

# The Roxboro Courier.

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## GERMANY ANNOUNCES STARVATION BLOCKADE TO ENGLAND

### RESTRICTED AREAS OUTLINED IN DETAIL

Precautions to be Taken to Protect Ships of Non-Combatants Which Sailed for ones Prior to February 1.—Those in Forbidden Waters Must Sail by February 5.

Berlin, Jan. 31.—(Via Sayville)—In an official note to the United States Government handed to American Ambassador Gerard the German government declared for unrestricted naval warfare after February 1.

Precautions will be taken to protect neutral ships which sailed for those zones prior to February 1, but neutrals are urgently advised to warn their vessels on the way to ports in the barred zones and direct them away from those areas. Neutral ships in ports within the barred zones will be given until February 5 to sail and must take the shortest route out of the restricted areas.

Similar notes were handed by the foreign office to the diplomatic representatives of all neutral nations.

#### Barred Zones Defined.

A memorandum accompanying the note to Ambassador Gerard, defines the barred zones. It says:

"From February 1, 1917 within barred zones, Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean, as outlined in the following, all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed. Such barred zones are:

"In the North Sea, the district around England and France, which is limited by a line twenty nautical miles; the district along the Dutch coast as far as the Terschelling Lightship, the degree of longitude of the Terschelling Lightship to Udir; a line from there across the point, 62 degrees north latitude at five longitude, westward along 62 degrees to a point three nautical miles south of the south point of Farøe (Farøe Island?); from there across the point 62 degrees north—degrees west to 61 degrees north, 15 degrees west; then 57 degrees north, 20 degrees west to 47 degrees north, 20 degrees west; farther, to 43 degrees north, 15 degrees west; then on degree latitude 43 degrees north, to the point 20 nautical miles from Cape Finisterre and 20 nautical distance along the Spanish north coast as far as the French frontier.

"Concerning the south, in the Mediterranean: For neutral shipping there remains open the sea district west of a line from Pt de Les Papuet to 38 degrees, 20 minutes north, and six degrees east, as well as north and west of a zone 60 sea miles broad along the north African coast, beginning on (1) degrees west longitude.

"In order to connect this sea district with Greece, the zone leads 20 sea miles in width north or east, following this line; 38 degrees north and six degrees east, 38 degrees north and 11 degrees, 30 minutes east to 34 degrees north and 11 degrees, 30 minutes east to 34 degrees north and 22 degrees, 30 minutes east. From there is leads to a zone twenty sea miles broad west of 22 degrees, 30 minutes east longitude into Greek territorial waters.

#### Traffic Rules for Americans.

"Traffic of regular American passenger steamers can go on unmolested if:

"A—Falmouth is taken as the port of destination and if,

"B—On the going and returning journey the Scilly Islands, as well as the point fifty degrees north, 20 degrees west, be steered on. Along this route no German mines will be laid;

"C—If steamers on this journey bear the following special signals which only they will be permitted to display in American ports; a coating of paint on the ship's hull and the superstructure in vertical stripes metres broad, alternating white and red; on every mast a large flag of checkered white and red, on the stern the American national flag; during darkness the national flag and the coat of paint to be as easily recognizable as possible from a distance; and the ships must be completely and brightly illuminated.

"D—If only one steamer runs each week in each direction arriving at Falmouth on Sundays, leaving Falmouth on Wednesdays.

"E—If guarantees and assurances are given by the American government that these steamers carry no contraband (according to the German list of contraband.)

"Two copies of maps on which the barred zones are outlined are added."

## SUPERIOR COURT IN SESSION

Judge J. H. Kerr of Warrenton Presiding—State vs. Mitchell to be Tried This Afternoon.

The February term of Person County Superior Court convened Monday morning with Judge J. H. Kerr, of Warrenton, presiding. This is Judge Kerr's first charge to a North Carolina person county, and he has already made a very favorable impression. The Judge's charge to the grand jury was short and was an able exposition of the criminal law. This was Judge Keer's first charge to a North Carolina grand jury. He transacts business with dispatch and no time is lost. Judge Kerr is a native of Caswell county and is also a brother of Editor Kerr of Caswell County Democrat.

Much favorable comment was heard from the bar as well as the general public of the wonderful improvement of the interior of the court room. It has been thoroughly remodeled and new carpets adorn the floor and a fresh, clean coat of paint adorn the walls.

There is a rather large docket of criminal cases to be tried at this term of court, and will not be completed in all probability until Thursday night.

