

### AUSTRO-GERMAN DECREE AGAINST ARMED MERCHANTMEN MAKES THE SITUATION A PERPLEXING ONE FOR THIS GOVERNMENT

Nothing to Be Done By United States in Matter, With Boycott of American Goods to Other Ports Than Own Threatened by Allied Vessels—No Violation of International Law on Latter Score—Formal Warning to Citizens to Keep Off Liners Carrying Guns to Be Issued—Embargoists Likely to Get Busy When Boycott Is Announced to Affect Retaliatory Legislation, Believed in Washington

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 12.—With the arrival probably today of the notes from Germany and Austria, decreeing armed merchant ships shall be treated as warships after March 1st, the United States will face one of the most intricate diplomatic questions arising since the war begun. It is believed, however, that Lansing will admit the Central Powers' contentions are sound. It is considered possible that the Allies' ships may boycott American goods billed to other ports than their own. This, it is believed, would not be in contravention of international law.

Agreement with the Teutons' orders is to be followed by a formal warning for the citizens of this government to keep off armed Allied ships. It is expected the embargoists in Congress will open a campaign as soon as it is learned that it is certain a boycott is planned.

#### Allies May Protest to the United States.

London, Feb. 12.—The Allies, it is stated on good authority, will send a strong note of protest to the United States. If Secretary Lansing accepts Germany's policy to treat armed merchantmen as warships. It is declared here that the United States has allowed armed merchantmen to enter its ports, and cannot change its policy in the middle of the war.

### VILLA MAY ATTACK COLONY OF MORMONS WITHOUT PROTECT'N

El Paso, Feb. 12.—Villa is reported to have started to west? ern Chihuahua American Mormon colony, where five hundred persons are practically unprotected.

### SCHWAB AGAIN AFTER PENN. STEEL COMPANY

Philadelphia, Feb. 12.—Charles M. Schwab today resumed negotiations for the purchase of the Pennsylvania Steel Company for approximately fifteen million dollars. He wants to add the plant to the Bethlehem Steel Company.

### MYSTERIOUS FIRE IN GEN. ELECTRIC PLANT

Schenectady Munitions Factory Damaged Considerably by Blaze Today. Flames of Unknown Origin Sweep Through Business District of Shelbyville, Del. Doing \$100,000 Damage, Reported

Shelbyville, Del., Feb. 14.—Fire of unknown origin in the business section here today did damage to the extent of \$100,000.

Schenectady Fire Mysterious. Schenectady, Feb. 14.—Serious damage was done by a mysterious fire in the munitions plant of the General Electric Company here today.

### TAKE WHITE CHILD OUT THE CARE OF A NEGRESS

(By the Eastern Press) New Bern, Feb. 11.—The sheriff and an agent of the Charity Board yesterday took from Gertie Quinn, a negress, the 16-months-old daughter of a white woman of the Pembroke section named Russell, who claims to be from Raleigh. The negress had been given the infant to take care of. The authorities will place the little one in a home, stating that the mother is not a fit person to have the custody of her.

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### NEW WAR SECRETARY MAY BE ANNOUNCED LATE SUNDAY, SAID

May Be Houston, Lane or a Dark Horse, Rumored in Capital

#### IS EASIER ON CONGRESS

Garrison's Resignation Gets Continental Army and Compulsory Training Out of Way—President Goes on Cruise

Washington, Feb. 12.—Legislative skies for Congress have cleared as the result of Garrison's resignation, in the opinion of capital leaders. It means there will be no continental army plan in substitution for militia under Federal control, and no compulsory training plan.

Houston and Lane Mentioned. The President will bring back the name of the new secretary of war when he returns tomorrow from his trip down the Potomac. It is believed he will select either Secretary Lane or Secretary Houston or a dark horse now unknown.

Will Roosevelt Succeed Garrison? Washington, Feb. 12.—South Carolina friends of Admiral McGowan are booming him for assistant secretary of the navy in case Franklin D. Roosevelt is named secretary of war.

### SAW ZEPPELIN RAIDS OVER ENGLISH CAPITAL

Percy Trilnick, a shoe salesman of Norfolk, here today, is just six weeks out of London. The British, says Mr. Trilnick, are to a man confident of victory in the world war.

Mr. Trilnick talks interestingly of the Zeppelin raids over the metropolis. "They are terrifying experiences, he declares, describing how the giant dirigibles swooped down in the night to bomb the most populous neighborhoods of the city, killing and maiming many persons, wrecking property and starting fires, and how the anti-aircraft guns and searchlights on the tall buildings searched out the unwelcome visitors in the sky, but damaged them little. A lot of excitement was caused each time the Zeppelins came, he said, and the din of the battles was nerve-shattering.

