

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

(By the United Press.)

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
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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 Schmarzenstein 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.

HUGHEY JENNINGS IS CONFIDENT OF TAKING THIS YEAR'S PENNANT

Detroit, Mich., March 1.—Manager Jennings of the Tigers expects to win the 1916 American league pennant. He is going to stand pat on his 1915 lineup, which grabbed an even hundred victories for him, but succeeded in finishing only second best. This lineup, he believes, will be stronger than it was a year ago.

The team that wins 90 games this year, Jennings says, will win the pennant. On the eve of his team's departure for Waxahatchie, Texas, the new training headquarters, Jennings let the Detroit in on some of his plans for the year. Most important of his announcements was the statement that he would again rely on his veterans.

Local baseball critics believe that the Tiger attack will be stronger this year than last, when it was one of the finest in baseball. Old Sam Crawford has only an average of .299 to beat, and he has had a great winter.

THREE YEARS FOR AIDING IN RUIN OF YOUNG GIRL

Asheville, Feb. 29.—C. C. Koon, the young married man from the Fairview section, who was found guilty of contributing to the delinquency

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.

THE DAY ON THE LOCAL COTTON EXCHANGE

Sales on the local cotton market today were scant. Only 5 bales had been sold by 1 o'clock. The high price was 11 cents.

New York futures quotations were:

	Open	Close
March ..	11.28	11.25
May ..	11.48	11.43
July ..	11.66	11.63
October ..	11.82	11.82
December ..	11.93	11.97

of Amy Holsclaw, a girl under fourteen years of age, was sentenced this afternoon to serve three years on the county roads.

FORD TRIBUNAL AT STOCKHOLM DECIDES CALL PEACE POW-WOW

(By the United Press)
Copenhagen, March 1.—The permanent peace tribunal has voted to call a neutral conference to end the war, say Stockholm dispatches. The tribunal is requesting that the neutrals co-operate and that the belligerent governments permit the sending of delegates. The claim is made that the plan has the active aid of the Swedish government.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

PROVENCE WAS SUBMARINED.

Paris, March 1.—A German submarine sank the Provence, the Marine ministry today admitted: Six hundred and ninety-six of the eighteen hundred persons aboard are known to have been saved, and others are believed to have been picked up by a fishing boat.

SWEDISH SHIP TORPEDOED.

Stockholm, March 1.—The Swedish steamer Torborg, of 1,200 tons, has been sunk by an Austrian submarine in the Mediterranean. The crew took to boats, were rescued and landed at Leghorn, Italy.

ALL CREW OF SUBMARINED VESSEL LOST.

London, March 1.—The British steamer Thornaby, of 1,800 tons, has been sunk, say Lloyds dispatches. It is reported that all of the crew were killed or drowned.

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. R. Turnage, President; W. W. Ormond and J. J. Edwards, first and second Vice-presidents, and D. R. Hollowell, Cashier. The safe, vault and fixtures of the new bank are the most modern procurable.

WATCH MILK ORDINANCE IN EFFECT IN INDIANA

(By the United Press)
Gary, Ind., March 1.—This city today took the lead in a crusade for the sale of pure milk when it started to enforce an ordinance which authorizes only the sale of pasteurized milk. It is a step that the State of Indiana itself was not able to take through its legislators and the outcome here is being watched throughout this and other States. The ordinance will force every dairyman in the city to provide a pasteurizing process.

THE DAY IN CIVIL SUPERIOR COURT

A jury in Superior Court today at 1 o'clock had the case of Warters vs. Page, from LaGrange, in which the plaintiff is suing U. S. Page, a policeman, for \$5,000 for alleged false arrest. The case was started Tuesday afternoon.

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?

(By the United Press)
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.

SIEGEL WALKS OUT OF JAIL, ARRESTED AGAIN IMMEDIATELY

More Charges Against Him Gives Bail—Will Devote to Making Good Losses of Patrons of His Bank, He Declares

(By the United Press)
Rochester, N. Y., March 1.—Henry Siegel, the failed merchant and banker, was rearrested today when he left the Monroe county penitentiary at the end of a term of ten months. He will be arraigned on charges resulting from the collapse of his huge interests before Justice Benton. There are twelve indictments remaining. Siegel claims he was promised the charges would not be pressed. He says he will make his life work the repaying of those who lost through the failure of his bank. He was released on bond of \$25,000.