The most important case on the criminal docket is State vs. Mitchell, who is charged with the murder of Percy Dickens, colored. The defendant is represented by attorneys F. O. Carver and L. M. Carlton. This case will probably come up for trial late this afternoon.

It will be remembered that during Fair week of last year Percy Dickens and Mitchell had a difficulty during which time Mitchell is said to have struck Dickens across the head with a weapon of some description, fracturing the skull, from which wound the State will probably contend that Dickens eventually died. Altho his death did not occur until some thirty days afterwards, and it is known that in the meantime he was up and around town apparently in good shape.

The civil docket will probably be taken up Friday morning. Probably the most interesting case on this docket will be Dunn vs. Wilson, damage suit. This case was tried at the last term of court and the jury failed to reach a verdict. Another of public interest will be Solomon vs. Adcock, an action for seduction.

A complete report of the cases tried will be published in next week's issue.

### GOOD ROADS MEETING.

Meeting Tomorrow Night, and Every Township Asked to Send Delegates.

On last Friday night, notwithstanding the very severe weather, there was an enthusiastic meeting of the friends of good roads in the Crowell Auto Company's garage. Plans were discussed and certain committees appointed to report at a meeting to be held at the same place on tomorrow (Thursday night), at 7:30 o'clock.

If you are interested in the subject of roads you are cordially invited to attend this meeting, in fact you are invited to come regardless of what your views are on the bond question, for we believe if you would attend and are opposed to the measure after hearing the matter discussed that you would no longer oppose the bill, but would go to the polls and vote for good roads.

Let every township in the county see that a representative is present, for it is hoped to map out a campaign which will result in the adoption of the issue by an overwhelming majority.

#### Zero Weather.

For the past several days the thermometer has hung around zero every morning, in fact it was reported by some that it went as low as four below. We can not vouch for it getting so low as that, but we do know that at 7:30 Monday morning it stood at zero. On Sunday night at 8:30 it began to snow and for about forty-five minutes the people here were treated to a real snow storm. Never have we seen it snow so fast and furious, the wind blowing a regular gale. Here and at some places in the country houses were unroofed and numerous trees blown down.

VALENTINES.—A large assortment at popular prices at Hambrick & Austin's Drug Store.

## DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMANY SEVERED

Count J. H. Von Bernstorff Given His Passports—President Announces Act to Congress And The World—Gerard is Ordered Home—To Check Conspiracies.

Washington, February 3.—President Wilson has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and warned the kaiser that ruthless sacrifice of American lives and rights means war.

Similar action is waiting for Austria when she notifies this government that she joins in the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare.

The president made formal announcement of his action to the country and to the world today at a joint session of Congress. Passports have been handed to Count von Bernstorff; Ambassador Gerard with all his staff and all American consuls have been ordered out of Germany. All German consuls in the United States are expected to withdraw, which will complete the severance relations; American diplomatic interests in Berlin have been turned over to Spain; German diplomatic interests in the United States have been taken over by Switzerland. Foreign diplomatic interests which the United States had in charge in Germany have been turned over to various neutrals.

Two years of diplomatic negotiations, marked with frequent crises, and attended with the loss of more than 200 American lives on the high seas, have culminated with an act which in all the history of the world always has led to war. Every agency of the American government has been set in motion to protect the country against acts of German sympathizers. These moves are of necessity being kept secret.

With the notice of severance of relations the United States sent to Berlin a demand for the immediate release of 64 Americans taken from ships captured by German raiders in the south Atlantic.

At the request of the President, Congress immediately after hearing his address began work on new laws framed by the department of justice to check conspiracies and plots against the United States which cannot now be reached under existing statutes.

The question of conveying American merchant ships through the submarine blockade has been taken up and is being considered as one of the next moves by this government.

Neutral governments have been notified of the action of the United States, and have openly been invited to follow its action if the new submarine campaign violates their rights.

The breaking of relations came with a crash, despite the fact that it had been discounted, and practically determined upon last night. The President, returning from his night conference with the senators, determined that a break in relations was the only act "consistent with the dignity and honor of the United States." He worked most of the night preparing his address to Congress.

At 10:30 a. m., it became known that Ambassador Gerard had been ordered home and that passports had been sent to Count von Bernstorff. Although there was no official confirmation of the President's decision until he formally announced it himself before Congress, the knowledge spread rapidly.

