

BERLIN NOT LIKELY CANCEL THE ARMED MERCHANTMEN ORDER

Americans Taking the Risk
Must Suffer the Consequences, Stated

PUBLIC DEMANDS ACTION

Warning to the Passengers
Against Sailing on Espagne, Due at French
Port Three Days After
New Rule Is Effective

By CARL W. ACKERMAN,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Berlin, Feb. 22.—There is no evidence in Berlin of a desire to withhold submarine warfare because of the American protests. The feeling here is that Americans must suffer the consequences if they embark on armed merchantmen. The public wants the attitude during the Lusitania negotiations has ceased because of the feeling that America is hindering Germany's plans.

Warning to Prospective
Espagne Passengers.

New York, Feb. 22.—Anonymous letters warning them against sailing on the liner Espagne have been received by Americans. The liner sails Thursday, and must pass out through the war zone after March 1, being due at Bordeaux on March 4. Warning was published by Mrs. F. Banker Hillton, who received a copy. The steamship officials are investigating.

Cranks Doing the Warning,
Says Embassy.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Notice is being sent to England by the British embassy warning Englishmen not to take passage from there on the Espagne. The German embassy believes the scare to be the work of cranks.

Lansing-Bernstorff Conferences
to End.

Washington, Feb. 22.—An end to the informal negotiations between Secretary Lansing and Ambassador Von Bernstorff is inevitable, it is believed. This government has dispatched a final formal note to Germany emphasizing the need of unequivocal assurances regarding submarine warfare practically decided on by the United States administration. One thing might intervene—the arrival of definite assurances that the merchantmen decree will not become effective on March 1. The decree must be made to fit the promises made in the Lusitania case.

It is said the administration believes the confidential discussions between Secretary Lansing and Von Bernstorff have outrun their usefulness in view of the bad personal feeling supposed to be existing between the two.

Wilson to Give Public News.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The President and Secretary Lansing conferred today for half an hour on the Lusitania negotiations. Mr. Wilson is planning to give more of the foreign negotiations to the public. His friends have urged him to let the country know how the situation now stands.

GERARD BREAKS BONES SKIING IN GERMANY

By CARL W. ACKERMAN,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Berlin, Feb. 22.—Ambassador Gerard's collarbone was broken and a leg injured while skiing at Munich. He is being rushed to Berlin. He will be taken to a hospital, where an X-ray examination will be made.

SAY JEAN CROES IS HIDING IN MILWAUKEE

(By the United Press)
Milwaukee, Feb. 22.—The police have been notified by Chicago information that Jean Croes, the soup plotter, is hiding in Milwaukee.

FEDERALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Compromise for the Continental Army—Farther Than Garrison Recommended in Providing for Military Reserve Supplies—The First Year's Program Calls for About \$174,000,000

Washington, Feb. 21.—National preparedness legislation took a long step forward in Congress today when the House Military Committee reached a practical agreement on the outline of the army bill it will unanimously present for passage. Chairman Hay was authorized to frame the measure, which is a compromise for the continental army plan advocated by former Secretary of War Garrison and President Wilson.

Complete federalization of the national guard will be substituted for the proposed continentals, and the White House was informed during the day that the committee was a unit in supporting the plan. The measure will grant virtually the entire program mapped out by Secretary Garrison for the regular army and go even farther than he recommended in providing for reserve military supplies. A total peace strength of 575,000 men in the standing army and the guard combined will be provided for, with reserve systems to more than double the force in war. The expense for the whole establishment this year is roughly estimated at \$174,000,000.

MORGENTHAU SAYS HE WON'T SUCCEED GARRISON AT WASH.

(By the United Press)
New York, Feb. 22.—Ambassador Morgenthau arrived today from Constantinople on his vacation. He denied rumors that he will succeed Garrison as Secretary of War. He said he will return to Constantinople by the first of May.

N. Y. SUFFRAGISTS APPEAR BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE TODAY

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 22.—Suffragists and anti-suffragists are scheduled to meet here today on a legislative battle ground. The Legislature has set a public hearing on the pending constitutional amendment, providing for equal suffrage. A similar referendum was defeated by last November's elections. The suffragists anxious to re-submit the question to the 1917 polls favor the present measure. Influenced by last fall's defeat, legislative leaders say they are "pretty busy to bother with suffrage this year." Advocates of the cause, however, have a well organized lobby in operation and refuse to be put off.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS FELT IN FIVE STATES

Atlanta, Feb. 21.—An earth tremor of slight duration but distinct nature that made itself felt throughout Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia and portions of Eastern Tennessee and Alabama was reported early tonight as having been felt at about 5:45 p. m., central time, today. In no case was any damage reported, and while in some instances persons hurriedly left buildings there was nothing in the nature of a panic.

