

# HEAD OF NATION WANTS TO KNOW SENTIMENT AS TO HIS POLICIES

## -CONGRESS TO GO ON RECORD REGARDING PRESIDENT'S COURSE; EXPECTED BACK EXECUTIVE UP IN GERMAN CONTROVERSY

Conferences of Senate and House Leaders at the White House Today—Test Vote Called for by Mr. Wilson Being Prepared For—Administration Has Sounded Both Branches to Ascertain Sentiment—When Von Bernstorff's Promises Were Made Armed Liner Was Unthought Of, Says Foreign Office Official in Defense of Decree Against Armed Merchantmen—German Paper Declares If America Wars On Teutons She Will Be Made to Pay Latter's War Debts

Washington, March 1.—Congress will go on record regarding the Administration's German course. Democratic leaders have ratified the President's suggestion for a test vote on his policies. The vote will be taken soon. Leaders today discussed the means of bringing about the vote, and the exact question to be determined. Senators Stone and Kern and Representative Flood conferred with the President and then the President saw the Speaker and Representatives Kitchin and Pou. The resolution is not expected today, but the road is being cleared for it. It is believed the Administration has sounded both Houses to find what the sentiment is.

In a letter to Representative Pou, ranking member of the Committee on Rules, made public last night, the President declared that "the report that there are divided counsels in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the government is being made industrious use of in foreign capitals," that he believed the report to be false, but that so long as it is anywhere credited he feels justified in asking "that your committee will permit me urge an early vote upon the resolutions with regard to travel on armed merchantmen."

The President called for a showdown, and believes the result will prove that his position will be patriotically sustained by Congress.

### Says America Would Be Defeated by Germany.

London, March 1.—The Frankfurter Zeitung, discussing the possibility of a war with America, pictures the Allies crushed as a result, and America defeated and forced to pay Germany's war debts.

### German Statement of Promises to America.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN, United Press Staff Correspondent (COPYRIGHTED BY THE UNITED PRESS.)

Berlin, March 1.—Germany's memorandum to the United States stated that the fact that armed merchantmen would in future be considered warships does not change the pledges Von Bernstorff made, because they were given when an armed merchant liner was unthought of, Baron Mumm Von Schartzstein of the Foreign Office told the United Press today. Germany never once dreamed that the British would instruct liners to conduct defensive warfare, he said. He pledged that the decree is not contradictory to former promises.

### ONLY ONE ALLIED SHIP HAS BEEN SUNK SO FAR

Single Victim On First Day After Armed Merchantmen Decree Became Effective Was Russian Vessel, Lost With 18 Lives—French Craft Submarine on the Day Before, Reported

London, Mar. 2.—On the first day after the armed merchantmen decree became effective the Russian steamer Alexander Wentzell was sunk, with a loss of 18 lives, say dispatches.

### Mine Sweeper Sunk.

Havre, Mar. 2.—The French mine sweeper Aurevoir was submarine Tuesday. The crew was saved, according to the advices.

### AYDEN NATIONAL BANK WILL OCCUPY ITS NEW BUILDING ON THURSDAY

(Special to The Free Press) Ayden, Mar. 1.—Tomorrow the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Ayden will move into its handsome new home, a three-story brick structure in the center of this live town. The two upper floors have been rented out as offices, while two store rooms on the ground floor are already occupied by J. J. Edwards & Son, general merchants. The building cost approximately \$20,000, and is a decided credit to the town and to the able and energetic directorate of the bank. The officers of the bank are J. E. Turnage, President; W. W. Ormond and J. J. Edwards, first and second Vice-presidents, and D. E. Hollowell, Cashier. The safe, vault and fixtures of the new bank are the most modern procurable.

### REQUESTS THE FAVOR AFTER MANY YEARS

Jim Driscoll Was Promised Anything He Desired to Fight the Merrimac—Government Will Keep Its Word—He's Going to Panama Canal On Warship as Guest of Uncle Sam

Washington, March 2.—Jim Driscoll, of the Hampton, Va., Soldiers' Home, will get a ride to the Panama Canal on a warship. He belonged to the monitor's crew in the war between the States, and was promised anything he wanted for fighting the Merrimac. He has asked Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt to be permitted to take the ride. The next battleship going to the canal will stop at Hampton for him.

### THE N. Y. DEMOCRATS ENDORSE THE PRESIDENT

Syracuse, N. Y., March 1.—The New York Democratic State Convention has endorsed the President's renomination.