Count von Bernstorff heard it unofficially while talking with an Associated Press correspondent. While apparently deeply moved he was not surprised. His first act was to ask Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, to come to the German embassy and prepare to take over its affairs. Then he informed his wife, an American-born woman, of the development and likewise told the embassy staff. His passports were not actually delivered until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. While the President was addressing Congress, one of Secretary Lansing's confidential assistants called at the embassy and delivered the passports and a note in reply to the German declaration.

President Wilson kept himself in seclusion during the morning, except for a brief conference with Secretary

Lansing, until he left the White House for the capitol shortly before 2 o'clock.

In preparation for the history-making event, the senate and house had assembled in the hall of the latter body. Justices of the Supreme court and members of the cabinet were present and the diplomatic gallery was packed with neutrals.

As usual a committee of congressmen met the President and escorted him to the speaker's dais. The whole body rose and cheered as the President, grimfaced and solemn, took his place and began reading the document which is being heard 'round the world.

Not a sound came from floor or gallery but the clear, calm tones of President Wilson reading slowly and distinctly. The assemblage of senators, representatives and notables about him, listened with closest attention to words which may record one of the sombre moments of American history if not in deed of the world.

Briefly he reviewed how last April the United States warned Germany, after the destruction of the Sussex, that unless the imperial government declared and effected an abandonment of that sort of submarine warfare the United States would have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations altogether. Then he quoted from the German reply which gave assurances that no passenger ship would be sunk without warning and provision for safety of passengers and crew. He recounted the provision the German government attached which in effect reserved to itself the right to recant its promise if the United States did not secure relaxation of the British restraints on commerce, and then quoted from the reply of the United States which refused to consider a conditional pledge and gave Germany final warning that it could not entertain or discuss any such suggestion.

The President did not refer to the long list of submarine operations which have been conducted in violation of the Sussex pledges, but proceeded at once to the new war zone order which became effective February 1.

When he told how the German proclamation left nothing for the honor and dignity of the United States but a break in relations and that he had ordered passports sent to von Bernstorff and a recall to Mr. Gerard, the assemblage broke into a cheer in which Republicans and Democrats alike joined. More applause greeted his declaration that only an overt act could convince him that Germany intended to violate American lives and rights, and there was prolonged applause and cheering when he concluded by announcing that should American ships and lives be sacrificed "in heedless contravention of the just and reasonable understanding of international law and the obvious dictates of humanity," he would again appear before Congress to ask authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and of our people."

He concluded there were cheers of approval from both sides of the chamber and there the President returned to the White House to discuss measures of precaution with Secretary Daniels, of the navy, and Secretary Baker, of the war department.

There were expressions of support and approval of the President's course as the joint session dissolved and both houses went back to their work.

Soon after Count von Bernstorff's passports arrived, United States secret service men threw a guard about the ambassador and his suite to make certain that the hospitality of the United States is not violated while he remains on American soil. The status of Count Tarnowski, the Austrian ambassador, was undecided, although he called at the state department to arrange for presenting his credentials to President Wilson.

For months, ever since relations

## 50,000 AMERICANS IN ALLIED ARMIES

More in France Than Saw Fighting in Spanish War.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Feb. 1.—Via London, Feb. 2.—From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press).—Nearly 50,000 Americans are estimated to be fighting for the allies and nearly four-fifths of these are in the khaki-clad British army commanded by Field Marshal Haig.

It is computed that the actual fighting force of Americans now in France under the Union Jack is probably larger than the United States army which was actually engaged in hostilities in the Spanish-American war. Hundreds of Americans have given their lives for the allies and hundreds of others bear permanent scars of the shock of battle, but each new battalion and each group of reinforcements arriving from overseas brings numbers of their fellow countrymen to take their places.

All have fought with a pluck and determination which have won them universal respect and admiration. Not so much has been written about the Americans serving in the British ranks as their brothers in the French army. British army traditions seldom countenance the same enthusiastic expositions of individual deeds of heroism and daring as are included often in the French and German official reports. But the American Tommies have helped to write some bright pages in the history of the war in all branches of the service—the flying corps, the medical corps, the artillery and infantry.

The Canadian regiments naturally attracted the greatest number of Americans. But Americans are also scattered through the distinctly English battalions. Many former members of the United States army and crack national guard regiments answer to the British roll call. The bulk of the Americans being absorbed in the various Canadian battalions have been through some of the hardest fighting on this front. Through all the vast and wonderful war machine built up by Great Britain from the North Sea to the front line trenches young Americans can be met "doing their bit" and fighting with willing heart and steady bravery. The correspondent of the Associated Press met one young fellow in the uniform of the Canadian artillery. "What part of Canada are you from?" he asked. "Los Angeles," came the grinning reply.

