

THE CUNARD LINER LACONIA IS SUNK

SHIP SAILED FROM NEW YORK ON FEBRUARY 18.

TEN OR MORE AMERICANS ON BOARD

Was a Ship of 18,099 Tons Gross, and Was on Her Way to Liverpool. The Survivors of the Disaster are Said to Number 270, and Will be Landed Tonight. When the Ship Left New York She Had on Board One Hundred Passengers, Among Whom Were Ten or More Americans.—The Anconia Was Torpedoed Without Warning.

(By The Associated Press)

Queenstown, Ireland, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line steamship Laconia, 18,099 tons gross, which sailed from New York February 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk.

The survivors of the Laconia are said to number 270. They will be landed tonight.

Ten or More Americans Aboard. New York, Feb. 26.—The Laconia sailed from New York on February 18 with 100 passengers, among whom were ten or more Americans.

The first cabin passengers totalled 33 and second cabin, 42. Crew numbered 216. There were no steerage passengers.

Torpedoed Without Warning. London, Feb. 26.—It is stated authentically that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning.

278 Survivors Later Landed. London, Feb. 26.—Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, telegraphed the American embassy here today:

"Commander Laconia, torpedoed at 10:50 Sunday night. 278 survivors landed. Details lacking, but known some missing. One is dead."

20 Americans in Crew. New York, Feb. 26.—Twenty Americans, all native born, were members of the crew of the Laconia.

AMERICAN FREIGHTER BELIEVED TO BE SAFE

The Orleans Signalled Entering the Mouth of the Gironde.

(By The Associated Press)

Paris, Feb. 26.—The American freighter Orleans has been signalled entering the mouth of the Gironde, according to a Bordeaux dispatch to the Havas Agency. The Orleans will be back tomorrow.

The Orleans and freighter Rochester were the first American vessels to leave the United States for Europe after diplomatic relations with Germany were severed. Both ships sailed from New York February 10 for Bordeaux.

The Rochester has not yet been reported.

SHOT AND KILLED AT COURT HOUSE.

Was Awaiting Trial at Memphis for Alleged Killing.

(By The Associated Press)

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 26.—John Ward, awaiting trial for the alleged killing of Louis Hooker, of Fisher, last September, was shot and killed at the court house this morning by Thomas Hooker, brother of Louis Hooker. The shooting occurred at the entrance to the sheriff's office, and a short distance from the court room, where the trial was to have started. Hooker walked to the district attorney's office where he surrendered.

TO INVESTIGATE THE FOOD SITUATION

Senator Borah, of Idaho, Introduces Resolution Today.

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 26.—Appropriations of \$6,000,000 for Federal relief in the food situation and for investigation to decide whether marketing and distribution methods, was proposed in a resolution introduced by Senator Borah, of Idaho. Action was deferred.

Traffic Held Up On Account of the Heavy Slides.

Mt. Gilead, Feb. 24.—Both passenger and freight traffic on the Norfolk and Southern was held up several hours today on account of heavy slides on the track a few miles west of town, the result of the heavy rains during the night. With the help of an extra force of hands the company was enabled to clear the track before serious inconvenience to the public was caused.

GERMAN DESTROYER BOMBARDS BROADSTAIRS

One Woman And One Child Killed And Two Injured.

(By The Associated Press)

London, Feb. 26.—A German destroyer bombarded Broadstairs and Margate early today. One woman and one child were killed, and two persons injured. Two houses were damaged. This announcement was made in the House of Commons today by Sir Edward Carson, first lord of admiralty.

TO REMODEL ST. CLOUD.

Will Make This Hotel Up-to-Date and Modern in Every Respect Immediately.

The Morris Realty Company, owners of the St. Cloud Hotel building, are planning to make improvements at the hotel that will make it modern and up to date in every way. When completed it will be one of the best and most convenient hotels in this State. This move has been badly needed in this city, and the news that St. Cloud is to be improved will be received with much enthusiasm not only by the traveling public, but by all of the people of this city.

New rugs and carpets for the entire building already have been purchased by the managers, and these will be put down at an early date. Running water, both cold and hot, for every room, will be installed under the new plans. The whole building on the inside will be repainted and repaired, and four additional bath rooms are to be built.

The owners of the building are now contemplating installing private telephones in each room of the hotel, and while this has not been definitely settled, it is more than probable that it will be done.

When all of the work has been finished, as per plans, Concord will have what has been needed here for many years, a first class hotel building, which adds not only much to the comfort of the people staying there, but also to the good name of the city.

