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CONGRESS LEADERS CANNOT INFLUENCE WILSON TO BUDGE AN INCH FROM HIS DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD U. S. RIGHTS

Clark, Kitchin and Flood Confer With President for Hours Without Success—House Overwhelmingly In Favor of Warning to Citizens Against Traveling On Armed Merchantmen—Not Expected to Take Any Action Until Next Week—Germany Will Ask American Definition of Armament—Believed Imperial Government Will Try to Avoid Break—Nothing Official to Base Idea of Postponement of Decree On, However

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Gore has introduced a bill making it illegal for Americans to travel on armed vessels in time of war, and a resolution warning Americans to stay off such vessels.

Senator Jones introduced a resolution requesting the President not to break off relations with any country and place the United States in such a position as not to be able to avoid war with honor. The Jones bill said the honor of the nation is in the custody of no one man, but in the people, through their representatives in Congress, and that it is the duty of the President to lay the details of complications which might lead to war before Congress. Both the Gore and Jones resolutions were tabled.

Representative McLemore plans to ask a hearing for his bill for the warning before the House foreign affairs committee. Republican Senator Lodge today issued a statement supporting the President's stand. President's Stand Not Shaken by Argument of Opponents.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The President's refusal to accept the armed merchantmen decree is unchanged after hours of conference with Speaker Clark, House Leader Kitchin and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Flood. No action will be taken in Congress at least today.

The upshot of the situation is that the President has flatly refused to budge from the plan to insist on American rights. Speaker Clark today said the House is overwhelmingly in favor of the resolution to warn Americans off armed liners. Clark, Kitchin and Flood favor the resolution. Mr. Clark said the House's decision is not expected before next week.

Senator Stone is skeptical. Clark today expressed the hope that Germany will delay the new submarine policy.

Secretary Lansing today had a ten-minute conference with the President before the cabinet meeting at eleven o'clock. No information could be had from the State Department to justify a belief that Germany intends a postponement of the decree.

Germany Expected to Bend.

London, Feb. 25.—Germany's latest reply to the American representations, asks Washington to define its opinion of what constitutes offensive armaments, say unconfirmed Amsterdam dispatches. The reply is stated to be on its way to America, and is due to reach the State Department in one or two days. The indications are that Germany is seeking to avoid a break.

Letter From President to Senator Stone.

President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made public last night, follows:

"My Dear Senator:

"I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of today, and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply.

"You are right in assuming that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface; and so far I have succeeded. I DO NOT DOUBT THAT I SHALL CONTINUE TO SUCCEED. The course which the central European powers have announced their intention of following in the future with regard to undersea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles, but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by those powers with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect upon it. We have no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to the promises in the past and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future.

Our Duty Clear.

"But in any event our duty is clear. No nation, no group of nations, has

the right while war is in progress to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be.

No Abridgment of American Rights.

"For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. WE COVET PEACE AND SHALL PRESERVE IT AT ANY COST BUT THE LOSS OF HONOR. To forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an implicit, all but explicit acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere and of whatever nation or allegiance. It would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesman even amidst the turmoil of war for the law and the right. It would make everything this government has attempted and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations as meaningless and futile.

"It is important to reflect that if in this instance we allowed expediency to take the place of principle, the door would inevitably be opened to still further concessions. Once accept a single abatement of right and many other humiliations would certainly

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GREEKS BEGINNING TO INCLINE TO THE ALLIES MORE, SAID

(By the United Press)

Rome, Feb. 28.—Public opinion in Greece is veering toward intervention on the side of the Allies, say dispatches. The capture of Erzerum, General Serral's visit to King Constantine and the failure of the Bulgars to attack Saloniki, as well as rumors of pending intervention, are affecting the Greeks.

RESTORE PLYMOUTH TOWN TO ORIGINAL APPEARANCE, PLAN

(By the United Press.)

Boston, Feb. 25.—When the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims is celebrated at Plymouth in 1920, it will give people who visit that historic old town a chance to see it as it was 300 years ago. The Massachusetts State Commission on the celebration visited here today and went over the forty plans they have under consideration. A canvass of the members seems to indicate a general sentiment favoring the central feature of the celebration being a pageant at Plymouth, with a possible reproduction of it in Boston. Whatever is finally decided, it is certain that the original Plymouth town on Leyden street will be reproduced, so those who come to the celebration may see Plymouth as it was when the Pilgrims landed there.