### Person Circuit—Changes Effective.

Preaching is a joyful and a most splendid exercise. I delight to tell the Gospel story, it is refreshing to my own soul and, I trust, helpful to others for the telling, but it is a question in my mind whether or not the Lord specially sanctions it being told by any preacher practically all day long on Sundays, wearing out his physical man thereby, and unfitting him for effective service with the people during the weeks following. Therefore, and by consent of my several congregations, the following changes become effective in the hours of worship on the Person Circuit at once:

1st. Sunday: Concord at 11 a. m.; Oak Grove at 3 p. m.

2nd. Sunday: Lea's Chapel at 11 a. m.; Warren's Grove at 3 p. m.

3rd. Sunday: Concord at 11 a. m.; Lea's Chapel at 3 p. m.

4th. Sunday: Oak Grove at 11 a. m.; Woodsdale at 3 p. m.

Let the church and the public take note of these important changes.

J. A. DAILY, Pastor.

### Meeting of Board of Education.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Education on next Tuesday February 13. Would be glad to see a large number of school committeemen of the county present at the meeting.—J. A. BEAM.

with Germany became acute, there have been ominous signs of threatened activities of German sympathizers and disloyal Americans if diplomatic relations were broken off. Various branches of the government have thoroughly informed themselves on the subject and officials say they will be able to cope with the situation.

The attempt to sink the torpedo boat Jacob Jones at Philadelphia is recognized as an instance of some of the things which may be expected, but on the whole, all the agencies of the government believe they have made preparations to meet such exigencies or are prepared to meet them as they arise.

## SUGGESTS GENERAL BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH GERMANY NOW

HOUSATONIC WARNED BEFORE ITS SINKING

Steps to Protect American Cities and Property Against Eventuality of War, or Attack by Foreign Sympathizers go Forward Silently by President's Direction.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Beside breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany, President Wilson has made a bold stroke to range the moral force of all other neutral countries along with that of the United States in the interest of peace.

The President has suggested to all the other neutrals that they break off diplomatic relations with Germany as the United States has done, and has instructed all American diplomats in those countries to report immediately how the suggestion is received. The opinion in diplomatic quarters here is that European neutrals, at the very doorstep of Germany, threatened by her military power, will hesitate to take such a step. The effect of the suggestion in other countries is being eagerly awaited.

This was the only known development of first importance which came out of a day of tense waiting which followed the actual announcement of the break with Germany.

Housatonic Had Warning. News that the American steamer Housatonic had not been sunk without proper warning and that no lives had been lost, dispelled a cloud which threatened the storm to follow the first overt act against the United States under the new war zone order.

Still hopeful that Germany will not ruthlessly sacrifice American lives or rights, the administration is awaiting developments, but leaving undone nothing to prepare the country for the eventuality of war.

### Congress Overrides President's Veto.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Congress has overridden a veto by President Wilson for the first time and enacted into law the immigration bill with its long-fought literacy test provision. The senate voted late today 62 to 19 to pass the measure, the eleventh-hour information that Japan again had protested against the language of the Asiatic exclusion section.

The house overturned the veto last week by a vote of 287 to 106, so the senate's action ends the contest of 20 years' standing in which three presidents have repudiated similar bills passed by Congress.

### Commissioners in Session.

The Board of County Commissioners meet in regular monthly meeting last Monday morning. All commissioners present with the exception of Mr. R. D. Bailey.

The commissioners were presented with petitions from all over the county signed by nearly six hundred voters asking that an election be called for the purpose of voting upon the question of bonds for road improvements. The commissioners decided to call an election to be held on Tuesday the 20th day of March, 1917.

A bill for \$40.00 was presented the board of Deputy, M. T. Clayton, for capturing and destroying two stills. This bill was help up at present until the commissioners were satisfied what the law was on this question.

Not many people were present at this meeting, and only the usual routine of business was transacted with the exception of the above mentioned.

### \$1,012,500.00 Business Done in January.

The above represents the amount of life insurance business done by the Southern Life and Trust Company, of Greensboro, in the month of January. This company is represented by the able firm of Cunningham & Long, and they are to be congratulated upon representing one of the best insurance companies in North Carolina. It is a home concern and they are looking after the people of North Carolina.

Messrs. R. H. Oakley and W. T. Kirby, returned the first of the week from Conway, S. C., where they spent a few days on business. They report that the cold wave took in South Carolina also.