SCHOOLMASTERS WHO ARE NOW GOVERNORS ADDRESS EDUCATORS

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 22.—Addresses by the three former school masters who are now Governors will feature the six-day mid-winter convention of the National Education Association, which began here today. They are Governor Woodbridge N. Ferris of Michigan, Governor Frank B. Willis of Ohio and Governor Martin B. Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania. School superintendents and principals from most cities in the country of more than 5,000 population were here today for the convention. Noted educators will discuss important details of educational work.

DUTCH BELIEVE AND HOPE THE WAR WILL END IN A DEADLOCK

Germany Can Do Them Little Harm, They Think, But Britain May—Netherlands River Might Be Coveted by the Victors

By CHARLES P. STEWART,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, Feb. 22.—Most Hollanders draw. This information is gleaned from recent conversations with Dutch leaders at The Hague and in Rotterdam and from well-informed Hollanders here today.

The Dutch believe Germany has accomplished about all she is going to accomplish in the war. Being in close touch with Germany, they realize the Germans are suffering severely.

Nevertheless the Dutch do not believe that Germany can be crushed. They think she can hold out indefinitely, no matter how terribly she may suffer and how great the damage wrought to her people by continuing the war.

The Hollanders believe both sides will find a deadlock has been reached and will be ready for peace about the end of the present year.

Dutch leaders will be satisfied with this solution. They believe a decided victory for one side or the other would be detrimental to Holland's interests. They believe the victor would insist on complete control of the river Scheldt, sparing off a slice of Dutch territory.

The Dutch sympathize a little more with Germany than with the Allies, perhaps because of English commercial restrictions. But they fear England more than they do Germany. They no longer consider Germany capable of a successful aggressive move against Holland, but they realize the possible effects of a complete British blockade of their coast.

VILLA AT HEAD OF FORCES BESIEGES A CARRANZA POSITION

His 900 Men Outnumber the Government Troops in Guerrero—Said to Have Executed 80 Prisoners—Appeal for Assistance

(By the United Press)
El Paso, Feb. 22.—Villa with 900 men has besieged the city of Guerrero, it is officially reported. The commander of the Carranza garrison has appealed for assistance. It is said the Villistas outnumber the garrison, who are trying to hold the town. Eighty prisoners taken by Villa near Cui are reported to have been executed.

FIVE PERSONS DIE IN BOARDING HOUSE FIRE IN NEW YORK

(By the United Press)
New York, Feb. 22.—Five persons died in a fire that swept through a theatrical boarding house in W. Forty-fourth street today. Four were trapped in the house. The fifth man jumped from a rear window and was killed.

GERMAN SOLDIERS NOW WEAR ANCIENT HEADGEAR

Amsterdam, Feb. 22.—On account of the lack of military equipment, the German soldiers at Suderwick, on the Dutch frontier, now wear headgear dating back to 1813, which was worn by the Prussians who fought against Napoleon. This headgear is not far out of style as compared with the modern helmet. The Germans call them "helmets of victory."

REFUTE STATEMENT BY GREY OF GERMAN POLICY IN BELGIUM

Britisher Said Teutons Had Refused to Allow Raw Materials to Go Into the Conquered Territory—Is Not True, Said

(By the United Press)
Berlin, Feb. 22.—Sir Edward Grey's statement that Germany has refused to aid in the industrial rehabilitation of Belgium was denied today by the semi-official North German Gazette.

GREGORY'S POSITION ON CASE OF WATSON

"Neither Threats Nor Slander Will Affect His Duty"—Will Not Hesitate to Institute Criminal Proceedings Against the Georgian If Federal Statutes Have Been Violated

Washington, Feb. 21.—Attorney General Gregory tonight made public a letter to Charles C. McCrory of Ellaville, Ga., stating the position of the Department of Justice in regard to prosecution of Thomas E. Watson of that State, for alleged sending through the mails of obscene and indecent matter. The letter answers protests of Georgia members of Congress against reported plans of the department to prosecute Mr. Watson outside the State of Georgia on the ground that a fair trial could not be had in that State.

Mr. Gregory makes it plain that he will not hesitate to institute criminal proceedings against Mr. Watson in other jurisdiction if he is convinced that federal statutes have been violated outside of Georgia, or that a fair trial cannot be had there. He says the Department of Justice has data to show that Mr. Watson has violated the section of the criminal code prohibiting the mails to obscene matter, and that neither threats nor slander will affect his duty as a public official in the case.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)
FORD STARTS ANTI-
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM.
New York, Feb. 22.—With full page advertisements in newspapers throughout the country, Ford today opened his anti-preparedness campaign.

