

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 5, 1917.

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FINAL EDITION

WEATHER FORECAST. North Carolina—Fair and continued cold tonight. Rising temperature Tuesday. South Carolina—Fair and continued cold tonight. Killing frost on coast. Rising temperature.

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BERLIN HAS SCANT HOPE FOR PEACE

WILSON WANTS ALL DECKS CLEARED TO MEET EMERGENCY

While Still Hoping For Peace President Presses Congress to Get Ready.

SITUATION RESOLVES INTO TENSE WAITING

Austria's Attitude Looms Up As the Next Big Question For the Washington Government—American Ships Reach European Harbors In Safety and News Brings Relief.

The Associated Press. Washington, Feb. 5.—Grimly prepared with an air of conviction that the course will be shaped by the announced measures of the United States, the United States government has begun a tense wait that may be broken momentarily by the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany. President Wilson's long struggle to preserve the country's peace has not been abandoned. He still hopes not only that the war will be avoided, but that other neutrals, adding their weight to that of the United States, will be the moral force of the world to compel peace in Europe.

The President is known to be very hopeful that this new peace will hasten the end of the war.

The British anxiety cable and the dispatches bearing on Germany have announced plans to be put into effect for the first time since the American lives lost or ships sunk without warning.

The sinking of the American steamer, Housatonic, by a submarine was not an isolated case, since she carried a contract of wheat, warning was given and the crew saved.

The reports today heard with considerable interest are that the German government had ordered the release of the American prisoners of war in the Atlantic as a gesture of conciliation.

The State Department is making efforts to guarantee safe conduct for the allied powers for Count von Bernstorff to return to Germany and to turn over affairs to the Swiss minister here.

The Red Cross throughout the United States today had orders to prepare immediately for relief work. Transportation of Belgian refugees was temporarily suspended.

The Spanish Ambassador in London is expected to present an appeal today for guarantees against attack for vessels engaged in the Belgian Relief Commission.

The President wants Congress to take up the necessary for him to address it again and ask for authority to use all the resources of the United States to protect American lives and their peaceful and lawful arrival in American harbors.

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RAILWAY BILL AGAIN INTRODUCED.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 5.—Carrying a provision to empower the President to take over railroads in time of war, the Administration Railway Labor bill was re-introduced in the House today without the compulsory arbitration feature.

HOLLAND GETTING READY FOR RUSH

Dutch Officials Will Have to Look After Fully a Thousand Refugee Americans.

(By Associated Press.) The Hague, Feb. 4 (Via London, Feb. 5).—The United States legation here was very busy today preparing to cope with the expected rush of Americans from the territories of the Central Powers.

BERLIN HEARS FIRST NEWS OF THE BREAK

(By Associated Press.) Berlin, Feb. 5.—(via London)—The news of the breach of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany was made known here today through newspaper dispatches.

PICKED UP CREW OF JAP STEAMER

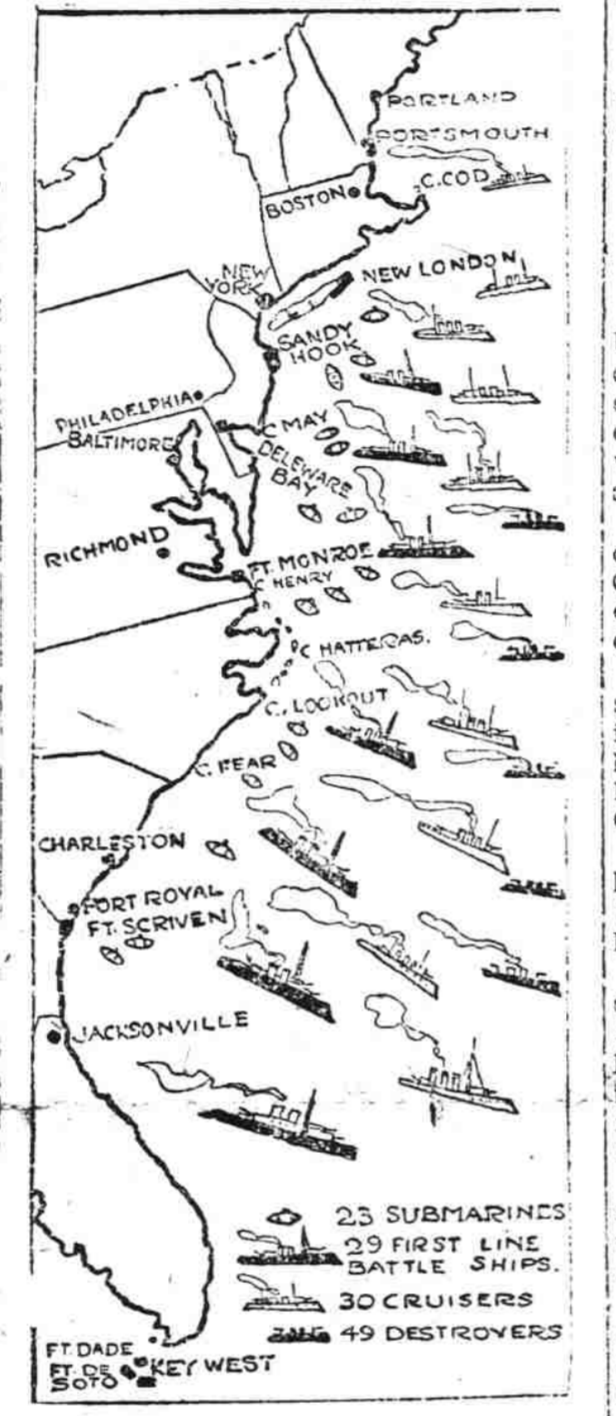
Chinto Maru Had Been Sunk By Shell Fire, Reports a Norwegian Captain.