GANGWAY FOR LITTLE SUGAR-COATED JOYS

Telephone Operators Prove They Have Good Intentions—They Are Going to Smile This Year Even If the Subscribers Can't See the Crinkles in Their Visages—Professionals, They

According to a telephone monthly publication, the Kinston telephone operators in a belated meeting adopted the following 1916 resolutions:

"We have resolved to be more courteous to subscribers, and to convince our employers that we are interested in our work and mean to make Kinston the banner office.

"We believe we will be successful in making our work a profession instead of a burden! (Punctuation not literal.)

"We will strive to give the public less room for complaint, and make them feel that we are giving them the best service obtainable. (Good-hearted girls.)

"As the year 1916 rolls on, our motto will be: 'Smile and give service.'"

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS OF OTHER TOWNS AND COUNTIES OF SECTION

Capt. C. S. Ridley of Wilmington, in charge of this engineer district, Col. Langfit of Savannah and U. S. Engineer H. T. Patterson of New Bern are at Cape Lookout to inspect the harbor of refuge work.

Mrs. Ballentine Smith, said to be a wealthy resident of Baldwin, N. Y., died of pneumonia at Mansfield, Carteret county. She was spending the winter in Mansfield. The body is being embalmed for shipment to New York.

New Bern is to be put on the circuit of wrestling towns in North Carolina and Virginia. Max Schmidt, a well known mat artist is to locate there.

CAROLINA GIRL IS MISSING IN RICHMOND

Richmond, Va., Feb. 24.—The police were conducting a search today for Miss Esther Craven, 19-years old, who has been missing from the home of Mrs. A. Fowler, 517 North Eleventh street, since February 10th. At the time of her disappearance the girl was employed at the local offices of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. Her home is in Franklinville, N. C.

GERMANS MAKE VERY LITTLE HEADWAY IN VERDUN OFFENSIVE

Murderous French Fire Is Holding Back Teutons; Supplies Stopped

BLIZZARDS IN ARMENIA

Russian Pursuit of Erzerum Garrison Hindered, But Slav Right Wing Is Covering Ground In Direction of Trebizond Port

(By the United Press)

London, Feb. 25.—Paris dispatches say Joffre has arrived at the Verdun front and is directing the defense. The news was greeted enthusiastically in Paris. The Kaiser is personally directing the offensive.

London, Feb. 25.—The French are now holding their own against the great German drive at Verdun except at minor points, says a Paris dispatch. The Crown Prince has been under fire at the three Verdun forks. He was exposed to a murderous fire from French field redoubts and trenches from which the Allied army shelled the German advanced positions. The French are bombarding the latter so heavily that the Germans are unable to bring up their supply trains. French and German air fleets clashed above the field during the bombardment.

The titanic struggle in the Meuse woods is believed to mark the beginning of the greatest German offensive since the battle of the Marne. Severe weather in Asia Minor.

Petrograd, Feb. 25.—Blizzards and snowstorms are hindering the pursuit of the Turks, fleeing from Erzerum. The Russian right is progressing rapidly toward Rizeh, east of Trebizond. The Slavs have dislodged the Turks from their positions in the Bideswith and Sakhne mountain passes, in Persia. The Turks are retreating to Kernansah. Offensive About Checked Now.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The German offensive at Verdun is showing signs of slackening, it is officially said. There were no night attacks, and the artillery fighting is less violent. The French artillery is holding its own on a 25-mile front. Indications are that the offensive is checked, at least temporarily. The French are organizing in new positions at Beaumont, on the heights east of Champneuville and at Ornes.

Germans Claim to Have Taken 10,000 Prisoners.

Berlin, Feb. 28.—The French losses have been heavy, and the German what were expected in the Verdun offensive, it is officially said. Ten thousand prisoners have been taken by the Germans. Six fortified villages and a number of farms have been taken.

WEEKLY PAPER PAID BRANDEIS BIG SUM, COMMITTEE IS TOLD

Sullivan, Editor of Colliers', Says \$25,000 Was His Fee From New York Publishers in the Ballinger-Pinchot Controversy

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 25.—Collier's Weekly paid Louis D. Brandeis \$25,000 for his services in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, Mark Sullivan, the editor, today told the Senate committee investigating Brandeis' fitness for the Supreme Court.

