

GERMANY MAY YET AVOID BREAK WITH U. S. BY CITING PRECEDENT FOR ORDERING SINKING OF VESSELS WITHOUT WARNING

One Loophole Left Seems Ample—Exception Where the Submarine Commanders Exceeded Orders, However—Conference of President and Secretary of State Today Will Determine Whether This Country Will Compromise Lusitania Matter—Von Bernstorff Ready for Call From Lansing—No Precedent in Arabic Negotiations, Washington Holds—All Depends On Whether Berlin Took Simple Little Precaution or Not

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 7.—A sensational turn was given to relations of the United States and Germany today when Secretary Lansing issued a statement that "Under Secretary Zimmerman of the Foreign Office had made an utterly false statement if he had said he was quoted by the morning press to have said that the United States has made new demands in the Lusitania case. This is believed to bode ill for German hopes of a compromise.

The One Loophole for Germany.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 7.—Whether the United States shall compromise the Lusitania case will be decided at a conference between the President and Lansing today.

One apparent loophole is left. It is believed Germany's latest proposal will be acceptable if it suggests phrases from a former note which can be used as a precedent for international law putting without the pale a government which orders submarines to sink merchant ships without warning. This the Arabic note does not do, in the opinion of officials. There would be exception where a submarine commander exceeds the orders of his government. If the government so orders, the commander at present may sink without warning, is the idea Bernstorff has cancelled all engagements, awaiting a call from the State Department.

MRS. MOHR NOT GUILTY, TWO BLACKS CONVICTED

Another Charge Against All Three—Jury Returned Verdict Saturday Night—Woman Hopes She Will Not Be Tried Again—Counsel for Negroes Announces Appeal—Trial On Four Weeks

(By the United Press)

Providence, R. I., Feb. 7.—The jury in the case of Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr and the two negroes accused of the murder of Dr. C. F. Mohr Saturday night brought in verdicts of guilty as to the negroes, C. V. Brown and Henry Spellman, and not guilty as to the woman. Mrs. Mohr swooned during the announcement of the verdict. She is now at her home, to spend the remainder of her life with her children, she hopes. All three are charged with an assault on Miss Emily Burger with intent to kill, but it is not known when the case will be brought up. The jury had been away from their homes for four weeks.

Dr. Mohr was killed on a lonely road on the night of August 31 last. The negroes Brown and Spellman, who the State maintained were bribed by Mrs. Mohr to commit the murder, appealed.

NEWS OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS BRIEFLY TOLD

A two-weeks' civil term of Superior Court was convened at New Bern today by Judge H. W. Whedbee.

Mr. S. B. Waggoner has resigned as pastor of the Christian church at Ayden. It is not known where he will locate.

Ricks Sumrell, a prominent Pitt county man, is dead in his 60th year. He was a farmer, and was known throughout this section.

The newly-organized Building and Loan Association of Ayden has been chartered by the State Department.

Mr. J. H. Dawson is undergoing treatment in a New Bern hospital.

J. Lambé Doted, agent at Wilmington for the Baltimore & Carolina Steamboat Company, is seeking information from the New Bern Chamber of Commerce with a view of the establishment of a boat line between Baltimore and New Bern.

TEAL WILL DEFEND BRANDEIS WHEN THE SENATE CONSIDERS

Did Not Throw Rate Cases to the Railroads, Asserts Pacific Coast Lawyer, In Reply to Charge Brought By Clifford Thorne

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 7.—Joseph N. Teal, Pacific Coast attorney representing the people in rate increase cases, will defend Brandeis when the Senate hearings open Wednesday. Teal will reply to Clifford Thorne of the Iowa railroad commission, who has said that Brandeis threw cases to the railroads. Teal declares Brandeis was retained as an expert to bring out the facts for both sides of the controversy.

THIRD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HUGO STILL PROVED A FAILURE

Hugo, near the Greene county line, with admirable community spirit is trying to get rid of its "community" still. Sheriff J. Taylor of Lenoir and Edwards of Greene county met and gently searched through some square miles of timber and a couple of negro houses, one on each side of the line. Both had search warrants. Hugo folks had complained of the nuisance. It was the third attempt to locate the still. Evidence of its operation was found some weeks ago, but the plant had been moved, and could not be located.

The co-operative spirit is very much in evidence in connection with the "enterprise." The officials believe there are a number of the operators. Certainly the patronage is handsome. The still was for a time believed to be located within gunshot of a church and schoolhouse, but no informant yet has been able to state just where.