(By Associated Press.) Galveston, Texas, Feb. 5.—Captain Anderson, of the Norwegian steamship Agereon, which arrived here this morning from Gibraltar, reports having picked up, on January 5, the captain and crew of 40 of the Japanese steamship Chinto Maru, 220 miles from the nearest land.

FIFTY MILLIONS FOR SUBMARINES.

Washington, Feb. 5.—A bill to place immediately in the hands of the President \$50,000,000 to complete submarines and destroyers now under construction was introduced today by Representative Emerson of Ohio.

OUR NAVY PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY



Admiral Henry T. Mayo, commander-in-chief of the United States Atlantic fleet, has been officially advised of the danger of a rupture in diplomatic relations with Germany, according to Washington dispatches.

HENRY FORD WILL OFFER HIS FACTORY

In Case of War Would Run It For U. S. Government Without Profit.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 5.—Henry Ford announced here today that in the event of war he would place his factory at the disposal of the government and operate it without profit.

TWO AMERICAN SHIPS ARRIVE IN SAFETY

(By Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 5.—The American Line steamship, Philadelphia, arrived at Liverpool at 11 p. m. Sunday, according to a cablegram received here this morning by officials of the International Mercantile Marine.

VIRGINIA TOLD TO GO AHEAD BY COURT

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 5.—Virginia was today given permission by the Supreme Court to institute mandamus proceedings against West Virginia toward enforcing early payment of about \$14,000,000 decreed to be West Virginia's share of Virginia's 1861 debt.

U. S. GOVT. TO ACT ONLY AS IT WOULD IN TIME OF CALM

President Makes It Plain That Foreign Countries Cannot Complain.

NO LEGAL RIGHT TO SEIZE SHIPS

Merchant Vessels of Germany Are Safe in American Harbors—U. S. Officials So Notified.

Washington, Feb. 5.—While the United States awaits the issue of war or peace, President Wilson has taken steps that the conduct of the Government during the tense period of waiting shall be one of calm deliberation and beyond criticism.

The Government, it was stated officially, will be very careful to see that Germany and all other foreign Governments will have no just cause for complaint.

General instructions have been issued to Federal Government officials in all parts of the country to avoid hasty action and do nothing not strictly legal and within the province of the Government.

The Government, it was pointed out, has no legal right to take over war-bound merchant ships in American harbors.

No matter what other nations may do in the present emergency, it was stated that the United States will adhere strictly to the law and do nothing under stress of excitement which it would not be legal in ordinary times.

As outlined in the highest official quarters, the policy of the Government will be to act on principle than on the ground of expediency.

The President himself, it was stated, is moving without panic or haste and expects all subordinate officers of the Government to do likewise.

While not stated specifically, it became known that the President is particularly anxious to warn Americans generally to do nothing which might cause trouble.

If war comes, he wants no possible blame attached to the American Government or any of its officials, or people.

The status of Germans aboard war-bound steamships, in American ports, will be the same as any other aliens if they come ashore.

The case of crews aboard interned German auxiliary cruisers is different. They belong to Germany's military forces and are being taken off and guarded by the United States naval authorities.

ALL SHIPS ENTER THE DANGER ZONE NOW AT THEIR OWN PERIL

GERMANY DOES NOT WANT TO INTERN ANY AMERICANS

Desires Old Treaties to Hold Forth In Case War Comes With United States.

TEUTON GOVERNMENT WILLING TO SO ABIDE

Berlin Would Assure Anxious Americans That They Will Be Safe—Many Face Predicament.

(By Associated Press.) Berlin, Feb. 4 (Via London, Feb. 5).—The Associated Press learns authoritatively that Germany will propose to Ambassador Gerard a special re-ratification of the Prussian-American treaties of 1779 and 1812, allowing Nations, in case of war, nine months in which to settle their affairs, and leave hostile countries.

The report reviews in detail the activities and growth of national banks throughout the country during the year and makes recommendations for additional legislation to safeguard depositors and stockholders.

The Comptroller's recommendations propose the enactment of laws to amend the criminal code, making it a felony for individuals, firms or corporations to make false financial statements to banks for the purpose of securing loans.