### WHEDBEE WON'T SAY IF HE WILL RUN FOR REP. SMALL'S SEAT

(By the Eastern Press)

New Bern, Feb. 11.—As every politician in the State knows, it has been the talk of the First Congressional district for six months that Judge H. W. Whedbee of Greenville might make the run against John H. Small, the present Representative, at the next election. Judge Whedbee has been conducting Superior Court here this week. A State paper instructed its local correspondent to get the Jurist to admit or deny that he was about to throw up his position on the bench to enter politics. "Make him talk if you have to sit on him until he does," the correspondent was instructed.

### MORE THAN SCORE OF MINERS MEET DEATH

Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 12.—The bodies of nineteen miners were removed from a shaft here today following an explosion last night. Three others are missing.

### THE ODDEST STORY IN THE DAY'S NEWS

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 14.—Buried with the body of Mrs. William Wright under six feet of sod today, was the pudding she had saved for 20 years, to serve when her son, from whom she had not heard since the Boer war, came home. Her long waiting made her an invalid at 73.

### ITALY TO RECEIVE NO MORE PRODUCTS FROM ENEMY NATIONS

French Premier Believed to Have Influenced Government to Issue Decree. Steel Wall Around Central Powers Complete

By HENRY WOOD, (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Rome, Feb. 12.—The last gap in the steel wall of the Allies around Germany was closed with the issuance of a decree by the Italian government forbidding the importation of any products from Germany or Austria.

The announcement was made following a conference with French Premier Briand here. It is expected to thus throttle Germany's economic grip while battering away her battle lines.

Violent Fighting in East. Petrograd, Feb. 12.—The Russian front, from Volhynia to Bessarabia, is the scene of violent fighting.

Bulgarian Czar Confering With Teutons.

Amsterdam, Feb. 12.—The Bulgarian Czar Ferdinand after a conference with the Kaiser is confering with the Austrian General Staff regarding Roumania's threat to enter the war on the side of the Allies. The increasing activity of the Russians and Austrians is attributed to a desire to impress Roumania with a show of strength.

French Gain in West.

Paris, Feb. 12.—The French captured three hundred yards of trenches in Argonne.

### SMALL WILL VISIT NUMBER OF PLACES IN THIS VICINITY

Georgia Orator Will Be Heard in Mt. Olive, Clinton, Ayden, Grifton and Other Towns As Well as Kinston, This Week

Rev. Sam W. Small, D. D., of Atlanta, who is to tour North Carolina in the interest of the Anti-Saloon Society, will be heard in Kinston by a great audience, the indications now are. Dr. Small is a speaker of exceptional ability. "There are not a half dozen in the country who are equal to him in popular power as a public speaker," in the opinion of a Portland, Ind., editor. As stated in Saturday's Free Press, Dr. Small will speak in Gordon Street Christian church here on Wednesday evening.

The noted Georgian will visit the following other places in this part of the State: Mount Olive, today; Clinton, tomorrow; Grifton, Thursday; Ayden, Friday; Williamston, Sunday, and Plymouth, Sunday night. He will spend several weeks in North Carolina.

### RUSSELL CARTERET REP'S CHAIRMAN

(By the Eastern Press)

Beaufort, Feb. 12.—The Republican county convention for Carteret county elected N. H. Russell chairman of the executive committee. Delegates to the State and Congressional conventions are: Thos. L. Piver, C. R. Wheatley, W. O. Noe, J. F. Duncan, A. L. Wilson, George A. Willis, W. A. Mace, A. L. Willis, Carl Gas-kill and Stephen Harris.

### FIRST DELEGATES TO REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

Excelsior Springs, Mo., Feb. 12.—The first delegates to the publican National Convention are being named at a convention here today.

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### LIKELY NEW SECRETARY WAR WILL BE NAMED IN NEXT FEW DAYS

Wilson Desires Garrison's Successor at Consideration Important Notes

#### BACK TO CAPITAL TODAY

Wilson's Returned From the Trip Down Bay at 6 A. M.—Lansing Was Occupied With Armed Merchantmen Notes Yesterday

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 14.—President and Mrs. Wilson returned today from their trip down the Potomac and Chesapeake. The Mayflower reached her dock at 6 o'clock this morning.

It is believed the President has decided upon Garrison's successor, and that he will be named soon because of the need that he be present at the consideration of the final Lusitania reply, expected this week.

Secretary Lansing spent a large part of yesterday going over the new notes on armed merchantmen, and will go over them again with the President, who desires a full cabinet for this also. Part of Wilson's return trip was made in a snow storm on the bay. They visited Fort Monroe during their tour of the Chesapeake.

### SOUTH MANUFACT' D MORE THAN HALF OF COTTON USED JAN'Y

Total Consumed 542,000 Bales—298,111 in Cotton States—Linters Consumed and Other Statistics of Staple for First Month

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 14.—Cotton consumed in January totaled 542,000 bales, according to the Census Bureau. Two hundred and ninety-eight thousand, one hundred and fifteen bales were used in cotton-growing States.

Linters consumed was 95,489 bales. Cotton held at consuming establishments at the end of January was 1,974,669 bales, and in public storage and compresses 4,545, 859 bales.

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