Under the excellent management of Mr. J. Baylis Rector of St. Cloud, so far as the service and cuisine are concerned, will compare favorably with any hotel in the State. Mr. Rector is an experienced and popular hotel man, and he only needs a house and equipment that is up to date, which he is soon to have.

FOUR KILLED AND THREE ARE INJURED

In Double Wreck on Pennsylvania Railroad.—Several Thoroughbred Horses Killed.

Philadelphia, Feb. 25.—Four persons were killed and three injured seriously, in double wreck on the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad near Bristol, Penn., early today. All of the victims with the exception of J. R. King, an engineer, were attendants in charge of two cars of thoroughbred horses being shipped from Center Hall and Williamsport, Penn. Seven of the horses were killed. The wreckage caught fire, and many freight and express cars were destroyed. All four tracks were blocked for 12 hours.

CHARTER ISSUED.

Sterling Mills Co., of Statesville, Given Charter Today.

(By The Associated Press)

Raleigh, Feb. 26.—The Sterling Mills Co., Inc. of Statesville, capitalized at \$125,000, was chartered by the Secretary of State today. The concern proposes to mill wheat, oats, corn, and grains of all kinds for commercial purposes.

Washington Birthday Reception at Epworth Parsonage.

The Washington birthday reception, given by the Young People's Missionary Society of Epworth Methodist Church on last Thursday evening, was a marked success, both in regard to attendance and the amusement afforded the guests present. Two of the members were dressed to represent Martha Washington and two to represent George Washington. These four received the guests in the reception hall. The rooms were appropriately decorated with flags and red, white and blue draperies and ferns.

The dining room presented an attractive appearance. The center table was covered with a spotless linen table cover, on which was placed four streamers of red, white and blue running to all sides from the center of table, four large, red hatched were placed on each corner, and a beautiful fern in the center of the table. Hot chocolate and wafers were served. All enjoyed the evening to the fullest extent. The proceeds will go towards painting the parsonage.

ONE PRESENT

MAY OFFER MEDIATION FOR ENDING THE WAR.

Argentina Trying to Bring About Joint Action of Latin American Republics.

(By The Associated Press)

Buenos Aires, Argentina, Feb. 26.—According to La Nacion, the Argentine government is endeavoring to bring about joint action by the Latin American Republics in offering mediation for ending the war.

The United States will not be asked to take part because of its rupture with Germany.

Negotiations with the diplomatic representatives here of other Latin American republics will be initiated by Argentina, the newspaper says.

Final Action on Porto Rican Bill

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 26.—Final action on the Porto Rican citizenship bill was taken today by the Senate, and the bill was sent to the White House for President Wilson's approval.

Kut-El-Amara Captured from Turks.

(By The Associated Press)

London, Feb. 26.—Kut-El-Amara has been captured from the Turks, according to a statement in the House of Commons today by Andrew Bonar Law.

President Wilson Addresses Congress

BEGAN ADDRESS BEFORE THE JOINT SESSION AT 1 O'CLOCK

WANTS AUTHORITY TO USE FORCE

Asks Congress to Empower Him to Use the Forces of the United States to Protect American Rights on the High Seas.—Will Do Just What He Outlined in His Address Announcing the Break in Relations With Germany.—This is in No Sense an Act of War.—His Move Will Meet With Opposition in Congress.—Is Still as Anxious as Ever to Avoid War, the President Says.

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before Congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for the authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace.

The news of the sinking of the liner Laconia with American aboard was received as the President was on his way to address Congress. Although without details, its grave possibilities added emphasis to the President's words.

The continued invasion of the rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effectual as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act" which was expected to shock the world, and force the President into the next step towards war.

President Wilson is asking to be empowered to take whatever steps necessary, which includes arming of ships, convoying of merchantmen by war vessels, or whatever steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights, driving the American flag from the seas.

Congress is expected not only to authorize the President to use armed forces of the country, but also to provide money.

Once before in the infancy of the Republic a state of armed neutrality was proclaimed to check "predatory violence" upon American rights in the war between France and England, but it did not result actually in war for the United States.

President Wilson, in beginning his address to Congress, referred to his previous appearance on February 3, when he announced the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany because of the decision of the German government to order operations of its submarines without restriction. "That policy was forthwith put into practice," the President said. "It has now been in active execution nearly four weeks.

