

## UNRESTRICTED WARFARE OPENS UP SERIOUS SITUATION GERMANY WOULD STARVE HER ENEMY INTO SUBMISSION

### WASHINGTON IS STIRRED OVER THE GRAVE TURN IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**President Wilson and Secretary Lansing in Conference and all Washington is Stirred Over the Possibility of War—No Announcement Will be Made of the Administration's Plans Until Certain Affairs are Attended to, Especially Naval Matters—Market Broke Wide Open—Grave Crisis is at Hand No Doubt**

**BREAK SEEMS INEVITABLE.**

WASHINGTON, FEB. 1.—After the conference at the White House today between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing the opinion became generally prevalent in official quarters that a break in diplomatic relations with Germany seemed inevitable, although it was thought probable that an ultimatum or warning to the Berlin government might proceed this act.

The pie was taken widely in official quarters that the United States could not let the situation stand unchallenged.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 1.—After a conference between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing it became known today that the German situation is viewed with extreme gravity and American government has already begun to formulate the steps to be taken. It is regarded as likely that some steps have already been taken, but of what nature is not known.

It is known, also, that no information of such steps will be made known until the navy department has taken drastic steps for the safeguarding of American ports and other interests of the nation have been safeguarded.

It was stated that President Wilson and Secretary Lansing held a conference last night, but this was denied. Before any publicity will be given to the government's movements it is known that certain precautionary steps must be taken.

Senator Hitchcock, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was at the White House this morning early, but he stated that he did not discuss the German submarine problem.

**LANSING GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE.**

WASHINGTON, FEB. 1.—Just before noon Secretary Lansing, after working all morning alone in his office, went to the White House for a conference with President Wilson.

Secretary Lansing would not discuss the situation at all and refused to answer questions as to whether any action had been taken.

**FLATLY REFUSED TO MAKE STATEMENT.**

WASHINGTON, FEB. 1.—After conferring with President Wilson for an hour Secretary Lansing flatly refused to make any statement or indicate what action had been decided upon.

**NEAR POSSIBILITIES OF WAR.**

WASHINGTON, FEB. 1.—Face to face with a situation frankly admitted on all sides as containing near possibilities of war President Wilson will determine what answer the United States shall make to the German campaign of submarine ruthlessness.

Passports for Count von Bernstorff, orders of recall for Ambassador Gerard at Berlin, solemn warnings to Berlin that a breach of his pledges means severance of diplomatic relations, or tense waiting for an overt act which would sweep aside diplomacy and bring the American government to the point of action are among the contingencies which fill the situation today.

President Wilson this morning conferred with Col. E. M. House, his friend and advisor, who was hurriedly summoned from New York. Early this morning he had not called any cabinet meeting nor any conference with the Foreign Relations Committee of Congress, which has been assured of being taken into the President's confidence before diplomatic relations are broken off.

**AMERICAN LINE SHIP TO SAIL.**

NEW YORK, FEB. 1.—The American Line steamship St. Louis will sail Saturday as scheduled and no effort will be made to paint the ship in conformity with the regulations prescribed by the German government as a guarantee of safety to vessels flying the American flag, according to announcement today by the International Mercantile Marine.

**SENATE MUST AID PRESIDENT.**

WASHINGTON, FEB. 1.—Prefacing a prepared address on world peace today Senator McCumber, Republican, of North Dakota, referring to the German submarine blockade declared that while it was inopportune for the Senate to invade the field of diplomacy it was more than ever desirable for it to aid the President in securing world peace.

**Course of Action Decided On.**

Washington, Feb. 1.—President Wilson and Secretary Lansing discussed the submarine situation for an hour today after Mr. Lansing had worked all morning on a document he took to the White House. After the conference Secretary Lansing refused pathetically to say what had been decided on.

Warning to Germany that severance of diplomatic relations would follow the putting into effect of such campaign of ruthlessness as she announced or an actual severance on

Germany's announcement as it stands are among the possibilities.

There is no official ground, however, for stating that either course has been selected, although one is generally expected.

It is admitted that a course of action has been decided on but it is said certain steps must be taken before this is announced.