A New Bern bank is offering to loan pig club boys money with which to buy blooded stock.

BOIL DOWN COURT'S PROGRAM OF SECOND WEEK PRESENT TERM

Some Cases Are Eliminated From Calendar for the Coming Six Days

WEEKS CASE DRAWN OUT

Cause Has Occupied Nearly Three Days of This Week—Argument Ran Over From Thursday Night—Two Speeches This A. M.

(Daily Free Press, February 25)

The Weeks vs. Telephone Co. case in Superior Court was not concluded Thursday night as was expected. Two speeches remained to be heard this morning, and the indications were at the convening of court today that the matter would not go to the jury before noon. This tedious, hotly-contested case had been in hearing since Tuesday afternoon.

The jury was expected to get the jury case after dinner, Clerk Heath said at 1 o'clock.

Because the Weeks case, in which the Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company is being sued for nominal damages for alleged failure to remove telephone wires when requested to do so in order that a house might be moved, has taken up so much of this week, the calendar for the second week of the term was today cut down considerably. The calendar for next week as it now stands follows:

Monday, February 28:

- 98. Hughes vs. Moseley.
107. Weldon vs. Railroad.
11. Matthews vs. Isler.
108. Copeland vs. Howard.

Tuesday:

- 109. Hill vs. Railroad.
116. Potter vs. Walton.
173. Warters vs. Page.

Wednesday:

- 128. Hunter vs. West.
131. Kinston Cotton Mills vs. Conway.

Thursday:

- 142. J. A. Taylor vs. Lenoir Oil & Ice Co. and City of Kinston.
144. Langston vs. Dale.
147. Morgan vs. Roundtree.
123. Wooten vs. Goldsboro Lumber Co.

Friday:

- 170. Parrott vs. Forrest.
169. Parrott vs. Rouse.
159. Harvey vs. Hamilton.
166. Darden vs. Darden.
124. Ives & Co. vs. LaRoque.

CRABTREE'S CASE GOES OVER UNTIL TUESDAY

The case against C. W. Crabtree, arrested Wednesday night for tying up and beating his 17-year-old son, was continued in the Recorder's Court Thursday afternoon to Tuesday's session. Crabtree will be tried by jury. That the defendant's alleged crime was not nearly so heinous as was indicated by State witnesses and the officers who made the arrest is said to be the conviction of several of the authorities. Crabtree, who admitted that he whipped the boy because he would not go to school, is said to have resorted to seemingly severe measures to discipline the husky youngster. Friends of the accused man doubt if he was cruel in punishing the lad.

PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL KNOWN PEOPLE.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Governor Dunne of Illinois has admitted, a poor memory for names. He says it always has been a falling he seems unable to overcome. Recently while in Washington it caused the Governor some discomfort when he couldn't for the life of him recall the last name of his son Richard's fiancée.

GERMANY TO DEMAND RELEASE OF SHIPS SEIZED BY PORTUGAL

(By the United Press)

Amsterdam, Feb. 25.—Germany is expected to demand the prompt release of the German merchantmen seized at Lisbon, say wireless advices. Indignation at Berlin is high.

More Ships Taken.

Lisbon, Feb. 25.—Eight German steamers in St. Vincent harbor have been seized by order of the Portuguese Government.

CLEVELAND INDIANS SAIL INTO A MONTH OF WORK IN SOUTH

Cleveland, O., Feb. 25.—With the departure of some from here within the next 48 hours and the arrival of others already on their way, the Cleveland Indians will be ready February 29 to sail into a month's stringent practice for the 1916 season. Heaven knows they need it. The in and out fielders will start work the 29th. For the last week eleven pitchers and four catchers have been limbering up at New Orleans under the direction of Manager Lee Fohl, who will start his second season as manager this year, and Ray Chapman, shortstop.

NO REPORT YET ON THE HOPEWELL EXAMINATION

Although weeks have passed since the body of Mrs. Rachel Hopewell was exhumed near Stonington creek, to permit of an examination for poison traces, the State chemist to whom the viscera was sent has made no report, says Solicitor Charles L. Abernethy of the New Bern district, in charge of the prosecution of the woman's husband, charged with her murder.

Hopewell is still in jail at New Bern. His trial is expected to come off in April. Abernethy has written to the chemist in Raleigh, inquiring what progress has been made in the examination.