EPISCOPALIANS TO HAVE PENSION FUND

Bishop Darst Describes Method By Which Denomination Will Take Care of Aged Ministers—Contributory System—\$5,000,000 Needed At Start—System is Modern and Sound, Stated

(Special to The Free Press)

Stonewall, N. C., Feb. 7.—In a sermon in the Episcopal church here on Sunday Bishop Thos. C. Darst of the Diocese of East Carolina, said: "The Episcopal Church has determined to undertake the largest single enterprise in its history, namely, to institute a system of pensions for its retired clergy.

"There are 4,420 men in the active service of the Episcopal church in the United States. Their average salary is \$1,200 a year. This is not all cash, but includes the value of a house, when provided. More than 2,500 of these ministers, over one-half the total number, receive less than \$1,500 a year. Only 237 including the 125 bishops—receive \$4,000 or over. More than 700 men are paid less than \$1,000 and many of these 700 are the older clergy, with very hard tasks.

"Railroad companies seek efficiency and enthusiasm from their men through promises of a pension. It is in the broadest interest of society that every church should do the same.

"The Episcopal Church has passed the exact vital statistics of the whole body of her clergy through the laboratory of the best actuaries and has adopted a pension system which is modern and sound.

"It is a contributory system whereby upon the payment by the parish each year of an additional seven per cent., speaking roughly of the minister's salary, he will receive on retiring at 68, a pension equal to one-half his average salary during his active service. At death, his widow and minor children will receive annual pensions; if disabled in active service, a pension follows.

"In order to take care of those who should be pensioned immediately, and to give the contributory plan time to move permanently on its own wheels, an initial sum of \$5,000,000 is to be raised."

TO REPLENISH SHAD SUPPLY IN NEUSE

Millions of Fry to Be Dumped Into This and Other Rivers by United States—State Commission Gets Assistance From the Government Where Communities Could Not

A great number of young shad fry will be placed in the Neuse river in this section, it is stated by the North Carolina Fisheries Commission. Cape Fear, Trent and Pamlico rivers are also to be restocked. The United States Government will give the fry, and send a floating hatchery, the former coast survey ship Fish Hawk, up the streams for the purpose of distributing the little fish. The shad industry will become several times more important and profitable than now, it is predicted.

"For several years," says State Geologist Joseph Hyde Pratt, "the various sections of Eastern North Carolina that were not under the jurisdiction of the Fish Commission have made application to the United States Bureau of Fisheries for young shad to be placed in the rivers. These requests were not granted, as stated by the U. S. Bureau, for the reason that the Federal Government ought not to be expected to assist a section of a State to build up a certain fishing industry that those sections were not willing to protect and conserve. Since, however, the creation by the General Assembly of the State Fisheries Commission, the U. S. Bureau has expressed itself as willing to assist the State Commission in every way possible to foster and increase the fisheries of the State."

It is presumed that the fry to be brought to the upper Neuse will come from the Edenton hatchery, one of the largest in the country.

Plans are under way at New Bern for many new buildings to be put up during the spring, say contractors there.

BULGARS AND TURKS CONCENTRATING ON ROUMANIAN BORDER

Awaiting Move By Army to Take Field for Allies—A Big German Warship Reported Lost—Durazza Is About to Be Occupied

(By the United Press)

London, Feb. 7.—Bulgarian and Turkish troops have moved to the Roumanian border to meet the concentration of Roumanians against the Central Powers. Roumania is expected soon to enter the war on the part of the Allies.

Ship Reported Sunk. Copenhagen, Feb. 7.—No confirmation of a Berlin report that a large German warship has been sunk off Cattedag has been received.

Durazza About to Be Occupied. Rome, Feb. 7.—Durazza, the capital of Albania is expected to be occupied by the Austrians in a few hours. They are now four miles away.

THE FORD TRIBUNAL HOLDS SESSION FOR FIRST TIME TODAY

Swedish Socialists Suggest to the Stockholm Government Conference of Neutrals Looking to Means for Bringing War to End

(By the United Press)

Stockholm, Feb. 7.—Two Socialist members of the Swedish Parliament today announced a suggestion for a peace tribunal. They will ask the government whether it is possible to arrange for a neutral peace conference, with the object of ending the war as soon as possible.

The Ford tribunal held its first session today.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

BIG MERGER CALLED OFF. New York, Feb. 7.—The merger of the Lackawanna and Cambria steel companies and the Youngstown Sheet Tube Co. are off, it is announced. Lackawanna profits are now too late.