ZEPPELIN DESTROYED IN AIR BY FLAMES

(By the United Press)
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.

SEEMS ALMOST AS IF PRESIDENT WILSON WERE SPEAKING BY DIRECT MANDATE FR' M THE PEOPLE OF NATION, SAYS ED. L. KEEN

By ED. L. KEEN, General European Manager of the United Press)
Washington, D. C., March 1.—"Of course, we should uphold our national honor, if possible—but we must at any cost keep out of this war." According to the average Britisher this was the average American's attitude, when I left England a month ago for a brief first visit home since the war started. In other words John Bull was satisfied that Uncle Sam was far more worried about keeping out of the war than he was over questions of national honor, or the rights of human, or the rights of humanity, or the preservation of international justice.

INDICATIONS THAT FRENCH ARE HOLD'G OWN AROUND VERDUN

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

(By the United Press)
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.

DAVID EVANS' BODY SECRETED IN SWAMP BY LYNCHERS, SAYS

Beaufort County Official Satisfied "Small, Select Party" Took Negro

VICTIM OF FIRING SQUAD Slayer of Joseph McLawhorn Stood Against Tree and Shot to Death—Suspect Taken In Pamlico County Was Wrong Man

(By the Eastern Press)
Washington, N. C., Mar. 1.—David Evans, who killed Superintendent Jos. McLawhorn of the Pitt county roads force several weeks ago, will never be seen alive again, in the belief of a local official high up, whose name is withheld. That Evans was captured on the day following McLawhorn's death, stood up against a tree and shot to death, this official is willing to "bet anything."

Several points lead up to the supposition: Thirty or forty shots fired at one volley in the swamps not a great distance from here, the statement by a negro who escaped at the same time as Evans that he revealed the slayer's hiding place upon threat of instant death to a small select party, and "other information." The body of the crazy black may be "probably is"—lying covered with mud in the great swamp near Chocowinity.

There was a report yesterday that Evans had been taken in Bayboro. Will Windley, the local sheriff, returned today from Bayboro, declaring that the man apprehended was not Evans and that he had been released from custody.

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.

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.

THE N. Y. DEMOCRATS ENDORSE THE PRESIDENT

(By the United Press)
Syracuse, N. Y., March 1.—The New York Democratic State Convention has endorsed the President's re-nomination.

NO RESULT YET OF ARMED SHIP ORDER GOING INTO EFFECT

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.

BRANDEIS' PARTNER TAKES UP DEFENSE BEFORE COMMITTEE

Washington, Feb. 29.—An explanation of the various charges against Louis D. Brandeis, now being investigated by a Senate committee considering his nomination for the Supreme Court, was begun today by Edward F. McClennen, of Boston, a member of Mr. Brandeis' law firm. He spoke from his own knowledge of the incidents at issue, from papers connected with the matters and from the office diary of the firm. He will continue his testimony tomorrow. Mr. McClennen took the stand with the testimony of those opposing confirmation of the Brandeis' nomination practically all in.

RAILROAD WORKERS DEMANDS READY FOR PRESENTATION TODAY

(By the United Press)
Chicago, March 1.—One of the most important meetings affecting capital and labor ever held on the American continent opened here today. The executive committee of the four railroad brotherhoods assembled to verify the referendum vote of 350,000 employes on an eight hour day at ten hours pay and time and a half for overtime. The official result of the vote, which is understood to be overwhelmingly in favor of the demands, will not be announced for several days. If railway officials are adamant, a strike tying up the transportation system of the entire country, is probable, it is said. More than 20 billions of capital, 600,000 stockholders, 458 railroads with 250,000 miles of track, and 3,000,000 employes are directly involved.

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.

HARVARD STUDENTS BUY GOODS FROM THEMSELVES. Boston, March 1.—The Harvard Co-Operative Students' Society's report shows that its sales in 1915 amounted to \$230,000, an increase of \$15,000 over the 1914 business.