

AUSTRO-GERMAN DECREE AGAINST ARM'D 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

(By the United Press)

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

(By the United Press)

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.

AYDEN DISPATCH IS SUSPENDED BY OWNERS

(Special to The Free Press)

Ayden, Feb. 12.—The board of directors of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Printing Company has ordered suspension of the Ayden Dispatch for an indefinite period, owing to the resignation of Manager J. C. Griffin and other matters. Mr. Griffin will work in the ministerial field. There is no chance for immediate operation of the paper. Herbert B. Utley, the editor, will enter college to complete his education.

TODAY'S SALES ON THE LOCAL COTTON MARKET

About 20 bales of cotton had been sold by 1 o'clock today, with the best price about 11 1/4c.

There was no futures market in New York, on account of Lincoln's Birthday.

SNOW HILL UP TODATE

(Special to The Free Press)

Snow Hill, Feb. 12.—The Snow Hill, a local weekly, had a late-model Linotype machine first in Greene county.

GOING ON IN OTHER CITIES AND COUNTIES OF EAST CAROLINA

Samuel B. Bledsoe, a well-known man, was run down by an automobile driven by Miss Bessie Hyman at New Bern Friday afternoon. He was knocked to the pavement, and his head struck the hard surface with some force. He was badly bruised, but physicians do not believe his injuries will prove serious.

Robert K. Dunn, who lost two fingers in an accident at the New Bern plant of the John L. Roper Lumber Company, was awarded \$2,000 damages by a jury at that city. Dunn was suing for \$18,000.

It proved to be the barge St. Nicholas, and not the tug Edgar F. Coney, which sunk off Cape Lookout late Tuesday night, said a report today. The tug had the barge in tow. The crew of the barge was saved.

Swansboro's streets are being improved.

Episcopal Bishop T. C. Darst will preach at Beaufort tomorrow.

Carteret county expects to hold a county school commencement in the month of March.

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.

ATTEMPT TO POISON HUNDRED AT BANQUET

(By the United Press)

Chicago, Feb. 12.—A deliberate attempt to poison Archbishop Mundelein, Governor Duns and a hundred other guests at a banquet Thursday night was discovered today. All were ill following the dinner. It was found the arsenic was put into soup by an employe who disappeared.

NEW WAR SECRET'RY 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

(By the United Press)

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.

The best that the paper has had yet was: "Whedbee talks, but he absolutely refuses to talk about the things we want to know."

MORE THAN SCORE OF MINERS MEET DEATH

(By the United Press)

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.

ITALY TO RECEIVE NO MORE PRODUCTS FROM ENEMY NAT'NS

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.

COMPROMISE ON THE INDEPENDENCE BILL

Brought Before House Today—Likely to Be Adopted—Would Postpone the Granting of Liberty to Islands Four to Ten Years—Pledges Ultimate Freedom of Possession

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 12.—Postponement of Philippine independence from four to ten years is a compromise plan before Congress today. The bill is expected to be so amended by the House. The compromise pledges ultimate Philippine independence.

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. Wheat 1 y/w. R. Wheatley, W. O. Noe, J. F. Duncan, A. L. Wilson, George A. Willis, W. A. Mace, A. L. Willis, Carl Gaskill and Stephen Harris.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

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.

DANES TO ENTER FORD TRIBUNAL.

New York, Feb. 12.—Five Danish peace delegates have been elected to the Ford Tribunal, it is announced.

NO TROUBLE BETWEEN SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS.

Rio De Janeiro, Feb. 12.—That diplomatic relations between Argentina and Bolivia are severely strained over the old boundary dispute was today rumored here but denied from both capitals.

AMERICA MUST LEAD WORLD REDEMPTION, SAYS DOCTOR LILLY

Preparedness Duty of the Laymen as Well As of the Nation

NEW THINGS DEMANDED

Great Spiritual Awakening at Hand, Declares Rev. C. J. Thompson to Laymen's Convention In Progress In Greensboro

By D. T. EDWARDS, Free Press Staff Correspondent.