BASEBALL WAR LEGALLY ENDED. Chicago, Feb. 7.—Federal Judge Landis today dismissed the Federal League suit against organized baseball, legally ending the baseball war.

BRAZIL MAY OFFER BIG MARKET TO U. S. COTTON GROWERS

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 28.—(By Mail)—Brazilians now paying big prices for their cotton goods believe there is a cotton combine here, which is taking advantage of the short northern Brazil crop to boost prices. The people believe a lower tariff would bring prices down. Legislation is now ready for passage looking toward this lower tariff and United States cotton growers may find a big market here to take the place of the European markets they have lost. Brazil wears cotton—not only wears it, but grows it. There are more than three hundred Brazilian mills manufacturing it. These mills employ 75,000 operators. Therefore, when a 2-years' drought in the northern states reduces the crop by half and a combine of buyers, protected by a 4 cents a pound import duty, corners this half and makes the textile industry pay an exorbitant price for it, the Brazilian sits up and takes notice.

MOUNT MITCHELL TO BE OPENED UP TO CAMPERS

One of the Beauty Spots of the Western Hemisphere—Government and Railroad Co-Operating in Project. Maps for Tourists—No Restriction Except Precautions Against Fires

(Special to The Free Press)

Asheville, Feb. 7.—Mount Mitchell National Forest, in the very heart of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, one of the most beautiful and picturesque spots in the Western World, is to be opened to the people for camping and recreational purposes. In loveliness of scenery, in salubrity of climate, in wonders of natural resources and in accessibility of location it will be the most wonderful park in America.

Arrangements for the opening of the reserve have been completed by the Forest Service Commission of the government in co-operation with the Southern Railway. In protection of the superb primeval forests and the vast natural water sources, the government acquired the area of the reserve. After mature consideration, it was decided to convert it into a recreation park—a magnificent playground for the people of the entire country.

In conformity with this plan, the Forest Service and the Southern Railway are preparing literature and maps descriptive of the reserve to place at the disposal of those who may desire permanently or temporarily to locate within the park. It is the purpose of the government to place within the reach of all either location for cottages or sites for camps. Here they may spend all or any part of the year in an environment unsurpassed in beauty and healthfulness.

Free permits may be obtained for temporary camping purposes, and it is required only that necessary precautions be taken in building and extinguishing the campfire, and that the cutting of green timber be avoided and that the grounds be kept in clean and sanitary condition.

Chief Forester Graves has authorized the District Forester to prepare maps and reports upon the Mount Mitchell National Park which will disclose in detail its recreational features and explain to the public the opportunities afforded. The maps will indicate the main routes of travel, those parts of the tract of special interest from a scenic or other recreational viewpoint, and the localities which have special advantages either for temporary camping purposes or for permanent cottage sites.

Mount Mitchell, from which the park takes its name, is one of the grandest upheavals on the Western Hemisphere. Its summit is lifted 6,711 feet into a sky of deepest azure. It is the loftiest peak in Eastern North America.

HOOPS AT CHICAGO STYLE SHOW TODAY

(By the United Press) Chicago, Feb. 7.—From Chicago tonight messages of hoops and more hoops, and short jackets, and tight bodices, will be flashed to New York, London, even to Paris itself.

Beginning tonight, Chicago garment manufacturers, hatter milliners and jewelers will stage for a week, "Nothing to Wear but Clothes," the clothes extravaganza around which Chicago's 1916 spring style show revolves. Pretty girls from the Chicago Grand Opera will wear the feminine togs.

A peep behind the scenes today showed that some of the skirts tending toward hoops and ran down over the ankles after being worn almost up to the knees all w...er.

The erinoline skirt too, was on the job. They were worn in fabrics such as failles, taffetas, sergrains, and even garbardines and serges for the promenade; and in nylon, marquisette tulle, and chiffon combined with filmy laces and the snuggest bodices in materials of different textures and colors.

FIRST SKIRMISH ON PREPAREDNESS WAS ENGAGED IN TODAY

Bill to Increase Number of Midshipmen Provoked the Clash

EMERGENCY MEASURE UP

Fate of Wilson Program Will Soon Be Indicated—Republicans Expected to Approve Bill to Let Congressmen Name 3 Cadets

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 7.—The first open battle of the opponents of preparedness is being staged in the House. There is promised an early indication of the fate of the administration program. An emergency bill to increase the number of Annapolis middies in preparation for the arming of more vessels provoked the first skirmish. The little navy men opposed the bill. The Republicans are expected to approve. Each Congressman would appoint three instead of two midshipmen by the measure.