TODAY'S SALES ON THE LOCAL COTTON MARKET

About 15 bales of cotton were sold here today. The best price was 11 cents.

New York futures quotations were:

Table with columns for month (May, July, October, December) and price (Open, 2:20). Values range from 11.15 to 11.94.

YOUTH CHARGED WITH LARCENY OF JEWELRY

Norfolk, Feb. 24.—Franklin Beasley, 19 years old, of Fayetteville, was arrested this afternoon by Detective Mercer of police headquarters, on a charge of grand larceny.

Beasley was arrested at the instance of Solicitor A. B. Breece, of Fayetteville, who came to Norfolk this morning with a warrant for the arrest of the young man. Beasley is alleged to have stolen a diamond ring and a watch and an opal ring, all valued at about \$200, from a jeweler by whom he was employed in Fayetteville.

MACE MAY BE LYNCHED IF TAKEN; BIG REWARD

Asheville, Feb. 24.—Reports from Morganton at 10 o'clock tonight stated that Charlie A. Mace, who fled to the mountains beyond Morganton after killing his wife during a quarrel at their home, eight miles from Morganton, Tuesday night, was still at large. Since the full details of the murder, said to be an unusually brutal one, have become known, public indignation has increased and telephone messages are to the effect that there is much talk of lynching Mace should he be captured. The State has offered a reward of \$500 for the capture of Mace, dead or alive.

MANY VESSELS LOSE WAY IN DENSE FOG OFF ATLANTIC COAST

Two Steamers In Collision. Several Grounded Off the Virginia and North Carolina Shores—Rescuers Go to Aid of Vessels

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 25.—The Merchants and Miners steamship Cretal is steaming slowly to Norfolk following a collision with the steamer Dorothy. The Cretal transferred her passengers to the Dorothy. The heavy fog caused many vessels to run aground, the coast guard headquarters today said.

Ships Aground on Virginia and Carolina Capes.

Norfolk, Feb. 25.—The Old Dominion steamer Brandon, from Richmond to this port, arrived here today after grounding in the James river.

Unidentified vessels are ashore at Cape Lookout. A Spanish ship aground at Cape Henry freed herself. A tug and the cutter Seminole are rushing to the aid of distressed craft.

THE LITTLE BATTLE WITHIN THE BIG ONE ON WESTERN FRONT

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS.

Jan. 25.—(By Mail)—A feud in the middle of a big war, that is what this position of Hartmannswillerkopf is; a feud just like they have down in Breathitt county, Kentucky. For French officers will admit and so will German officers, that this position on the western battle-front has no more and no less importance than scores of other points elsewhere between the sea and Switzerland.

Every few days the French and German communiques mention scrapping on the knob in the Vosges the French on April 6, charged again, took all they had lost, together with the big rock on the far side of the summit.

Humiliated, the Germans prepared a counter attack which they launched April 26, taking everything back to and including the summit, where they were feverishly set to work organizing the position so it would be stronger than ever. All night they worked, but with the dawn came the Blue Devils, as the Alpine Chasseurs are called, swarming up the precipitous slopes of "Old Armand," and despite machine guns, rifle fire and bayonets, they reached the top and put the Germans to rout once more. Immediately the Germans tried to rally but failed, though they established trenches within seven yards of those of the French at the top.

So the struggle for the top of the mountain goes on. To hold it is an honor. To win this honor many soldiers have died. To the layman their death may seem vain, foolish, useless, but to the soldier not a drop of blood has been wasted. For in war, victory or defeat depends largely on what the French call "moral," and to hold the top of Hartmannswillerkopf helps the moral of the whole army of the Vosges. mountains known as "Old Armand," or Hartmannswillerkopf. One might imagine that the side holding this crest held the key to Paris or to Berlin. It is not so. It's simply the feud going on, each side determined to have the honor of holding the top of the mountain. It is like the struggle about a flag; a matter of pride in taking and holding.

The quarrel began exactly a year ago. A small detachment of French chasseurs established an advance post on the summit of Hartmannswillerkopf. They were surprised by a larger force, surrounded and beaten. This was on January 15, 1915.

Fortifying the position strongly as an observation point, the Germans held the crest until March 23, when the French stormed the hill, took the trenches at the top, and captured 10 officers, 34 non-coms and 313 men, all un wounded.

Early in April the Germans recaptured part of the lost trenches but