My purpose in life shall include:

- 1. The adoption of Christ's purpose of world evangelization and world welfare.
2. An earnest effort to win men to Christ by personal testimony and appeal.
3. The adoption of a Scriptural standard of giving, as well as system in giving.
4. Daily renewal by Bible study and prayer, including the "family altar."

Greensboro, Feb. 12.—The above is the preparedness program that Dr. Clay Lilly, team leader and manager of the convention, proposes to the Christian men of America—preparedness, not for carnage, but for spiritual world-conquest. Dr. Lilly of Nashville, Tenn., is a comparatively young man, a Presbyterian by church affiliation, and is field secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement of the United States and Canada. As such he has obtained a complete grasp of the situation, and in his tremendous earnestness gives his hearers a clear impression of this fact.

In getting at the facts of the present-day situation in the world he began with conditions existing about the time of our revolution when practically all authority was centered in the European States. Neither the West nor the Orient was at that time taken at all seriously. Even as late as 1839 China was not considered on the missionary atlas.

But when our Civil War came on Europe began to "take notice" of us as a power, and when Japan whipped China so completely and easily, Europe recognized an oriental power, war and the Russo-Japanese wars, then came the Spanish-American War and the Russo-Japanese wars and Europe realized that there were world powers in both the east and the west.

Thus our position has been established in the world. But with position and prominence comes great responsibility. For today Europe is abdicating its once proud position. Through horrible bloodshed and carnage she is committing self-destruction. Who is now going to minister to the needs of the world? Japan and America are left in the ascendancy; but Japan, war-stained herself, and without the Gospel of Christ, is manifestly unfitted for spiritual service. And it is left to America to become the leader of a spiritual reformation of the race.

God is calling us for this task. Are we ready for it? How much of the manhood of the Church is ready for the conflict through hearty support of the "preparedness program?" The World Crisis and Its Challenge.

The same line of thought was powerfully presented by Rev. C. J. Thompson of Raleigh, field secretary for missions for the Southern Baptist convention.

A crisis is at hand, he declared—one that may result in a great blessing, and one liable to result in much damage if unheeded, political orders are changing, new intellectual viewpoints are being taken and social orders are crumbling—and all this today as never before in the history of the world. People are demanding new things and taking a new attitude toward Christianity. A survey of the mission fields discloses a very great spiritual awakening and

GERMANS INTIMATE THAT MERCIER DID NOT ASSERT TRUTH

Belgian Cardinal On One Occasion Compared Germany With the Devil—Political Agitator in the Cloak of the Church

Berlin, Feb. 12.—Cardinal Mercier's veracity is questioned in a semi-official statement, replying to charges made by the Belgian prelate in his famous pastoral letter accusing the Germans of various acts against the people of Belgium.

Mercier is accused of using the cloak of the prelate to operate as a political agitator, and incite resistance to Germany. It is said that on one occasion he compared Germany with the devil.

The point has been reached where missionaries have "broken the ice" and can do intensive work as never before.

The speaker called attention to Sherwood Eddy's account of evangelistic meetings in twelve cities of China, showing how carefully the meetings had been prepared for by the training of a large number of workers and the mobilization of all Christian influences. Then a simultaneous campaign brought most remarkable results.

Dr. Thompson stressed the importance of team work as the modern method of accomplishing great things in the mission fields, as at home. He emphasized the importance of Christianizing China, that vast empire, capable of developing millions of soldiers. He declared that India, too, was alive and a most promising field.

The question now seems to be: "Who can get on the ground first?" Heathen systems are becoming missionary. Especially is this true in regard to Mohammedanism. The Moslem realize that he is losing his grip, and is fighting to retain it. He consistently gives his tenth to propagate his system and the result is that he wins converts.

The non-Christian world is in a state of transition. But it cannot remain there. It must take some positive stand soon. What shall that stand be? The answer lies largely with the Christian men of America who now have an opportunity never before enjoyed.

