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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 28, 1917.

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PRESIDENT WAITS MOVE BY CONGRESS

HOUSE WOULD NOT GIVE WILSON ALL POWER HE SEEKS

Senate Seems Inclined to Go Further But Awaits Action of The House.

BILL TO BE OFFERED BY FLOOD TOMORROW.

Would Cut Out "Other Instrumentalities" of the President's Wish—Republicans May Force Filibuster to Get Extra Session of Congress.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 25.—The situation in Congress fell into a tangle again today and the prospects that there would be no extra session were not so promising as they were last night.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee reported the bill to empower the President to protect American rights against the German submarine menace, but with changes which are unwelcome to the administration.

It declined to make provision for the President to use "other instrumentalities" which he desires, and prohibited giving government war insurance to munition ships.

The bill reported yesterday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is practically agreeable to the President. The two measures, however, may be reconciled in some way although the President has given notice that he will not accept general changes.

Prospects of a Republican filibuster loomed up again in the Senate. Senators today began to insist upon "free and full" discussion of all measure openly assert that the reason for their course is to force an extra session of Congress.

The major part of the Republican opposition apparently does not lie against the bill to grant the President broad powers to deal with the submarine situation, although there are probably a half dozen senators on the minority side opposed to it, either in principle or because they regarded it as too sweeping in character.

Senator Watson, Republican of Indiana, who was prominent in engineering the filibuster against the revenue bill, said today that many Republicans would not oppose granting the President merely the power to arm merchant ships and provide funds for that purpose, but were decidedly averse to authorizing him to use "other instrumentalities."

These Senators feel that Congress should be in session if such powers are granted.

As reported by the House committee the bill would read: "The President of the United States be, and is hereby authorized and empowered to supply merchant ships, the property of citizens of the United States and bearing registry of the United States, with defensive arms, and also with the necessary ammunition and means of making use of them in defense against unlawful attack; and that he be, and is hereby authorized and empowered to protect such ships and the citizens of the United States against unlawful attack while in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas."

This eliminates the provision which would have empowered the President to employ such other instrumentalities and methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate.

No record of the vote in committee was kept, but five committeemen announced they would file minority reports, one being Huddleston, Democrat, of Alabama.

Chairman Flood will report the bill to the House tomorrow and endeavor to secure a rule during the day for its consideration.

Senate will take no action on the armed neutrality bill until the House has passed the measure, it was practically assured today when Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations committee, and Representative Mann held a conference. Mr. Mann declared the Senate could not act on a bill providing for an issue of bonds until it had been passed by the House.

HEAVY SELLING OF STEEL FEATURED TODAY

(By Associated Press) New York, Feb. 28.—Heavy selling of Bethlehem Steel issues at increased concessions was the conspicuous feature of today's dull and heavy stock market. By 2 o'clock the old Bethlehem Steel shares showed an overnight loss of nine points at 120, with 6 1/4 for the new shares at 117 1/4 and 6 3/4 for the subscription rights to the new stock, which fell to 6 3/4.

SENATE AROUSED TO THE NEED FOR PRISON REFORM

Bill Providing For Humane Methods Passed Upper House of Legislature.

HOT FIGHT ON THE SECRET BALLOT SYSTEM

Grant Takes a Hand and Tells of New Hanover's Experience—New Measures by Local Representative.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 23.—Thoroughly aroused to the need for reform of the State's prison system the upper house of the General Assembly this morning passed, with practically no opposition, the bill introduced by former Lieutenant-Governor Turner, providing for sweeping changes in the management of the State's penitentiaries.

Amendments, which would have provided that county convicts sentenced for two years or more could have been kept to work on the county roads, offered by Jones, of Buncombe, and for the use of corporal punishment as a last resort by Burgwyn, were voted down by close margins. The bill, as it stands, provides that prisoners shall receive some sort of remuneration for their work, given some chance to improve their minds, and bodies, shall not be worked over ten hours a day, and shall be housed in separate cells and have their sanitary conditions supervised by the State Board of Health. Whites and negroes are to be segregated as far as possible, and youthful criminals are to be separated from old. A system of rewards for good behavior and substantial commutation of sentences are also provided for. The bill would have passed third reading but for objection by Burgwyn, a member of the committee investigating the penal system, who wanted the Senate to read the report of the committee before taking final action.

Roberts, of Buncombe, chattered ex-Speaker Bowie while the House was in murderous mood today and helped in the universal slaughter of Senator Jones' Australian ballot bill applying to Buncombe, Madison and Henderson. Then catching his bearing he begged the House for reconsideration, and by 69 to 41 carried the bill through second reading.

Perhaps the intensest debate of the session was that between Roberts and Ray, of Macon, the Macon member denouncing the Buncombe representative's speech as "unfair and unmanly," because it attacked conditions in the Tenth. Ray declared the State-wide primary the cause of all allegations of corruption, none such having been made before. While debate was warmest, Grant, of New Hanover, joined Roberts with the seaside county's experience in the secret ballot.