Burglary of national bank a crime punishable by federal law. Limit the funds invested by a bank in its own building to the amount of its capital stock.

Authorize the treasurer to sell bonds securing circulation thirty days after a bank goes into liquidation.

Such laws, the report states, should be enacted in "the interest of the shareholders or depositors of the banks and of the general public."

Since the inauguration of the federal reserve system, the report states, charters have been issued on 264 national banks with aggregate capital of \$1,109,000 and 189 national banks increased their capital \$27,117,700.

Gross earnings of national banks for the past fiscal year the report states, were \$590,642,051 and net earnings \$157,543,547, an increase in the latter item of \$30,500,000 during the year.

ENTIRE WORLD IN DEBT AT PRESENT TO UNITED STATES

Great Financial Position of America Plainly Shown by Comptroller of Currency.

WEALTH CONTINUES TO PILE UP, HE SAYS

Government Is Firmly Entrenched Financially As Possible To Be—Comptroller Submits Annual Report.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 5.—The Comptroller of the Currency today advised Congress, in submitting his annual report, that the United States at the present time seems to be "intrenched financially almost as firmly as it is possible for any human government to be."

"Practically the whole world is in debt to us," the report said, "and is steadily increasing its obligations. Our financial condition in relation to other people and the world at large becomes stronger from week to week and from month to month. As the figures show so conclusively our wealth is piling up with wonderful rapidity; but to do our proper work in the world and to protect and enlarge our own interests we may be fore long need every dollar of these resources, gigantic and inexhaustible as they now seem to be."

"In reviewing our banking and fiscal situation we seem now to be intrenched financially almost as firmly as it is possible for any government to be. We are well prepared for preparedness and ready and able to provide for whatever increases of army and navy Congress may think to be necessary."

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Peaceful Relations Will Be Impossible to Continue, Think Germans.

NO LET-UP IN THE SUBMARINE WARFARE

According to Authentic Information Kaiser Has No Idea of Modifying the Undersea Method of Fighting.

Berlin, Sunday, Feb. 4 (via London, Feb. 5).—Peaceful continuance of German-American relations after the departure of the respective embassies at Washington and Berlin, in the sense indicated by President Wilson in his address to Congress, appears to be very slight, judging by all the information (some of highest authenticity) gathered by the Associated Press.

It is stated positively in high political circles that the German orders for the conduct of a submarine war could not, and would not, be modified to enforce the prohibited zone order was absolute and final and that the only security for shipping was in avoidance of the prohibited zone.

Germany, so the Associated Press was informed, resorted to this measure after the "shameful" rejection by the entente powers of peace overtures and only after the fullest determination and as the imperative weapon in defense of its threatened interests; Germany cannot relinquish this weapon—the only one promising a speedy end to the war—reluctant as Germany was to take this step.

The Government had hoped that the United States would see it in this light and was and is actuated by no animosity to the United States in its determination, Germany, therefore, the high informant to the Associated Press continued, is very disappointed and grieved by the terms of Mr. Wilson's message, but the government cannot later modify the course upon which it has determined. This official added:

"We can only hope and trust that American ships and American citizens will avoid the danger zones laid down in the German memorandum." Gerard Asks For Passports.

Berlin, Feb. 5 (via London).—Ambassador Jas. W. Gerard this morning received information to request his passports.

His plans for departure are not yet decided.

GOVT. WOULD TAKE OVER ALL PLANTS

President Holds Conference With Baker and Daniels On the Subject.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 5.—President Wilson at conferences today with Secretary Baker, of the War Department, and Secretary Daniels of the Navy Department, discussed expediting legislation to empower the government to take possession of shipyards, munitions plants, and other facilities for hurrying the work of preparedness, if it became necessary.

"SUB" FIRE SENDS TWO TO BOTTOM

Captain and Four Members of Crew of British Steamer Reported Killed.

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 5.—The British ship, Isle of Arran, of 1,759 tons, has been sunk by a submarine, two of her crew being injured by shell fire, Lloyds announced today.

The British steamer, Evestorpe, of 1,791 tons, also has been sunk and the captain and four of the crew killed, says another Lloyds announcement.

OFFICERS SEIZE AUSTRIAN SAILORS

U. S. Marshals in Florida Take Drastic Steps in Behalf of Government.

(By Associated Press.) Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 5.—Deputy United States marshals today succeeded in arresting all members of the crew of the Austrian steamer, Lucia, and placed them under guard at a hotel pending a hearing before a United States Commissioner late this afternoon.

Federal officers yesterday learned that the machinery of the Lucia, which has been tied up here since the outbreak of the war, had been badly damaged. Guards have been placed on the vessel.

Flames Damaged Church. High Point, Feb. 5.—The handsome Friends church, on South Main street, was gutted by flames yesterday afternoon, the fire starting in the basement of the edifice. Defective heating system is said to have been the cause of the fire. The pipe organ, books, benches and other furnishings are a total loss.

(Continued on Page Eight.)