"Its practical results is not fully disclosed. "In summing, however," he continued, "but not perhaps very much more than it was already suffering before the first of February, when the new policy of the Imperial government was put in operation."

"The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely," he continued, "we find ourselves in regard to the actual conduct of the German submarine warfare against German acts committed upon our own ships substantially the same as when I addressed you on the 3d of February, except for the tying up of our shipping in our own ports, because of the unwillingness of shipowners to risk vessels at sea without insurance or adequate protection, and the very serious congestion of commerce which has resulted, a congestion which is growing rapidly more serious each day."

"Since this has unhappily proved impossible to safeguard our neutral rights against the unwarranted infringements they are suffering at the hands of Germany, there may be no recourse, but to armed neutrality which we shall know how to maintain, and for which there is abundant American precedent.

"I am not contemplating war nor any steps which may lead to it." "No course of my choosing or of theirs can lead to war. War can come only by willful act and aggression of others."

"I believe the people will be willing to trust me to act with restraint, prudence, and in true spirit of amity and good faith, as they have displayed throughout the trying months, and it is in that belief that I request that you will authorize me to fit our merchant ships with defensive arms."

Washington, Feb. 26.—The President completed his address to Congress early this morning and was sent to the public printer at 9:30. At the same time the President discussed his speech with Chairman Stone, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

No announcement was made, but it was learned the President is going to do just what he outlined in his address announcing the break in relations with Germany.

To ask for authority to use forces of the United States to protect the rights of the nation is in no sense an act of war. It is to prepare the United States for what may be war-like acts by any other nation.

The President decided that before Congress adjourned it was necessary that he be given additional authority to protect American rights. There have been reports that such a move would be opposed in Congress, but he decided to take the step regardless of that.

In his address the President pointed out that German acts since the break in diplomatic relations indicate her intention to go forward with her campaign of ruthlessness despite protests of neutrals whose rights are involved. The President is reported as confident that Congress will rise to the occasion and confer him the desired authority.

The President is still anxious as ever, it was said, to avoid war with Germany, but is determined to protect American rights.

President Wilson will ask for authority to establish a state of "armed neutrality." He has made full and detailed plans for protecting American ships desirous of entering the German submarine war zone.

The President will point out that while he desires peace, there is something greater than peace—the protection of the sovereign rights of Americans, and that the untrammeled right of American ships to sail the seas unmolested by any foreign nation must be held.

Mr. Wilson's decision to go before Congress was partly caused by the fact that the German campaign is keeping American ships tied up in American ports. Such a condition, the President points out, is unbearable.

Democratic leaders of the Senate and House were notified, and arrangements were made for his appearance before the joint session in the hall of the House.

Arming American merchantmen or conveying them through the war zone are two methods of protecting American commerce being considered. Exactly what steps will be taken has not been revealed.

In addition to giving authority to establish state of armed neutrality, Congress is expected to place in the President's hands the authority to set additional money if needed. A bond issue may be authorized.

President Wilson will point out that the rights of other neutrals have been affected, but that they have shown no disposition to follow the course laid out by the United States. No new direct appeal is made to them.

COTTON ADVANCES.

Advance of From 3 to 13 Points at Opening.—Sentiment Unsettled.

(By The Associated Press)

New York, Feb. 26.—The cotton market showed a further advance of 3 to 13 points at the opening today. May sold at 16.45 on call, or 33 points above the low level of Friday with the general list working 7 to 15 points net higher, but the sentiment was unsettled and offerings increased following reports that President would appear before Congress. Prices fell from three to four points net higher toward the end of the first hour with trading quiet.

THE WHEAT MARKET

President's Announcement Had But Little Effect on Prices.

(By The Associated Press)

Chicago, Feb. 26.—President Wilson's announcement had no apparent effect on wheat prices today, nor was there unusual increase in transactions. Opening quotations which ranged the same as Saturday's finish to 3/4 lower, with May at 178 to 178 1/2 and July at 151 1/4 to 151 1/2, were followed by an upturn to slightly above Saturday's closing figures.

Woodmen of the World Will Meet in New Bern in March.

New Bern, Feb. 24.—Woodmen of the World from all over North Carolina are to meet in this city on March 12-14 to attend the head camp to be held here at that time at which some of the leading Woodmen of the state will be in attendance and will assist.

The session will begin on Monday night, March 12 and at that time Gen. B. S. Boyster, of Oxford, will be in attendance and will make the principal address of the occasion. E. B. Lewis, of Kinston, state manager of the sovereign camp, will also be on hand and assist in the program.

