation of the Republicans in the matter needs no apology is amply borne out by the testimony submitted in the hearings, which every day is weaving a web tighter about the President's friends and his friends' friends who profited so handsomely by the advance information which was passed around to the inner circle."

PECK SCHOOL

The epidemic of the measles has almost disappeared in this community. We are having some exceedingly cold weather for the past few days.

The box supper at the Dry School scheduled last Saturday night Feb. 3rd was postponed on account of the severity of the weather.

Our school is progressing nicely with Mr. J. H. Dorton and Miss Florence Clayton as teachers, through their influence we have organized a debating society, known as the Philomathean Literary Debating Society of Peck School.

There will be a box supper at our school (Peck) next Saturday night Feb. 17th. We are expecting to have a ball game in the afternoon. Come one come all.

The cold is very common in our school now, due to sudden change of the weather.

Some one must have picked a hole in the featherbed last night, as everything is real white here this morning we enjoy rolling over the hills and valleys through the snow. "Just think" I love the snow and rills. Thy woods and tangled hills, my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.

Mr. John Ribick of Southmont visited C. L. Eganhardt last Saturday and Sunday.

We suppose the Ground hog must have seen his shadow, and returned for several more weeks of winter.

We are preparing for the wedding bells to ring out in our neighborhood any old time.

Mr. W. A. Holland has been working in Badin for the past few weeks.

Miss Flora Moore has been real sick for the past few days we are sorry to say.

Since cross has set in such great demand at this season, there are being a number of them out in our section.

Mr. G. A. Hastings of No. 7 has purchased a new car "the Ford."

No. 7 now owns 23 cars.

The roads formerly in a bad condition are somewhat improved now. Several days ago as I was forging a stream of water a whirlwind approached the water, twisting and throwing the water to an enormous height into the air.

Have you ever seen the like Venus?

The Christian Endeavor Society of Bear Creek Reformed Church is being carried on with great success. We hope it will continue so. It meets every second and fourth Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Everybody is invited to come.

Mr. John H. Rowland is working at the carpenter trade in Badin.

Mrs. C. G. Hartman and little son Clarence Jr. is visiting at Mrs. J. T. Hartman's of No. 7.

There will be a box supper at New Bear Creek, Southmont, Wednesday night Feb. 14th. Everybody invited to come.

Their school is progressing nicely with Miss Ethel Mossing teacher.

Miss Eva Hattie, who has been at Concord is at home with the measles. Miss Josie Derry, who has been in Concord for the past few weeks will return home soon.

Miss Nellie Howard is now able to be about, from an attack of the measles.

The spelling match at the Bethel was fine. We hope for another one.

Their school is progressing nicely with Miss Anna Hartman and Miss Vincin Mossing as teachers.

Miss Odessa Fisher is up from an attack of the measles.

Mr. Roy and Mrs. Lantz and Mr. Banks Pennington visited Mr. C. L. Eganhardt Sunday.

Mr. W. O. Lantz visited Mr. C. W. Wyatt Sunday who is sick with the measles.

If this comes the waste basket will write again. VESUVIUS

UNCOVERING PORK MARREL

Washington, Jan. 31.—(Special Correspondence)—A scathing denunciation of the public buildings bill now under consideration in the House has been delivered by Hon. Frederick H. Gillett of Massachusetts. Mr. Gillett handles the matter without gloves, and does not hesitate to say that the bill was prepared simply and solely to assist Democratic Congressmen in maintaining themselves in the good graces of their constituents. "We all know this bill is not brought in here," declares Mr. Gillett, "to improve the post office efficiency. It is brought in largely to improve Congressional fences. It was prepared for the private interest of Congressmen." Representative Gillett charged that if the House should pass the bill all items for small towns and villages it would be sure to vote for every item dropped until at least there would not be enough money for the meritorious features which it contains to pass the bill.

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT IS IN FAVOR CONSCRIPT

New York, Feb. 4.—Conscription to build up an army for the country's defense now the war is on and for the future as well, was advocated here today by former President Taft in an address on the League to Enforce Peace before the Brooklyn Institute of Art and Sciences.

Stirred as the people are by enthusiasm at the break with Germany they would support a conscription measure Mr. Taft believed, not only to meet the present situation, "but for the future after the war shall end."

"Military duty is part of every citizen's duty. Very little service of any kind has been enacted from the great body of the people. Conscription is needed to discipline our native young men and teach them respect for authority. It is needed to teach our millions of newly created citizens loyalty."

A wholly volunteer system, he said takes the "flower of the country's youth anxious to sacrifice themselves, and leaves behind those who can only be dragged in by ultimate resort to law."

"Why not equalize the burden at once?" he asked. "Place it on all. Require at least a year's service with the colors from every man between 19 and 24. This need not interfere with capable men under 40. Such conscription would furnish a permanent trained force from the body of the entire people to supply an adequate defense whenever defense is necessary."

Mr. Taft's remarks on conscription were in the nature of a preface to his prepared address on the League to Enforce Peace.

The present situation he said, should teach the absolute necessity for military preparedness for self-protection. We have no desire, he said, for difficulties with Germany and have done her no wrong, "yet she is violation of our rights proposes to do that which if, we value our honor and our vital interest we must resist by force." There is nothing else for a self-respecting nation of moral principle to do, he declared.