### FOR CHILDREN'S COUGH

You cannot use anything better for your child's cough and cold than Dr. King's New Discovery. It is prepared from Pine Tar mixed with healing and soothing balsams. It does not contain anything harmful and is slightly laxative, just enough to expel the poisons from the system. Dr. King's New Discovery is antiseptic—kills the cold germs—raises the phlegm—loosens the cough and soothes the irritation. Don't put off treatment. Coughs and Colds often lead to serious lung troubles. It is also good for adults and the aged. Get a bottle today. All druggists.

## STRONG PARTY ROME FAVORS DECLARAT'N WAR AGAINST KAIS'R

Action Not For Several Days Yet, However—A Conference at Foreign Office — French Premier Advised Italians?

Rome, March 1.—A strong party at the opening of Parliament today favored a declaration of war against Germany. Action is not expected for some days pending the outcome of a conference at the foreign office.

Premier Salandra is expected to inform Parliament of the result of the French prime minister to this capital.

## BETTER BUSINESS FOR SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Increase of 20 Per cent. in Gross Revenue in January—Facts and Figures Given Out By Comptroller of the Big System Show That Prosperity Has Returned in Good Measure

(Special to The Free Press) Washington, March 2.—The results of operation of the Southern Railway Company for the month of January, and for the period of seven months ended January 31, compared with the same month and period in 1915 and 1914, exclusive of interest, rentals and other income charges, were announced today by Comptroller A. H. Plant as follows, the comparison with 1914 being made for the reason that in 1915 the effect of the business depression was reflected through the revenues of the company:

Gross revenue, Jan. 1916, \$5,583,921, an increase as compared with 1915 of \$935,019, or 20.10 per cent., and a decrease as compared with 1914 of \$150,948 or 2.63 per cent.

Operating expenses, taxes and uncollectible railway revenues, January, 1916, \$4,077,303, an increase as compared with 1915 of \$131,025, or 3.32 per cent., and a decrease as compared with 1914 of \$601,887, or 12.86 per cent.

Corresponding results for the seven months' period are as follows: Gross revenue this year, \$39,964,815, an increase as compared with 1915 of \$2,546,236 or 6.85 per cent., and a decrease as compared with 1914 of \$2,756,193 or 6.45 per cent. Operating expenses, taxes and uncollectible railway revenues this year, \$28,194,706, a decrease as compared with 1915 of \$1,573,638 or 5.29 per cent., and as compared with 1914 of \$3,357,517 or 10.64 per cent.

## FIFTY THOUSAND LOSS IN WILMINGTON BLAZE

Wilmington, March 1.—At a partially insured loss of \$50,000 the Tidewater Power Company machine shop, two city and one suburban electric car and much material, were burned at an early hour this morning. No one was injured. Before the ruins stopped smoking the officials laid plans to replace the building and cars.

## GRAND TRUNK DEPOT AT MONTREAL BURNS, ORIGIN SUSPICIOUS

(By The United Press) Montreal, March 1.—The Grand Trunk depot here was destroyed today by a mysterious fire. Many tons of freight and baggage were incinerated and trains burned.

## ZEPPELIN DESTROYED IN AIR BY FLAMES

London, March 1.—Copenhagen dispatches by mail today reported that following several explosions in the air south of Jutland a burning mass, believed to have been a zeppelin, fell.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTOR'S

## INDICATIONS THAT FRENCH ARE HOLD'G OWN AROUND VERD'N NO RESULT YET OF ARMED SHIP ORDER GOING INTO EFFECT

Offensive Today Centers About Two Strong Positions North of City

## BODIES WASHING TO SEA

Swollen Meuse Carrying Off Portion of the Numberless Killed—Lull In Fighting Reported From All Sources Today

London, March 1.—Official dispatches from Berlin and Paris indicate a nearly complete halt last night in the Verdun offensive. Paris believes the Germans are preparing a new offensive on a gigantic scale.

## Enveloping Movement Anticipated.

London, March 1.—Six miles east and northeast of Verdun, the shifting German attack is directing its greatest violence upon the forts of Devaux and Detavannes. The Teutons are battering French positions on the Metz-Verdun Railway, with heavy artillery. The French are making a stand at the station of Eix, and the guns of Fort Detavannes, 2 miles away, are beating back the charges. The Crown Prince is trying to encircle Verdun. Latest reports say the French are holding their own.

## French Evacuate a Town.

Berlin, March 1.—A lull on the French front was indicated today by official reports. The French have been forced to evacuate the city of Fresnes, thirteen miles southeast of Verdun, says the Lokal Anzeiger.

## Germans Gain In Square Miles.

Berlin, March 1.—On the first few days of the Verdun offensive, the Crown Prince's army captured four square miles, more than the French gained in the Champagne drive, say dispatches.