President May Not Make Another Trip. Washington, Feb. 7.—The President is to urge the House and Senate leaders during the week to aid the constitutional army. He may devote his energies to work for preparedness in Congress rather than make a second trip.

PREPARE CHILDREN FIRST FOR MAKING THE COUNTRY SAFE

Keating's Idea of Preparedness—Resolution Investigate Child Poverty—Production of Feeble-Minded Increased, Says

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 7.—Representative Keating today introduced a resolution to investigate the causes of child poverty. "If we want National Preparedness we must prepare the human material on which the Nation must depend," he said.

The production of feeble-minded children has doubled in the last ten years, he declared.

Keating-Owen Bill to Friendly Committee. Washington, Feb. 7.—Child labor's enemies won a victory today when the Keating-Owen bill was referred to the Senate commerce committee instead of the education and labor committee, which is believed to be unfriendly to prohibitory legislation.

LEADERS AT MOBILE PLAN A GREAT STRIKE

Seven Hundred Thousand Men Would Walk Out If Scheme Should Be Put Through—Railroad Men Confering With Miners' Representatives Over Idea—All Hands Want Wage Increases

(By the United Press)

Mobile, Feb. 7.—A strike of seven hundred thousand union coal miners and railroad employes is planned by agents of the railroad men's Union conferring with the heads of the coal miners here. They want increased wages.

THE ODDEST STORY

IN THE DAYS' NEWS Gaty, Ind. Feb. 7.—Charles Aid became so indignant when a bandit tried to hold him and his friend, Miss Bertha Meyers up, that he chased the robber for an hour. He quit then because he couldn't run any more. Miss Meyers went on home.

NEW YORK EXCITED OVER REPORTS BOMB PLOTS IN THE CITY

Subway and Bridges Being Guarded; Police Were In a Hurry

WOULD WRECK WARSHIP

Cruiser Washington Mentioned as Possible Prey for Infernal Machine—Canadian Bridges and Plants Closely Guarded

(By the United Press)

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Sensational reports of the discovery of new German plots are incirculation. Parliament is prepared to assemble this afternoon to discuss the origin of the capitol fire.

From Bridgeburg today came a report that Canadian guards had fired upon a rowboat approaching the international bridge, on the suspicion that an attempt was being made to dynamite the bridge to Buffalo.

The guards have been greatly increased at all public buildings and factories, and the Welland Canal.

Danger to Warship Going Under Bridges.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Two letters have been received by Secretary Daniels saying it would be easy for a crank to drop bombs on warships passing under the New York bridges. The messages caused extra precautions to be taken. There is considerable excitement in New York. It is said at the Navy Department. Orders have been given Admiral Usher to take action.

Everything Safe So Far. New York, Feb. 7.—The subway is still operating and the armored cruiser Washington is safe at her dock, despite wild rumors of bomb plots, which hurried police to subway entrances and the East river bridges.

ROW IN OHIO OVER CENSORING FAMOUS CIVIL WAR PICTURE

(By the United Press)

Columbus, O., Feb. 7.—Ohio State movie censors, backed by Attorney General Edward C. Turner, today were in Federal court here to defend their stand in barring the exhibition in Ohio of the film play, "The Birth of a Nation."

Producers of the picture, which depicts the South in Civil War and reconstruction days, have sued for a restraining order preventing censors from interfering with the exhibition of the film in Ohio movie theaters.

The picture has been shown in every State in the union except Ohio. Censors first rejected the film two months ago at the suggestion of Governor Frank B. Willis, to whom protests had been made by civil war veterans, patriotic and negro organizations. Movie exhibitors and film company men claim Willis suppressed the film for political purposes.

Producers offered to make forty-four changes in the picture, eliminating "objectionable scenes." Pressure was brought to bear on officials and the film was resubmitted.

Attorney General Turner re-viewed the film with the censors and followed their second rejection of the picture with a vigorous statement attacking it as an "insult to the North" and a "contemptible distortion of history."

BETTER PRICES FOR COTTON THAT'S SOLD

Not more than a dozen bales of cotton had been sold here today by 3 o'clock. The best price was about 11.37 1-2. New York futures quotations were:

Table with 2 columns: Month and Price. March 11.54 11.55, May 12.05 12.04, July 12.17 12.16, October 12.25 12.24, December 12.33 12.32