Ship Movements Affected.  
New York, Feb. 1.—Although representatives here or leading allied ship lines said today the movement of their vessels would proceed as schedul-

### DRASTIC LAW ON PISTOL CARRYING

State Senate Goes After the Hip Pocket Weapon Toter and Prescribes Heavy Fines.

### FIVE EDUCATIONAL BILLS RECEIVING ATTENTION

House Passes a Statewide Boiler Inspection Law and Inspector Will Get \$1,800 Year.

(Special to the Post.)

Raleigh, Feb. 1.—The Senate this morning passed a drastic law aimed at carrying of pistols in North Carolina and providing for a minimum fine for the first offense of \$51 or 31 days imprisonment.

Five educational bills designed to make uniform appointment of school boards; through a central committee; the election of county boards in all counties by the people; the election of county boards and county superintendents in all counties; nomination of all county boards in Democratic primaries, and one measure solely for Person county went on the unfavorable calendar. These bills were heard in joint committee Tuesday.

In view of the report today it is expected that there will be no material change in the educational policy.

The House today passed a Statewide boiler inspection law with a fee of \$5 attached to it, the salary of \$1,800 for an inspector being paid by boiler owners.

ed, regardless of the German note defining her new naval warfare, it is understood on good authority that the movement of all vessels will be controlled to even a greater degree than heretofore by orders of the British admiralty. Some will be taken, however, by representatives of neutral lines whose vessels have been touching at Kirkwall and Falmouth for examination.

The Danish passenger steamer Hellig Olav, booked to leave today for Copenhagen, was ordered to remain here until further notice.

Prompt action was taken by the Holland-American line, which has five ships in American ports. Representatives of these lines expect definite orders soon regarding future movements of their ships.

Some representatives of several ship companies, it was learned, are doing nothing, pending receipt of orders.

**Profound Sensation in England.**

London, Feb. 1.—Germany's declaration of unrestricted war at sea has created a profound sensation in England, where it was unexpected. All interest centers on the policy neutrals will adopt. The decision of the United States is awaited with most intense interest as it is recognized that it will have a strong influence on other neutrals and be the most potent factor in the solution of one of the most serious crises of the war.

Officials decline to discuss the question formally. It is pointed out that neutrals it is essentially for them to deal with.

At a later time the application of measures with which the note deals may involve questions affecting the entente nations as well as neutrals, but for the present there is a desire to avoid expression which may operate regarding the decision neutrals will make.

There is reason to believe those in inner circles were aware of what was coming and considered measures to be taken. The recent naval conference held here is understood to have gone over the subject. Information available then was that Germany would use the rejection by the allies of her peace proposals in justification of intensified naval warfare.

**Wild Sensation in France.**

Paris, Feb. 1.—Notification that Germany and Austria would torpedo neutral merchant ships without notice, beginning at 6 o'clock this evening, reached Paris too late for publication in the morning papers, but caused a wild sensation.

### A GERMAN SHIP DELIBERATELY SUNK

German Freighter at Charleston Sunk in What Appears to be a Deliberate Scheme to Prevent Her Being Further Used—Captain Refused Aid.

(By Associated Press.)

Charleston, Feb. 1st.—The German freighter Liebensels, tied up since the outbreak of the war began to sink slowly this morning with the indication that she had been scuttled. After going down until bow keel was almost visible the settling down process seemed to be arrested. Whether she sinks or not she is so badly damaged that she will not be fit for service until after long and expensive repairs are made.

When observed to be sinking a tug pulled up along side of the Liebensels and offered aid, but this was refused by an officer who did not give any reason for the refusal.

### GERMANY DECLARES UNRESTRICTED WAR

Washington, Jan. 31.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare.

A statement, broadcast of England, the like of which the world never has seen, was announced today in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin, and to the State Department here by Count Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-feared campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by von Hindenburg, it was said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by von Tirpitz.

Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a word afire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statements are being recalled in the Capital tonight with feelings of apprehension and misgivings.

Germany's action is the super-crisis of all those that have stirred the American Government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace in Europe and means of preserving the peace of the world have gone glimmering.