The Federal Farm Loan Board has announced the location of the federal Loan Banks provided for by the act. Those for the Southern States are as follows: Baltimore, Md.; Columbia, S. C.; Louisville, Ky.; New Orleans, La.; and Houston, Tex.

In this connection we merely call attention to the fact that Columbia, S. C., rather than Macon, Ga., is the seat of the bank for the Southeastern district. Even our friends of the Macon Telegraph are probably aware of this fact by this time. Eventually it may reach their understanding that Columbia succeeded by the very course which the Bureau found absent from its methods followed by the alwayers of Macon.

We really hope our very much esteemed contemporary will not continue to suspect us of personal grudge. On the contrary we are in extremely good humor; indeed, their latest full column editorial on the Ruralist is so amusing that we expect to remain good natured indefinitely from its effects.

MONROE MAN WILL BE APPOINTED TO TREASURER

Washington, Feb. 4.—David Houston, of Monroe, a cousin of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, will be appointed treasurer of federal farm loan bank at Columbia, S. C., if he will accept the place. The position pays \$4,000 a year and is considered a very desirable berth. In response to the telegram Mr. Houston came to Washington to confer with government officials.

Mr. Houston was first recommended to the farm loan board by Representative Page, who has known Houston for a number of years. It is understood, also, that some members of the state delegation telegraphed Clarence Poe and former Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge, asking them if they would have the place, but both declined.

But it is known that the federal board from the very first liked Houston and were determined that he should have the place unless senatorial objection should be raised. The understanding is that both Senators Simmons and Overman are favorable to Houston and if he wants the job he can get it.

THREE COAST GUARD CUTTERS

Washington, Feb. 6.—Construction of three coast guard cutters, to be stationed at Beaufort, N. C., Detroit and Honolulu, is authorized in a bill passed by the senate tonight. An appropriation of \$1,250,000 is made for the vessels.

MEXICAN REFUGEES STONE U. S. TROOPS

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 29.—Rioting in Juarez as a result of American quarantine regulations was resumed early today. It was a continuation of the demonstration yesterday in which hundreds of women participated.

More men than women engaged in the demonstration today, rioters hurled missiles at United States soldiers on guard and two non-commissioned officers were injured.

Mexican cavalry ultimately drove the demonstrators away from the international bridge.

The quarantine regulations will be continued at the United States immigration station it was announced today by Dr. C. O. Pierce, senior surgeon in charge of the border quarantine of the United States health service. More than 200 Mexicans were given baths at the new quarantine bath house today and many others were passed after they displayed certificates signed by the Mexican Federal health officer in Juarez, showing they had been bathed.

Villa partisans were said to have been active in the demonstration at the bridge today, and this phase of the situation has caused Carranza officials much concern.

HOME FOR DELINQUENT WOMEN GETS SYMPATHY

Raleigh, Feb. 3.—Without getting a committee vote the advocates of the home for delinquent women received every evidence this evening of having won the sympathy of the senate and house appropriations committee and the institution is apparently ahead of all new things for which provisions may be made.

The fight came near ending unpleasantly. The great advocate of the home, Rev. Dr. McGeachy, of Charlotte, could barely go home without the assurance of the committee that its heart was with him. He had that luck two years ago and he is earnest.

Chairman Holderness of the committee declared that he favored the home but he could not commit himself to a definite sum singled out from a great number of institutions which now are asking for increased appropriations. The proponents urged a sympathetic expression without statement of amount for construction and maintenance. That shifted the committee and it went to judiciary No. 1.

Senator Scales and Brenner made a sharp fight for committee expression and if they found out who will vote against it no such voice was heard. Several found flaws in it but not enough to condemn. The first expenditure would be \$25,000 for building and \$10,000 for maintenance.

WANTS SALARIES ON BUSINESS BASIS

The meager salaries that the Government pays its employes in comparison with the compensation received for similar work in private life has been forcibly called to the attention of the Senate by Hon. James H. Brady of Idaho in advocating adequate salaries for the members of the Federal Farm Loan Board. "Every Senator knows," declares Mr. Brady "that there is no man in the United States managing the affairs of a bank that conducts the amount of business that the Federal Farm Loan Board will conduct, who does not receive from \$15,000 to \$50,000 a year." Senator Brady points out that those officials are entering upon a field of activity never before undertaken by the Government, and contends that, while discussing the question of economy, we should not lose sight of good business methods, which would certainly be the case if salaries are to be reduced below the standard set in the business world.

A. AND M.'S NEW DESIGNS CIRCULAR

The A. and M. College has lately issued a 64-page circular containing a number of good illustrations of buildings and interiors. These pictures are well selected and well executed. The text covers the points which usually concern prospective students, including entrance requirements, curricula, rules of government, self-help, rooms, and expenses. Young men who are inclined to seek technical training for life should write for copies to the Registrar, West Raleigh, N. C.

HENRY FORD OFFERS HIS PLANT TO THE GOVERNMENT

Detroit, Mich. Feb. 4.—Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer and news advocate, is said to be in Washington today conferring with President Wilson and other officials of the government. It is reported here that Mr. Ford goes to offer the use of the Ford plant here to the government.