On the following night a degree team from Morehead City will have charge of the giving of degrees to a number of candidates and this will be followed by a big oyster roast and a banquet.

Opportunity For Cotton Trade With India.

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 25.—Ralph M. Odell, of Concord, an expert of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, reports to his Government that American cotton manufacturers have a great opportunity in Bengal, India, which spends \$100,000,000 a year for cotton goods. Countries which have been supplying Bengal are at war and have diminished their exports.

Find New U Boat Bait.

Amsterdam, Feb. 24.—The telegraph learns that a Ymullen, a Dutch trawler, found a German seaplane floating, which proved on examination to be a sham, with a dummy aviator. A German submarine was lurking in the neighborhood. This is presumably a new ruse to catch vessels.

O God, keep me innocent; make others great!—Caroline Matilda.

KANNAPOLIS NEWS.

Celebrates Birthday Anniversary.—Y. M. C. A. Bowling Alley Completed.—Personal.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. C. Y. Alexander, a son.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Walter, of Concord, spent last week in town, guests of Mrs. Alexander, on Main street.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Barnhardt are at home with Mr. Q. L. Barnhardt and family, on Rose avenue.

Miss Martha Rowe and Miss Annie Lee Johnson spent Sunday in China Grove.

Mr. J. T. Nance, who has been very ill at her home on East avenue, is slowly improving.

The baby of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Estridge, which has been so low, is improving.

Mrs. G. O. Johnson and Mrs. C. C. Myers spent Friday in Concord shopping.

Miss Mariam Myers celebrated her fourteenth birthday last Friday by inviting more than a score of her friends at her home for a George Washington party. The parlor and dining room was prettily decorated for the occasion, in our national colors, and flags of Old Glory. The guests began to arrive early and were received and charmingly entertained by Mrs. C. C. Myers, Miss Annie Lee Johnson and Miss Atta Fussell.

Little Misses Mary Carr, Emily Johnson and Jack Johnson, dressed in colonial costumes, served refreshments of cream and cake. Those enjoying Miss Myers' hospitality were: Misses Mary Flow, Mary Bradley Thompson, Ruth Walters, Marion Ligon, Ruth Ligon, Isabelle Watson, Stella Johnson, Mary Suter, Mona Montgomery and Marie Rogers, Masters Ed, Dellinger, Hubert Stonestreet, Lindsey McCorn, Winifred Montgomery, Russell Woodall, Cromwell Johnson, James Flow and Springs Gilliam.

Mrs. C. D. Watkins is very ill at her home on Ridge avenue with pneumonia.

The Y. M. C. A. bowling alley is new completed and our young folks are making good use of this new addition.

Kannapolis continues to grow. The work on the Cabarrus addition is under headway and is beginning to speak for itself.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Scott enjoyed the holiday last Friday visiting Mr. Scott's parents on the farm.

John Steele, of Statesville, who has just returned from El Paso, where he had been doing border work for Uncle Sam, spent a few days last week visiting his sister, Mrs. H. A. Scott.

Clarence Rowe has accepted a position in the post office, having charge of the general delivery window.

COTTON ADVANCES.

Advance of From 3 to 13 Points at Opening.—Sentiment Unsettled.

(By The Associated Press)

New York, Feb. 26.—The cotton market showed a further advance of 3 to 13 points at the opening today. May sold at 16.45 on call, or 33 points above the low level of Friday with the general list working 7 to 15 points net higher, but the sentiment was unsettled and offerings increased following reports that President would appear before Congress. Prices fell from three to four points net higher toward the end of the first hour with trading quiet.

THE WHEAT MARKET

President's Announcement Had But Little Effect on Prices.

(By The Associated Press)

Chicago, Feb. 26.—President Wilson's announcement had no apparent effect on wheat prices today, nor was there unusual increase in transactions. Opening quotations which ranged the same as Saturday's finish to 3/4 lower, with May at 178 to 178 1/2 and July at 151 1/4 to 151 1/2, were followed by an upturn to slightly above Saturday's closing figures.

Woodmen of the World Will Meet in New Bern in March.

New Bern, Feb. 24.—Woodmen of the World from all over North Carolina are to meet in this city on March 12-14 to attend the head camp to be held here at that time at which some of the leading Woodmen of the state will be in attendance and will assist.

The session will begin on Monday night, March 12 and at that time Gen. B. S. Boyster, of Oxford, will be in attendance and will make the principal address of the occasion. E. B. Lewis, of Kinston, state manager of the sovereign camp, will also be on hand and assist in the program.