SMALL SHIP SUNK.
London, Feb. 22.—The British steamer Dingle, of 580 tons, has been sunk. Several lives were lost. There is probably only one survivor.

COLLEGE RESCUES A MUSICAL GENIUS FROM POOR OLD AGE

(By the United Press)
Oxford, Feb. 22.—Rather than permit financial poverty to stifle the genius of the ageing and world famous composer of symphonies, Edgar Stillman Kelley the Western College for Women here has placed him on the faculty and endowed him with a comfortable home and nothing to do but write music.

The "New England Symphony," the music in "Ben Hur," the modern music in "Macbeth," the symphonies "Gulliver" and "Aladdin" and the opera, "Puritania" all are products of Kelley's pen.

In a little farmhouse two miles east of this city Kelly spent two years writing "New England." With his wife, herself a talented musician, Kelley now lives at the college. He is 58 and such an indefatigable worker that his wife has to watch him carefully to see that he doesn't forget that his dinner is sitting beside him.

HAMMER CLEARED OF RANDOLPH COUNTY ELECTION CHARGES

Letter From Justice Department Says W. Carolina Dist. Attorney Is Guilty of No Misconduct or Lack of Diligence

(Special to The Free Press)
Washington, Feb. 22.—The Justice Department after investigation of charges against W. C. Hammer in connection with the Randolph county election controversy has written Hammer and Marion Butler that "there is no evidence tending to show any personal or official misconduct" upon the part of the District Attorney, or any "failure to perform public duty."

Samuel J. Graham, Assistant Attorney-General, has sent Mr. Hammer the following letter: "The Department has considered your reply to the charges and specifications affecting your personal and official conduct submitted by Messrs. Butler & Vale, attorneys for certain persons, concerning elections held on November 3, 1914, in connection with the said charges and specifications and has reached the conclusion that there is no evidence tending to show any personal or official misconduct upon your part or any failure by you to perform your public duty in not presenting the matter to the Federal Grand Jury.

"There is enclosed a copy of a letter of the Department to Messrs. Butler & Vale for your information. In view of the fact that the information has reached the Department that the matter of these charges being filed against you has been given public attention, permission is granted you to make such use of this letter and the copy of the letter to Messrs. Butler & Vale as you may see fit."

POSTOFFICE TO BE MOVED INTO NEW U. S. BUILD'G TONIGHT

Service at Federal Structure Wednesday Expected to Be Carried On Without Confusion—Preparing for Removal Today

Kinston will begin tomorrow get its mail from the United States postoffice at Queen and North streets. The postoffice force was preparing today to move from the Gordon street quarters tonight. The arrangements have been made for a speedy removal, without undue confusion. Wednesday morning the mail will be put up in the lock boxes in the new structure, and the carriers will set out from there just as if there had been no change. Today being a legal holiday, and the service curtailed accordingly, the force was able to put much in readiness for changing the quarters tonight.

The new structure is one of the handsomest Federal buildings in the State devoted exclusively to postoffice purposes. Its cost completed was around \$100,000. The furnishings are handsome, and the interior roomy and fitted with all modern improvements for expeditious handling of the mails.

W. N. ROYALL DIES AT HOME IN WILMINGTON

Wilmington, Feb. 21.—W. N. Royall, aged 64, until November general manager of the Atlantic Coast Line, died at his home here this morning after being in declining health since August, 1914. He began his career here forty-seven years ago as clerk and steadily rose in the service until his election as general manager.

COUNCIL CONSERVING JUNIOR POPULATION

Frowns On Petitions of Youngsters to Be Allowed to Use Sidewalks for Skating—Some Cleaning Up in Ancient Houses Possible—Weyher to Supervise Electric Wiring in the City

Mayor Sutton told the City Council at a special meeting Monday night that numerous children had petitioned him verbally to use his influence in having the anti-sidewalk skating ordinance modified. The law, the youngsters had told Mr. Sutton, was a very disagreeable one and deprived them of a lot of innocent pleasure.

The Council declined to take any action, preferring to see the youngsters deprived of their innocent pastime to having their dear little necks broken, etc.

Council instructed the Sanitary Inspector to investigate the conditions of the old "College" and Webb buildings, well-known frame structures in the Eastern part of the city, and take remedial steps if any were necessary.

The supervision of electrical installations, it was decided, shall remain a duty of Superintendent Weyher of the Water and Light Department, thus separating the offices of plumbing and wiring inspectors.

Mrs. E. M. Hodges declared that the paving of Heritage street from Washington street to Peyton avenue would prove a great burden on her. She asked that the street not be paved. She has a life interest in the latter part of a block, and paying her proportionate part for the proposed asphalt paving would put her to considerable expense. The Council took no action on the protest.

