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STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITH GERMANY WILL FOLLOW PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS CONGRESS THIS EVENING

Wilson Decides to Bring War Question to Head Without Waiting Until Tomorrow--House Was Expected to be Ready by 3 o'Clock --Early Bulletins.

Washington, April 2.—Senate recessed until 5 o'clock to wait for the house to perfect its organization. President Wilson was said to be prepared to speak at late as 5 o'clock. Republicans suddenly demand separate roll-call on each house officer and it appeared that perfection of the organization might run to late into the afternoon.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—As Congress assembled at noon President Wilson practically had decided to make his address today immediately after the organization of the house, even if it should be late this afternoon of this evening.

Senator Martin, the majority leader, announced in the senate that the house organization was expected to be completed by 3 p. m. and the president was ready to go before the joint session at that time.

About 1000 of the pacifists assembled on the steps of the main entrance of the capitol and became so boisterous that squads of police drove them off, while small delegations gathered and jeered.

The pacifists shouted replies and there was no mistaking foreign accents in the words of the speakers. There were frequent clashes but no serious damage was done.

TRENDIOUS STRUGGLE TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS (By Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—Congress met in extraordinary session today to decide the question of war with Germany.

First came the struggle between Democrats and Republicans over the organization of the house. With that question decided, congress will be free to consider the most momentous question of the age.

Settlement at the capital apparently redounded for a declaration of war or a declaration of a state of war.

Pacifists in both house and senate were to be heard from, but few believed that opposition would be effective.

It seemed likely that the week would be a busy one before such action would be taken. Even at the last minute tremendous pressure was being exerted by both sides.

The two were added personal appeals of pacifists and anti-pacifists who came here in force, each side to combat the arguments of the other.

All signs early today pointed to a rather speedy victory in the house by the election of Champ Clark over Representative Mann, Republican, and the appointment of Democrats to be ad committees.

LENOIR COLLEGE GIRLS GIVE SPLENDID PLAY The girls of the European and Philanthropic Literary Society presented a play entitled "Rebecca's Triumph" in the Lenoir College auditorium Saturday evening. The play was very effectively directed by Miss Florence B. Mays. A packed house greeted the performers who played exceptionally well.

The Lenoir College students always please the audience and this play did not fall below their high standard. As this was the 20th anniversary of the girl's literary societies, the cast was composed entirely of young ladies. No players will be given special mention as it was an ideal star cast.

LIBRARY SEEMS SAFE THIS EVENING

Indications shortly after noon pointed to the carrying of the election for the library and if good work counts for anything, the friends of the cause will have reason to celebrate tonight. Hundreds of ribbons distributed by the Community Club were being worn during the day and every voter was appealed to in behalf of the library. Coffee was served at the Edison store across the street and the ladies were busy with missionary work there.

CONGRESS URGED BY PILGRIMS TODAY

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—Pacifists and anti-pacifist pilgrims besieged official Washington today in an eleven hour effort to influence congress towards peace or war.

SECOND REUNION AT TRINITY LUTHERAN

The second annual reunion services at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church Sunday proved an occasion of tremendous interest and importance to the members and former communicants of this splendid church. All the people who have been confirmed in the faith at this church were invited to be present and a great crowd was present.

Rev. W. E. Murray, pastor, presided, and prayer was offered by Rev. W. A. Deaton. The sermon was preached by Rev. E. J. Sox, who delivered a strong appeal.

The music was especially fine and the occasion, the second in the history of the church, was one to be remembered a long time by all the members and friends of the church.

Midshipman Howard F. Council, after spend several days with his parents, Judge and Mrs. W. B. Council, left Sunday night for Philadelphia to join his ship.

Mr. Frank A. Clinard of Happy Valley is spending a few days in the city.

CATAWBA QUITS FIELD HERE SATURDAY

At 3:30 Saturday on the Lenoir College athletic field was started what was intended to be a nine inning baseball game between the team representing Lenoir College and Catawba. A rather large crowd from Hickory and Newton had gathered to see the clash.

