

THE COMMONWEALTH.

VOLUME XXXIV.

TWICE-A-WEEK

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 2, 1917.

NUMBER 22.

Germany Threatens Ruthless Warfare

Submarines Will Destroy Shipping

President Summons Cabinet For Today and Senator Stone in Advisory Capacity

TWO COURSES OPEN FOR U. S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—President Wilson is still striving to formulate a course to meet Germany's unprecedented announcement of ruthless submarine warfare, but thus far the steps suggested by Secretary Lansing, and others, brought in consultation, have failed to receive the president's approval.

Today the President will meet with his cabinet, and Senator Stone will also be summoned to advise with the president.

The course of President Wilson appeared to be limited to two opposed courses, authorities say, one of which may be to follow the legal course of demand to Germany to abide by her frequent assurances to this country that submarine warfare would not jeopardize the lives and property of neutral nations, and a consequence, of Germany does not give satisfactory assurances that she will abide by her former promises, to break with Germany, give passports to Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, and recall Ambassador Gerard from Berlin.

The more pacific course suggested, and which may be taken by the president, is to disavow precedent, and launch an entirely new doctrine of neutrality, which will take the form of a note to the belligerents to exercise patience, sacrifice and concessions so that the United States may be free to exercise and administer greater service to mankind, and be the means of bringing this war to a speedy end.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—This is the day set for Germany to establish its submarine blockade of the British Isles. Travelers from Germany via Bergen, Norway a few days ago insisted this scheme was to be put into effect today; and that Germany has thirty U-Boats ready to patrol the blockaded area.

These subs, the travelers said, have a cruising radius of 6,000 miles, a speed of 18 knots on the surface and 12 submerged. Each is expected to patrol a 10-mile radius and each is said to have 6 torpedoes, 2 rapid fire guns, bomb-laying chambers and a large supply of bombs and grenades. They are said to carry 5 weeks' provisions each.

The blockaded area is reported to be the North Channel, between Ireland and Scotland; St. Georges Channel, between England and Ireland and the English Channel entrance. All allied vessels, carrying contraband or not, it is said, will be stopped, their crews put in boats and the vessels sunk, without parley. Neutral vessels carrying contraband, it is said, will be sunk, after their crews have taken to their boats.

The idea is said to be to bring about the same shortage of food and other products in England as there is in Germany. Germany is expected to attempt this to keep as close a blockade on ships entering English ports as England keeps on ships bound for German ports.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Whatever course of action President Wilson has chosen to meet Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare is known only to three or four members of his official family. Neither the cabinet as a whole nor the Foreign Affairs committee of Congress have been taken into his confidence.

One high official close to the President declared tonight that no communication had been sent to Berlin or to Count von Bernstorff who outwardly was expecting severance of diplomatic relations.

BERLIN, Feb. 1. (via London)—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and other ministers attended an important meeting of the ways and means committee of the Reichstag today at which the entire war situation was gone over and new steps planned by the Central powers were considered. The chancellor opened the sitting with a speech, of which the keynote words were:

"We have been challenged to fight to the end. We accept the challenge; we stake everything and we shall be victorious."

The chancellor explained why in March and May of last year he had opposed unrestricted submarine war, and why again in September, "according to the unanimous judgment of the political and military authorities, the question was not considered ripe for decision."

In this connection, the chancellor repeated his previous utterance that as soon as he, in agreement with the supreme army command, reached the conviction that ruthless submarine war would bring Germany nearer a victory, the U-Boat war would be started.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE OVER ALL WIRELESS STATIONS AT ONCE SAYS ROOSEVELT

(By Franklin D. Roosevelt)
(Written for the United Press)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—As a measure of safety the United States Government should assume control of every wireless station in the country, except those engaged in purely intra state business at once.

Control of wires and cables is simple but wireless messages are easily interfered with by outsiders. There should be government ownership of all wireless apparatus in peace as well as in war time, as a matter of public policy. We shouldn't let this matter wait until the trouble is upon us.

The suggestion has been made to Congress and is based fundamentally upon the character of wireless telegraphy. In land telegraph lines and submarine cables each separate wire sends out its own messages and does not interfere with the sending of messages and does not interfere with the sending of messages on other wires. The location and existence of these wires and cables is a matter which can be determined almost at a moment's notice. The control of these is an easy matter from the military or naval point of view.