## Bodies Wash to Sea.

The Hague, March 1.—Scores of bodies of the Verdun dead are sweeping into the North Sea from the swollen Meuse.

## Lull Reported From Paris.

London, March 1.—A lull in the Verdun fighting last night was indicated by wireless messages from Paris. There was no reason to believe that the offensive had been abandoned, however, it was said.

## FOUND BURIED VAULT PROBABLY A CENTURY OLD IN CITY CEMETERY

On Monday afternoon when preparations were being made to dig the grave of the late Frank Nunn, whose body was brought here from Somerset, Ky., where he was shot to death by a railroad watchman, Coroner Eugene Wood discovered an old steel vault in Maplewood cemetery which he thinks must have been there at least a century. The vault was partly on the lot of B. F. Nunn, father of Frank Nunn, and partly under a walk. It was intended to place the remains of Mr. Nunn on a spot occupied by one end of the vault, until it was discovered that the ground was already taken up.

There was a small glass in the top of the vault, and the skeleton of a female and part of the hair were discovered to be within the vault. Had the body been embalmed it would have been almost perfectly preserved. Mr. Wood thinks, for the ancient vault was a fine piece of workmanship, and as good as could be built. Mr. Wood has long been a believer in steel rather than brick vaults, and his find, he declares, adds to his conviction that the former is the most efficient. The vault he found must have been very expensive, he says. The skeleton was of a person unidentified.

## ROOSEVELT WILL NOT ALLOW NAME IN ILLS.

(By The United Press) New York, March 2.—Roosevelt withdrew his name for the fourth time from a primary, declining to let it be used in Illinois. He had declined the honor in Nebraska, Minnesota and Michigan.

First Tragedy, If Any Occurs, Expected to Be In Mediterranean

## DENIAL GERMAN CLAIM

Merchantmen Not Ordered to Attack But to Defend Themselves, Says British Blockade Minister—Italy May Suffer First

By CHAS. P. STEWART, (United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, March 1.—The submarine decree, effective since midnight, has been resultless up to the present. A report of a torpedoing is unexpected for a day or two. There is nothing to indicate that the Thornaby was torpedoed or mined. If a great tragedy should occur, the first is expected in the Mediterranean, where there are many submarines. Armed Italian liners are passing through those waters. The blockade minister, Lord Cecil, stated today that the German claim that merchantmen had been ordered to attack submarines is untrue. He said they had been ordered to defend themselves.

## IF THERE'S WAR, LET IT BE WITH SALVATION ARMY, SAYS THE JUDGE

"The President has called the bluff of Congress," was a fact Col. W. D. Pollock called to the attention of Judge T. C. Wooten this morning.

Then followed some talk about the international situation, the possibilities of war, etc.

"I hope, if we go to war," said Judge Wooten, "that it will be with the Salvation Army."

"And the navy of the Baptist church," added a bystander.

## SEVENTH REPUBLICANS SELECT BROWN OF WILKES

Lexington, Feb. 29.—The Seventh District Republican Convention here today unanimously named ex-Sheriff P. E. Brown of Wilkes to oppose Congressman R. N. Page.

## SAYS DRINK LEMONADE FOR RHEUMATISM.

Relief from rheumatism and sciatica can be obtained by drinking lemonade and avoiding alcoholic drinks.

To get rid of this stubborn disease, however; to stop the twinges, pain and swelling, and drive the poisonous accumulations from the joints and muscles, all generously-inclined druggists will tell you to take half a teaspoonful of Rheuma daily until all misery ceases.

Rheuma is a powerful remedy, because only a powerful remedy can overcome such a terrible disease; but Rheuma acts speedily—the first dose taken and you'll know that you will soon be your healthy, happy self again. J. E. Hood & Co. and all druggists know what Rheuma will do, for they sell a great deal of it and guarantee that two 50-cent bottles will overcome rheumatic agony or money back.

## EVER HAVE IT?

If You Have, This Statement Will Interest You.

Ever have a "low-down" pain in the back?

In the "small," right over the hips? That's the home of backache.

If it's caused by weak kidneys, Use Doan's Kidney Pills.

Kinston people testify to their worth. Read a case of it:

L. B. Higgins, baker, 115 S. Tryon St., Kinston, says: "I have used Doan's Kidney Pills with very good results and consider them a splendid kidney medicine. Another of my family also suffered from weak kidneys and dull pains across the back and loins. This one had headaches and dizzy spells and the kidney secretions were irregular in passage. Doan's Kidney Pills gave relief from the troubles."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Higgins had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y. adv

Different,--- and Better.

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It relieves fatigue.  
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