On the following night a degree team from Morehead City will have charge of the giving of degrees to a number of candidates and this will be followed by a big oyster roast and a banquet.

Opportunity For Cotton Trade With India.

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 25.—Ralph M. Odell, of Concord, an expert of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, reports to his Government that American cotton manufacturers have a great opportunity in Bengal, India, which spends \$100,000,000 a year for cotton goods. Countries which have been supplying Bengal are at war and have diminished their exports.

Find New U Boat Bait.

Amsterdam, Feb. 24.—The telegraph learns that a Ymullen, a Dutch trawler, found a German seaplane floating, which proved on examination to be a sham, with a dummy aviator. A German submarine was lurking in the neighborhood. This is presumably a new ruse to catch vessels.

O God, keep me innocent; make others great!—Caroline Matilda.

VOTING CONTEST NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE

SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 10TH, END OF GREAT RACE.

BIG VOTE OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEK

This Week, the Biggest and Best Vote of Them All, Comes to a Close.—Watch the Paper Every Day From Now on for Important Announcements of the Campaign.—Every Day of the Coming Two Weeks Will Be a Busy One for the Candidates and Their Friends to Make a Whirlwind Fineak. And Let No Chance Escape.

Saturday night, March the 10th, is the end. Right now it would be hard to even hazard a guess as to who has the best chance of winning the two capital prizes, to say nothing of the eight district prizes, offered by The Tribune and Times in its great automobile and circulation contest.

There are probably twenty-five on the list whose chances are about even, and about twenty-five more would stand an equal chance of winning if they would begin today and help their friends who are working for them. Truly the value of the prizes to be won are worthy of the effort. Activity this week more than ever before will be the only salvation.

Big Vote Offer Ends.

But five more days of the biggest and best vote offer of the entire contest remain. Five more days in which to take advantage of this harvest of votes. These are the facts for the boundless enthusiasm, and the interest that is running riot in the campaign of late, and the drawing to a close of this, the biggest vote offer of the contest.

Consider every person in your vicinity is a good prospect for a subscription. They may be taking the paper now. If so, ask them to make a payment in advance and you will get the votes on it. Where people are not now taking The Tribune, a good opportunity exists to secure new subscriptions. Show them the features that make The Tribune the most read paper in this territory. No restrictions are placed on the territory in which a candidate may work. Go wherever you wish. You are entitled to votes on every subscription that you turn in, no matter where the subscriber may live.

Personality counts from now on. This week every candidate must strain every nerve to finish strong. Every one must go the limit, especially those candidates who have been waiting for the end. Keep near the top of the list this week. Remember this week ends the largest vote offer of the entire contest. This week you get 150,000 extra votes for every \$10 worth of new subscriptions that you turn in. Next week the vote schedule will be just one third less.

Race Very Even.

As matters stand now the race is remarkably even. Any candidate, no matter how few votes she may have, can, during the coming week, accumulate sufficient votes to place her over the winning line. It's all a matter of effect. It's not a matter of luck, and you can decide for yourself whether the automobile, or the piano, or one of the other valuable prizes shall become yours.

That the race will be a close one has already been predicted, which makes it all the more important that every remaining day be utilized to advantage of new subscriptions to The Tribune and second payments. Any candidate, who stands still now will be taking dangerous chances of having defeat overtake them. The coming week will decide. The coming week will show who the courageous one are. This week points the way, and you can roll up such a reserve total that none can overtake you. You can if you will. Do not stand back on account of the weather.

Colonel Roosevelt Does Not Think We'll Go to War.

Danville, Va., Feb. 24.—According to a letter received here by Russell J. Coles from Theodore Roosevelt, the colonel does not believe that America is destined to play a part in the world war any time soon.

Learning that Roosevelt was considering active assistance with the allies in the event of open hostilities, Mr. Coles, who is preparing for a fishing trip with the colonel next month off the coast of Florida, wrote to the ex-president offering his services and Roosevelt replied saying that he would gladly accept him as an officer.

Find New U Boat Bait.

Amsterdam, Feb. 24.—The telegraph learns that a Ymullen, a Dutch trawler, found a German seaplane floating, which proved on examination to be a sham, with a dummy aviator. A German submarine was lurking in the neighborhood. This is presumably a new ruse to catch vessels.

O God, keep me innocent; make others great!—Caroline Matilda.