President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German Ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document.

**What Will President Do?**

President Wilson has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations to develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month. Admittedly the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operation of an unguarded number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees with 60 days. One German official here today predicted the war would be over in a month.

Conveyed to the world as the answer to the refusal of the Entente Allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:

"From February 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy, and in the eastern Mediterranean—all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed."

### \* LEAK INVESTIGATION WILL COME TO END.

New York, Feb. 1. Members of the "leak" investigation committee before reconvening today said that on account of the gravity of the international situation they would probably close the hearing today and immediately return to Washington.

### A YOUNG SWINDLER COMES TO GRIEF

Man Giving Name of J. K. Brennan Sent to Roads Four Months for False Pretense.

### SOLICITED ORDERS FOR MUSIC AND MAGAZINES

Arrested at Lexington on Similar Charge and is Said to Be Wanted in Other Towns.

J. K. Brennan, at least that being the name he gives and whose cards indicate such, was given a hearing in the county court this morning on a charge of obtaining money under false pretense. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four months on the county roads.

Brennan's case was an interesting one on account of the part he played and use operated in securing money from people, especially ladies. He is a young man of well appearing, dressed, wearing rimless eye glasses and is somewhat of a sport. He operated in Salisbury last week, taking orders for sheet music and magazines, representing himself as being doing business for the Theodore Presser Company, a well known music house of Philadelphia, and handed out cards indicating such. He also had order blanks purporting to be from this house. He was offering great inducements, giving a certain magazine a year and a half with premiums for \$1.50. He called at homes and generally secured these orders from women. One woman, Mrs. A. G. Blacklock, after giving him an order and paying the money, taking his receipt, wrote to the house and received a telegram in which it was stated that no such man represented the firm. Then warrants were issued for his arrest and he was located in Lexington, Policeman Mingo going to that town yesterday after him. The officer found on arrival that he was under indictment on a similar charge there and he was given a hearing and given opportunity to reimburse the people from whom he had secured money and to pay a fine. Being unable to do this he was turned over to the Salisbury officer with the understanding that as soon as Rowan was done with him he would be returned to Lexington where his case would be disposed of. He was then brought to Salisbury.

In Lexington he also faced a charge of larceny of a quantity of music from a hotel guest and this property, the officer states, was found in his grip.

It is said Brennan cut quite a figure in Lexington and was the center of attraction at a dance in that town one night during his brief stay there. It is claimed he fleeced quite a number of Salisbury women, several of whom were in court this morning to testify against him. It is also said he is wanted in Concord, Albemarle, Charlotte, Greensboro, Mt. Airy and probably other places on similar charges. These towns will probably be after him as soon as Rowan and Davidson are ready to part with his services. Brennan was here Sunday and was sporting about the streets and appeared to be quite a ladies man. He made no effort to put up a defense in court and when asked why he secured money through the means he had he said he would rather not make that public. It developed at the trial that he had had a supply of cards and stationery printed in Lexington and was evidently prepared to continue his illegal business. He claimed Brooklyn, N. Y., as his home.

It will take more than hanging up a red light to make life safe around downtown corners where humanity surges in street traffic. Pittsburgh Dispatch.

It is now admitted that a "well-trained and harnessed money devil" can be made useful to his owner if right handled.—Los Angeles Times.

### \* LEAK INVESTIGATION WILL COME TO END.



### BANKER SAYS LAWSON SHOULD "BE PUT BEHIND THE BARS."

Pliny Fisk, a member of the big banking firm of Harvey Fisk & Sons, told the "leak" committee, "I believe he (Thomas W. Lawson) should be taken at his word and put behind the bars on a basis of perjury." Lawson had told the committee Archibald White, another banker of New York, had said Fisk boasted he could control Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, and to prove it had a phone from New York and have the secretary go there.

British Admiralty Announces that it is Ready to Meet the New Submarine Blockade Which the German Government Has Declared in Existence.

New York, Jan. 31.—Great Britain and her Allies are prepared to meet Germany's moves in her submarine campaign, it was authoritatively asserted in shipping circles here tonight.