The Mayor and City Attorney Dawson were selected to act for the city in the Conway damage case, in which Charles Conway, a boy who was burned in a ditch in East Kinston containing scalding water, and his father are understood to be asking \$10,000. A compromise may be accepted. The municipality, however, holds that if the plaintiffs are due damages they should come from the Lenoir Oil & Ice Co., from whose plant the city contends the water came.

MILLIONAIRE TO BE PUT ON TRIAL TODAY FOR WHITE SLAVERY

(By United Press)
Chicago, Feb. 22.—William Rufus Edwards, millionaire lumberman of St. Paul, Minn., was placed on trial in Federal Judge Landis' court here today on a white slave charge. Edwards is accused of transporting his former stenographer, Miss Ada Cox, from St. Paul to Chicago. She is a government witness. The case has been continued a dozen times. Edwards is married and has a brand new baby boy at his home. His wife has stood by him staunchly, and his trial was postponed several times before the child was born.

BUILD MAKE-BELIEVE CAPITOL OF U. S. OUT OF BARS OF SOAP, ETC.

There is being erected in a show window at the Queen street store of T. W. Mewborn & Co. an imitation of the Capitol of the United States in soap. A decorator in the employ of the Royal Gaiety Soap Company is setting up the miniature Capitol, and using, it is said, 50,000 cakes in the construction. The likeness is to be 15 feet in length and tall in proportion.

The display will be "unveiled" this evening at 7:30 o'clock. The unveiling is expected to be witnessed by a large number.

TURKS SOON TO BE BESET BY FOES ON TWO SIDES, STATED

British Reinforcements Are Moving Up Tigris to Relieve Townsend

THE ARMENIAN RETREAT

Ottomans Continue to Fall Back Along Long Line—Anglo-French Squadron Shells Eppesus, Ancient Town in Asia Minor

By William L. Shepherd,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Athens, Feb. 22.—The ancient city of Eppesus, in Asia Minor, is the latest Biblical town to feel the war. The place has been bombarded by three Anglo-French warships, say Constantinople dispatches. Four persons were killed and several were wounded.

Indians March to Relieve Townsend.

London, Feb. 22.—Falling back all along a 200 mile front, the Turks are menaced from a new source by the movement of large bodies of British reinforcements up the Tigris toward Kut-el-Amara. Well trained and finely equipped Indian troops are moving to reinforce General Aylmer, south-east of Kut-el-Amara. As soon as the weather permits they will advance, it is believed, to the aid of General Townsend, besieged at Kut-el-Amara. The Turks are evacuating Armenia between Erzerum and Mush. The Russians are following up their successes in the vicinity of Khilisa, and are now advancing against the villages of Bash, Chifok and Oghnat.

Zepplin Destroyed.
London, Feb. 22.—Paris announcement of the destruction of a zepplin and Rotterdam reports of heavy loss inflicted upon the Germans in Flanders by the British were received here today with enthusiasm.

Turks Burn Town Occupied by Greeks.

Athens, Feb. 22.—The Turkish authorities have fired the town of Vourla, on the Gulf of Smyrna, largely inhabited by Greeks. The dispatches say the town was completely destroyed. The Greeks were warned in advance and were taken off by Greek ships.

Germany Take 300 Prisoners.

Berlin, Feb. 22.—The Germans have captured 800 yards of French trenches and over 300 prisoners east of Souchez, it is said officially.

Big Gains by Germans Admitted.
Paris, Feb. 22.—Seven German battalions in a violent attack on the French front in the Bois-Givenchy region carried over half a mile of first line and many second line trenches, it is officially admitted. They occupied the first line positions on a front of over 800 yards. They were repulsed from the second line in a counter attack. The German losses were heavy.

BERG OPPOSES EVERY MOVE OF SAUNDERS

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 21.—U. S. Marshal John G. Saunders of the Eastern District of Virginia, has gone to Newport News from Richmond, and taken personal charge of the situation growing out of the Federal Court libel proceedings instituted against the steamship Appam by the owners of the vessel, which on February 1, was brought into Hampton Roads by a German naval privateer. Marshal Saunders arrived yesterday and found Lieutenant Berg, commander of the Appam, in opposition to practically his every move, and asked the assistance of Collector of the Port Hamilton, the only official Lieutenant Berg recognizes as having authority over the Appam.

Democratic State Chairman Warren has returned to New York from Washington, where he attended the national convention of the Democratic Party.

COTTON MARKET.
The best price for cotton on the local market today was 10-3-4 cents, with very little sold. There was no New York futures market, on account of Washington's birthday.