Catawba took the field in the first inning, but were retired without being able to score. One man was placed on base, but he was thrown out attempting to go from first to third on a bunt Plyler to Brown to Frye. Lenoir got a man around to third in the third hour of the first, but lacked the punch necessary to bring him home. Catawba failed to score in the second inning.

In Lenoir's half of the second, with the lower end of the batting list up, the fireworks commenced. Brown got a hit. Beck sent a slow grounder to short who fumbled. H. Fritz took four good looks at four of Fesperman's shots and went to first with the bases full. Rhyme walked, forcing Brown home. Frye struck out, but Yoder scored Beck and H. Fritz with a single, while Rhyme awaited developments on third base. The developments were not long in coming. Whitener fumbled a thrown ball, and Rhyme came home during the excitement, and third inning ended with the score of 4-0 in favor of Lenoir. Plyler kept his grip on the situation during the fourth, helped out by a beautiful stop by Beck, who played a sensational game at second. In the second half of the fourth Cline got a clean single over second. He went to second on an error, to third when one of Fesperman's curves lost its sense of direction, and scored on a single that R. Fritz thought would help matters out. Wilson was now sent into take upon himself the task that Fesperman was finding a little beyond him. Fesperman went out to left field to think the situation over. There was no more scoring during the remainder of the game.

In Catawba's half of the seventh, inning the game came to a rather unexpected end. Whitener connected with one of Pyle's swift ones. The ball went over Rhyme's head, and Whitener came home. But Umpire Ery, and Yoder of the Lenoir short-stop had noticed that Whitener had cut second base by three feet. Yoder called for the ball, and Ery called Whitener out at second. It might be noted here that Mr. Ery, who is a member of the Charlotte club, has been playing baseball for years, that he knows the game, that he umpired a splendid game, and that he had been asked to umpire this game because both teams agreed that he would be perfectly impartial and capable. But it was a little too much for Catawba when Whitener was called out. They had thrown away three possible chances to score earlier in the game through poor base running, but the Catawba team decided, apparently, that it was Ery's fault that Whitener cut second base. A crowd from the Catawba supporters rushed out upon the diamond, and commenced to argue the matter with the umpire. He was perfectly right in refusing to change his decision. And with the score standing 5-0 against them, the Catawba team paraded off the field.

Up until this time the game had been very interesting. The Lenoir team, after a somewhat disastrous road trip, in the course of which they met three of the strongest teams in the state, with a crippled pitching staff, has seemed to take a demerol brace. The young members of the club have been getting the experience that they needed, and against Catawba the whole team, especially infield, played a splendid game. During most of the game Pyle's pitching kept the outfield from having very much chance to display their skill. The prospects for a good season look bright, and with the strong teams that Manager McCoy has scheduled for home games there is no reason why the local boys should not draw good crowds. On Tuesday, April 3, Mars Hill comes to Hickory to play Lenoir. This will give the local fans a good opportunity to look the collegians over, and a good attendance is anticipated.

Mr. Frank A. Clinard of Happy Valley is spending a few days in the city.

Mr. Forrest A. Hipp of Charlotte, who is with the Southern Power Company spent Sunday in the city.

LINCOLN TROOP REPORTED CALLED OUT It was reported here this afternoon that the Lincoln cavalry troop, A, had been called to the colors, and although Captain Fair had ordered the Hickory boys to report at once to Lincoln, no news of the call had been received by the Report from Washington late this afternoon. It is likely that the troop has been called out, however.

News of the destructive fire at Old Fort Sunday afternoon when damage amounting to \$1,000,000 was caused by a blaze believed to have been of incendiary origin, has caused more or less apprehension in other manufacturing centers, and this fear was expressed in Hickory today. There are a number of fine plants here that could be destroyed easily by a spy. Hickory business men may call upon the government to afford protection, or the business interests here may increase the number of watchmen.