Wireless is entirely different. The sending and receiving machinery is small and readily concealable and the actual transmission of the message is through the waves of the air. This means, of course, that interference between messages increases necessarily with the number of messages sent unless a perfect system with a central control is initiated. The increase in the number of installations all over the United States has been greater than the development of science in respect to non-interference and the result is growing confusion.

Quite aside from the general question of the advisability of establishing a Government monopoly, the considerations in favor of Government operation of wireless far outweigh the disadvantages.

Central control has been demonstrated to be a necessity; it cannot be carried out successfully except by actual Government operation and, more important still, the military and naval requirements are such that it would be unsafe, speaking in a broad sense, to wait until a declaration of war before taking over or closing up hundreds and thousands of small individual, privately owned stations.

The only way by which real safety can be assured is for the Government to exercise this control in times of peace also.

WOMEN GO TO CHINA TO STIR UP TRADE FOR UNCLE SAM

(BY UNITED PRESS)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Somewhere on the sea today between the United States and China are two American women, bound for the Orient to stir up trade in American made goods for their Uncle Sam.

These two women, who are fully accredited commissioners representing the United States government, are Mrs. Harriett M. Johnston and Mrs. L. W. Neely of Muncie, Indiana.

Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Neely are members of the American Commercial Commission, appointed to go to China and establish closer commercial relations between the two countries and to develop American sales agencies throughout the Orient.

They will assist the other members of the commission in establishing selling houses in Hankow, Canton, Peking and Shanghai and in selecting Chinese salesmen for American goods, as the Chinese do not like to buy direct from foreigners. Direct financial trade arrangements will be made.

The American commission is under the direction of Hon. David S. Rose general counsel for the Chinese American Products exchange, and five times mayor of Milwaukee.

Members of the party are: Gen Julian S. Carr, Durham, N. C., representing the Southern Commercial Congress; Fernando P. Neal, Kansas City; Julius O. Frank Milwaukee; J. S. Lawson, Wisconsin, and Fred A. Landeck, Wisconsin.

JOHNSON-TAYLOR

To the surprise of everyone news came that Mr. Percy Johnson had met Miss Mattie Taylor at Whitakers, and gone to Rocky Mount and got married.

Accompanied only by Mr. Dan Taylor, cousin of the bride, Mr. Johnson left here Wednesday, not even mentioning what he proposed to do his best friends and the first thing known word came back here that the couple had been made man and wife and left on the Wednesday night train for Richmond to spend a few days, though they are expected back this week.

Miss Taylor is a daughter of Mr. Lon Taylor, of Whitakers, and also the sister of Mr. Johnson's first wife. She is a young woman of estimable character, and has a host of friends.

For some time Mr. Johnson has been preparing his home, so that when the bridal couple return from their trip they will go to Mr. Johnson's home, and friends will be ready to welcome the new bride.

ORGAN RECITAL WEDNESDAY

By R. Blinn Owen and Miss Marion Thompson at Trinity Church

One of the most entertaining musical treats that Scotland Neck will have the pleasure of participating in will be given Wednesday evening next, February 7th, at Trinity Episcopal church, when Professor R. Blinn Owen, of Meredith college, will give an organ recital, and he will be assisted by Miss Marion Thompson, also of Meredith college, Raleigh, as soloist.

The programme is an elaborate one, and is given for the benefit of all those musically inclined who may want to study the selections that will be rendered that evening.

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| No. 1. | Invocation | Filippo Capocci |
| | Prelude and Fuga in A Minor | Bach |
| | Abenlied | Schumann |
| No. 2. | "But the Lord is Mindful of His Own" | Mendelssohn |
| | Miss Marion Thompson | |
| No. 3. | March form "Sixth Suite, Op 150" | Franz Lachner |
| | Romance | J. S. Svendsen |
| | Finale from Symphonie "Pathetique" | Tschaikowsky |
| No. 4. | "The Lord is My Light" | Oley Speaks |
| | Miss Marion Thompson | |
| No. 5. | Walter's Prize Song from the | |
| | Meistersingers | Richard Wagner |
| | Introduction and Act 3 from Lohengrin | Richard Wagner |
| No. 6. | Recitation and Aria from | |
| | "Prodigal Son" | Sir Arthur Sullivan |
| No. 7. | Irish Tune from County Derry | Percy Grainger |
| | Gavotte from "Mignon" | A. Thomas |
| | Hymn of Nuns | Lefebure-Wely |
| | War March of the Priests from Athalia | Mendelssohn |