### ENTENTE READY TO MEET GERMAN

The ports of Liverpool and Bordeaux will be kept open at all hazards, British steamship representatives asserted, even if it becomes necessary to convoy every merchant ship which crosses the Atlantic. The first step to be taken by the British Admiralty, which virtually controls the merchant fleets of the Allies, will be to arm every ship with guns fore and aft for defensive purposes, it was predicted.

To meet the emergency, the British Government has been assembling for months, it was said, a large fleet of small, fast cruisers to be used as "submarine chasers." This type of war craft has proven very effective against undersea boat, well informed shipping men declared.

Agents of British lines declared the Admiralty now has a fleet of 4,000 vessels available to keep the sea lanes clear of raiders and submarines and to act as convoys.

The Admiralty has so arranged sailings and bookings, it was explained that they can be changed without delay to meet whatever circumstances may arise. The assertion was made that there will be no interruption in the sailings from American ports of ships flying the flags of the Entente Allies.

It was considered probable, however, that vessels flying neutral colors will be kept in port until instructions are received from their Governments. This is certain to be true in the case of Dutch steamships.

A marked advance in marine insurance rates tomorrow was considered tonight to be inevitable. One way rates today for American vessels were seven per cent, while there was a ten per cent war risk rate on ships clearing for Mediterranean ports.

"Take whatever comes, whether of joy or sorrow," says the Toledo Blade. "What else can you take anyway, these high cost days?"—Cincinnati Tribune.

The new half dollars are announced to be ready for distribution, but they will not be any easier to procure than the old ones.—Evening Wisconsin.

### COTTON AND STOCKS GO GALLOPING

Strongest Break Ever Recorded in Stocks and Cotton Broke for More Than Three Hundred Points—Wheat Declined and War Shares Made a Rapid Glide Downward.

(By Associated Press.)

New York, Feb. 1.—Cotton broke wide open on the call today in the future market under an extreme wave of selling and March dropped 373 points, this drop amounting to more than \$25.00 a bale and the market was demoralized.

May contracts broke on 12.50 within ten minutes 516 points under the last night's close, making the biggest break in the history of the market. Reports from the exchange increased the whirl of excitement and after liquidation had somewhat subsided May rallied to 14 cents on covering.

Before the end of the first half hour May rallied to 17 cents or close to last night's close. The sensational break brought fresh buying, but the shock of the first break was still in evidence as time wore away.

Opening prices were demoralized and as follows:

March	15.75 to 16.00
May	14.00 to 12.50
July	13.80 to 14.50
October	14.50 to 15.70
December	15.65 to 16.05

### Stocks Broke With Intense Violence.

New York, Feb. 1.—Stocks broke with extreme violence today on early dealings, owing to the German policy announced last night. Declines in stocks ranged from 5 to more than 20 points, U. S. Steel making 13 points recessions to 99, with 26 for Bethlehem steel on single sales.

Shipping shares were weak, Maine preferred losing 18 points with 13 for Atlantic Gulf. All the so called war specialties crumbled 7 to 10 points and coppers yielded and rails lost 3 to 5 points. Supporting orders brought about rallies after the first selling movement.

### Wheat Decline Too.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—The wheat market opened at a decline of some 11 1/2 to 12 5/8 cents. May sold at \$1.60 according to the first figures and July at \$1.38.

### Excitement in Cotton Market.

New York, Feb. 1.—The German blockade announcement came as an absolute surprise to the cotton trade and was followed by a sensational break. May worked off to 12.50 or 516 points under last night's close, then rallied to 17 and then broke a cent a pound before the end of the first half hour. The other options fluked 124 or 403 points, subsequently rallied and fluctuated widely including May contracts. There was much confusion and citement.

### Extreme Break in Wheat.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—An extreme break of 15 1/4 cents in value took place during the first minutes of wheat trading today. Rallied of 6 cents from the lowest level were made in five minutes and although wild fluctuations interferred 3 cents more of a recovery was shown. A fresh decline, however, then ensued. The opening ranged all the way from 8 3/4 to 15 1/4 down as compared with yesterday's high. May started with 1 5/8 and July at 1.36 and 40.