Dr. Thompson closed by calling special attention to the ripe harvest, the waiting laborers—held back by lack of means—and our rich resources, emphasizing the fact that God has prepared us for the present world-emergency.

Dr. George Green's address on "Healing the Sick in West Africa" was highly entertaining as well as spiritually uplifting! He denied that he was working among cannibals, but declared that the people were primitive though possessing much intelligence. The scene of his labors is an equatorial region and contrary to widespread opinion, men and women wear adequate clothes, though the boys and girls are usually clad only in "amiles and sunshine." The country is being opened up by railroads, automobiles, motorcycles and other modern agencies.

One of his difficulties was, Dr. Green said, to undo the work of the native medicine men, where they had tried and made matters worse. His experiences as related showed the importance of the medical missionary.

When Dr. Sylvester Newlin, pastor of the Friends' church at High Point, came to speak on the "Pastor's Missionary Opportunity," he wanted to know how many pastors he was speaking to, and so he called for a showing of hands. This disclosed the fact that a considerable portion of the audience were pastors.

The speaker then took them into his confidence, and in a very strong message told of their opportunities in regard to missions. He declared that it was the opportunity to give to laymen the conception of the call of God, and appreciation of with marked

CANADA GUARDS THE NIAGARA AGAINST A MOVE FROM AMERICA

Reports That Germans Will Attempt Invasion From This Country

DESTRUCTION PROPERTY

In At Least Two Places—Soldiers With Machine Guns Watch the Border Closely—Dynamite and Fire Damage Plants

(By the United Press.)

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Following reports that Germans in the United States are planning a move against the border, detachments of Canadian soldiers with machine guns were rushed to duty on the edge of the Niagara river. The guards at important places have been doubled.

Last night a terrific explosion by dynamite wrecked a new building at the plant of the Castner Electrolytic Chemical Company, said to be making chlorine gas for the Allies.

Munitions Plant Fired.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—It is believed German agents started a fire damaging the plant of the Canadian Car Foundry Company at Turcot, making munitions.

EAST KINSTON FIRE CO. REGISTERS KICK

Disputes Statement That Downtown Firemen Put First Water on the Blaze in Chestnut Street—All Hands There Promptly, So That There Was Honor for All—Chief Makes a Statement

A short local statement in Friday's Free Press that the Caswell Fire Company had first water on a small blaze in Chestnut street Friday afternoon raised a howl in East Kinston. The East Kinston Company disputed the assertion, which had come from excellent authority, immediately the paper was on the streets. A number of members kept the telephone wires warm for a time with denials that the downtown firemen had been first to get into action. The East Kinston firemen want it understood that they had a hand in putting out that fire.

Chief Tom Moseley today made the following statement:

"Through lack of full information in hand at the time, the report of the small fire on Chestnut street in East Kinston in Friday's paper, did the East Kinston Company an unintentional injustice. The statement that the Caswell Fire Company arrived on the scene first was an error. East Kinston Company arrived first, with the Caswell a close second. Both companies put streams on the fire and did most efficient work. As each company laid its line of hose and played on the fire from different directions, there was a difference of opinion as to which company first put water on the fire. The Chief thinks it was a pretty close draw. Each company performed its part well in extinguishing the fire. This explanation is made to correct the impression given in the paper that the Caswell Company was entitled to all the honors, for not so by any means, as East Kinston was right there with the goods. The badly torn-up and almost impassible condition of our streets at the present moment in preparation for asphalt paving, renders it very difficult for our hose wagons to respond to alarms, and any slight delay at arriving at a fire must not be construed as a reflection on our fire companies.

SIDEWALKS TO BE PAVED IN LA GRANGE, PROBABLY

(Special to The Free Press)

LaGrange, Feb. 12.—The town commissioners are about determined on calling a bond issue for the paving sidewalks in the business and principal residential sections.

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