News From The State Capitol

Divorce-Miscengenation-Legal Advertising and County School Board Fight Occupy Solons

USURY BILL MEETS DEFEAT

RALEIGH, Feb. 2.—The divorce law of North Carolina (one of the strictest of all the States in the Union) has been amended by the Senate so as to put the wife on the same basis with the husband. This feat was accomplished Wednesday by the simple process of eliminating two words ("fornication and") from the existing law, provided for in a bill of Senator Scales of Guilford. It is understood that the House will also pass the measure and hereafter the wife can (if she desires to do so) secure divorce by proving adultery, simply, on the part of the husband. The law provides now provides for divorce if the husband can prove adultery on the part of the wife.

Stricter Miscegenation Law

Another law which is expected to be enacted in a few days is provided for in a bill just presented by Senator Pollock of Lenoir county. It amends the law against the inter-marriage of the white and black races, making it stronger and makes it conform in terms with the school law providing separate schools.

Senator Pollock tells me that while the school law very properly debar any child with a trace of negro blood in his veins (however remote) from the schools for white children, the law as to inter-marriage is faulty in that respect beyond the third generation of those contracting marriage. In other words under the existing law it is possible for a man with a trace of negro blood originating in his grandfather or great grandfather (or maternal progenitor) to legally wed a white woman. But, under the new law, the children of such a marriage can be debarred from white schools. A case in point caused great trouble in Wake county recently.

Rates For Advertising Legal Notices

"The country newspapers" which have been imposed upon for so many years, will soon secure something like adequate pay for printing legal notices—the class advertising best able to pay and which has paid less than any others. According to the terms of the bill presented by Senator McCain of Vance, the rate shall be in future six cents per line (13 ems measure) for first insertion and four cents a line for each subsequent insertion. These are the rates approved by the State Press Association, I understand, and have no opposition to the measure.

Settling County School Board Fight

No issue before the legislature has caused half the argument or provoked as much "feeling" between debaters or consumed near as much time as the attempts (originating in Henry Page's House bill and cuckooed by a half-dozen others, including the local bills of Person of Franklin and Burgwyn's Bertie county local bills in the Senate to overthrow the present method of electing the members of the County school committees of the respective counties, viz., by appointment through legislative act.

Of all the 100 counties only six counties have school boards elected in any other way, at present. But there is a mere handful of counties (only two proposed in the Senate) which have asked to be allowed to elect these committeemen by direct vote of the people. It is beyond the limitations to detail the good reasons back of the existing system. Besides, most of us know and appreciate which they are.

It is refreshing to be able to say today that, after all the turmoil, it is now apparent that the Oates state-wide bill (nominating them by primary, to be appointed by the governor) will probably be adopted next Wednesday when the Senate meets the issue.

Legislative Notes

The House made a decisive disposition Wednesday afternoon of the Clerk bill to allow appeals from the State Corporation Commission's decisions. The vote stood 96 to 7 against it.

Senator Long of Halifax has introduced a bill to amend chapter 73 of the acts of 1913 relative to the judgment of non-suits action cases.

The House bill to amend the usury law met with a crushing defeat when it reached a vote in the Senate Wednesday afternoon. The vote was 32 to 13. Senator Justice of Henderson voiced the sentiment of others, when he stated that he voted against the bill because the restrictions already thrown around lending money were too severe and because of which the poorer classes have to pay exorbitant prices for securing loans in roundabout ways.

Senator Long of Halifax declared that further hindrance to the liquidation of land mortgages might arrest further development of N. C. by outside capitalists and visitors.

The legislative session is about half way to the 60 days limit and practically all of the proposed most "important" measures are yet to be acted upon including that new iron clad-steel riveted-wrought-iron-bound-half gallon a year "Prohibition" bill of Br'er Davis?