The account of the Fort Mills fire Sunday follows. Marion, April 1.—The most destructive fire in the history of Old Fort completely destroyed the \$1,000,000 plant of the Old Fort Extract company this afternoon, the plant of the U. S. Leather company, adjoining, was also burned and is almost a complete loss, together with three residences and a number of other small buildings. A number of residences in different sections of the town caught on fire several times but were extinguished before great damage was done. A steady wind from the southwest caused the fire to spread rapidly setting fire to the woods in many places and threatening the entire town. A number of citizens estimate the loss at more than \$1,000,000, which is partially covered by insurance. The two plants were owned by New York capitalists and were the largest manufacturing plants in this section, employing several hundred men, who are now without employment.

A quantity of finished leather, hides, acid and wood and tan bark was saved and it is thought that the plant will be rebuilt. Incendiarism is suspected by officials of the tannery and an investigation will probably be held.

TO ISSUE EXTRA PAPER THIS EVENING

The Record this afternoon will issue an extra edition on the address of President Wilson to congress. The management immediately will make arrangements with the Associated Press to secure news as late in the day or night as is permitted afternoon newspapers; all matters of extraordinary importance are released at all times for both morning and evening papers, the president's address being of this kind. The Record will give its readers the news all the time. The address was made shortly after 5 o'clock and this paper will appear as soon thereafter as possible, probably at 6 or 6:30 o'clock.

MARKETS

COTTON FUTURES

(By Associated Press.)

New York, April 2.—The cotton market opened unchanged to five points lower, but firm up after the call on covering. May and October advanced five to 11 points net higher. There was more or less nervousness over political situation and the market reacted.

May	18.72	19.17
October	18.55	18.89
October	17.64	18.02
December	17.74	18.09
January	17.77	18.12

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	19 1-4
Wheat	\$2.25

CHICAGO WHEAT

(By the Associated Press.)

Chicago, April 2.—Failure of expected rains in the west and southwest led to active buying of wheat today and brought about a sharp advance. Opening quotations, which ranged from about the same as Saturday's close, were followed by a moderate advance.

May	18.72	19.17
October	18.55	18.89
October	17.64	18.02
December	17.74	18.09
January	17.77	18.12

THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Showers and thunder showers this afternoon and tonight. Cooler tonight; Tuesday fair and cooler, fresh south shifting to northwest winds.

FRANCO - BRITISH TO DECLARE STATE OF WAR EXISTS WITH GERMANY

(By Associated Press.) The British and French are knocking at the doors of St. Quentin, the town that marks the backbone of the so-called Hindenburg line.

Of the four railroads entering the city two are in possession of the allies and the remaining two are under the fire of their guns. This means that the garrison must depend upon a precarious supply line operated at night and that the value of the city as a base is gone.

Apparently its fall is certain and this assumption is foreshadowed by unofficial dispatches from the front, which say that it already has been partially razed by the Germans.

To the north of St. Quentin the British are surging forward along a 30 mile front, and their rapid march in the last few days unaccompanied by any severe fighting indicates that they have not reached the fortified line.

With St. Quentin and LaFere practically in the grip of the allies (Lille-Laon line appears doomed and military critics express the opinion that Hindenburg was outgeneraled by the rapid advance of the French towards LaFere.

In other sectors of the war intensify in the grip of the allies. The British have inflicted a fresh defeat on the Turks and where the linking up of British and Russian armies appears to be on the eve of completion.

An attempt by the reinforced Turks to take the offensive has been crushed and although the official reports are meagre, the indications are that the British are within 50 or 60 miles of the Russians.

While the allied capitals are filled with rumors of the coming of a great counter offensive by the Germans in the eastern front is believed to have removed any danger of an attack in that region and neither London nor Paris pays much attention to Rome reports of an Austro-German offensive on the Italian front.

There are persistent rumors, however, of mighty efforts by Germany to mass a tremendous force in the rear of the fighting lines and allied critics are convinced that Hindenburg is prepared to deliver a powerful blow somewhere to satisfy the German population.

The revival meeting that has been in progress at Home Memorial church for the past ten days has been truly a revival of religion. No preaching ever held in Clayton has aroused so much genuine interest, and none ever gave more promise of lasting good in the community. Rev. A. L. Stanford, who is doing the preaching, is an eloquent speaker, and has been most earnest in his presentation of the gospel. On last Sunday he preached before three congregations. The one in the afternoon to men only was one of the strongest appeals to men ever heard in Clayton and the large audience was deeply impressed. There have already been a number of conversions and several additions to the church, and many expect to come into the churches of the town as a result of the work of the meeting.

SENATOR LODGE KNOCKS MAN DOWN

Reelection of Champ Clark as Speaker Proves Way for Appearance of President to Outline Course of Action—Chairman Flood Has Resolution Ready.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—Speaker Clark was reelected today by a vote of 217 to 215 over his Republican opponent, Representative Mann, in the first contest for control of the house at the extraordinary session of congress—the necessary preliminary to President Wilson's address on the war with Germany.

With the reelection of Speaker Clark it seemed certain that President Wilson would deliver his address late this afternoon. This seemed so certain that Chairman Flood, of the house foreign affairs committee, the administration spokesman there, prepared a resolution to be presented immediately after the president speaks. The resolution follows:

"Whereas, the recent course of the imperial German government is in fact nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States. "Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives of the United States in congress assembled, that a state of belligerency between the United States and the imperial government which has been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared;

"And that the president be and he is hereby authorized to take immediate steps not only to put the country in thorough state of defense, but to use all its forces to carry on war against the German government to bring the war to a speedy and successful close."

EXCURSION STEAMER IS FLOATED TODAY

(By Associated Press.) Evansville, Ind., April 2.—No lives were lost when the steamer St. Paul, carrying approximately 1,700 persons went aground on the Ohio river three miles below Evansville.

The steamer was making its first excursion to Henderson, Ky., and was floated early today.

RUTH STONEHOUSE COMING TO PASTIME TUESDAY Ruth Stonehouse never had a better role than that given her in the Red Feather photoplay, "Fighting for Love," which will be seen at the Pastime April 3rd and which includes Jack Mulhall, Jean Hersholt, Noble Johnson, J. F. Briscoe and Ruoy Marshall.

Here the popular Red Feather star is a lady of royalty, loved by a king and a cowboy and won by the latter, who, after defending her, becomes a real king. Raymond Wells wrote and directed the play.

The Young Men's Baraca class of the Methodist church met yesterday with only 36 members present. A large number of members were absent and they are urged to be present next Sunday.

DURHAM COMPANY CHARTERED (By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, April 2.—The Kurfess Cider Deflector Company of Durham, capitalized at \$125,000, was chartered by the secretary of state today. The company proposes to state in its patents defectors.

Representative Rankin is Uproariously Cheered as She Entered House Today Washington, April 2.—Representative house was signaled by uproarious first woman member of congress, member and everybody in the crowd took her seat in the house today after an elaborate ceremony in which women suffragists took the leading part. She carried one of the scores of bouquets. The first ceremony was a breakfast in her honor. She did not wear a hat and was dressed simply in black.

Majority of Congress in Favor of Declaring for State of War With Germany (By Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—Congress assembled at noon today for a session believed to be the most momentous in the history of the republic. President Wilson, ready with his address which is believed to declare that a state of war actually exists with Germany, was ready to deliver it when congress organized. Congress assembled with a majority openly in favor of a declaration of a state of war if not actually a declaration of war. Beset on one side with large delegations of pacifists praying for peace and besieged on the other by "patriotic pilgrims" demanding the country's entrance into the war, congress waited to hear President Wilson outline the long history of German aggressions against American lives and the predatory violence of her submarines. Administration officials considered Germany has been making war on the U. S. since the beginning of the United States for some time. A large majority of congress takes the same view. The minority is divided between those who think a state of armed neutrality is sufficient and those who prefer to take no action at all.

France Pays Tribute to Two Americans Who Gave Lives for That Republic

(By Associated Press.) Paris, April 2.—Solemn memorial services were held today at the American church of Holy Trinity for the late Sergeant James R. McConnell of North Carolina and Henry E. M. Stackley of Reinbeck, New York, who lost their lives while serving with the French army.

McConnell was a member of the Franco-American aviation corps and was killed last month in an engagement with a German aviator. Stackley was with the French aviation