Page had threatened as reprisal to repeal Grant's bill, whereupon the Wilmington man said: "If you tried it, the voices of all the New Hanover people would rise up against you, a Nemesis would trail you and damnation would be in its wake." The bill will be amended to include many counties, and therefore remained over for third reading.

The Teachers' Institute bill in corporate examination and certification features was passed with less than a dozen votes in opposition.

Grant, of New Hanover, introduced four bills today relating to fees for coroner, defining his duties and rural policemen.

The Senate—Tuesday. The Senate convened at 11 o'clock with Lieutenant Governor Gardner presiding. New bills were introduced as follows: Pollock—Provide for the transfer of old records. Restore former practice of trial by jury in certain cases. Provide for the preservation of family records.

Scales—Provide for an art commission. Scales—Amend the act establishing the Guilford graded schools. Bennett—Commemorate the Confederate dead of Haywood county.

(Continued on Page Four)

CANADA WILL PLAY BIG PART

Dominion Getting Ready to Send Thousands of Troops For the Spring Drive.

(By Associated Press) St. John, N. B., Feb. 28.—Canada is making active preparations to take a prominent part in the great allied offensive on the western front this spring. Thousands of troops have arrived in New Brunswick within the last few weeks for final training before embarking at Halifax for England.

Major-General Lessard, Inspector-General for Eastern Canada, has been here supervising work of mobilization. He recently was quoted as saying that 100,000 additional men would be needed within the next few months to offset possible casualties in the spring offensive and to keep the Canadian divisions at full strength.

The presence of large numbers of troops has stimulated recruiting. Since the provisional election the work of enlistment has been taken up with increased vigor and a close competition has developed among the recruiting units.

Officials have opened their doors to recruiting parties and appeals from the pulpit and altar for Canadians "to do their bit," is meeting with ready response.

Officers and men alike express confidence that the war is approaching its final stage and all are eager for service at the front. Increased activity on the part of German submarines caused little concern. Officials point out that not one life was lost in the transportation overseas of more than 300,000 Canadian soldiers and they confidently expect this record will be kept up. The transports are adequately armed and convoyed.

PICKED UP MEN IN OPEN BOATS

Steamer Arriving at Newport News Tells of Tragedies at Sea.

(By Associated Press) Newport News, Va., Feb. 28.—The Dutch steamer Armundo reported on her arrival here today that on January 28 she picked up the survivors of five ships that has been torpedoed in the Bay of Biscay. Many women and children were included in the survivors who numbered 179. All were landed at Vigo, Spain, by the Armundo, which was bound from Rotterdam for Hampton Roads for orders.

The ships sunk were two each of Norwegian and British, and one Italian. All went down in a comparatively small area, and it was the appeal for help flashed by the wireless of the last victim on which the U-boat brought the Armundo to the scene.

BRITISH CONTINUE TO HURL TURKS BACK ON TIGRIS

Invaders Not More Than Seventy Five Miles Now From Bagdad

BUT WERE NEARER THAT POINT BEFORE

Succeeded in Recapturing Gunboat Taken By Turks. Teutons on Offensive in Rumania.

The British are rapidly pushing their way up the Tigris river towards Bagdad. Today's official statement from London on the Tigris operations shows that they are forcing the Turks from Kut-el-Amara. General Maude's forces have pursued the Ottoman troops more than thirty miles west and northwest of Kut-el-Amara. This indicates an advance of some 15 miles since the last report and places the British not more than 75 miles from Bagdad, their objective.

In their first expedition, late in 1915, the British were within 18 miles of Bagdad, but were forced to retreat to Kut-el-Amara after a defeat at Ctesiphon. Afterwards General Townshend was hemmed in at Kut-el-Amara and surrendered last April.

In the retreat from Ctesiphon the British were forced to surrender two gunboats. The Turks shortly afterwards reported that one had been recaptured and was being used against the British. The British official report of today announces that one of the last gunboats, the Firefly, which is a 455-ton vessel, has been recaptured. The capture of one Turkish vessel and the destruction of another is also reported.

British casualties in all war theaters fell to the comparatively low mark of 18,428 during February, despite considerable sharp fighting on the Somme front. The January total was 32,354.

British Still Advance. London, Feb. 28.—The British are continuing to advance rapidly on the Tigris front. Official announcement was made here today that on Monday the Turks were being engaged on the left bank of the river more than 30 miles west, and northwest of Kut-el-Amara.

The British service reports a raid on German iron works near Saarbrücken, 50 miles inside the border of Rhenish Prussia. In the air engagements resulting a German machine was destroyed.

The British gunboat Firefly, which was lost at the time of the retreat from Ctesiphon, has been recaptured. One Turkish ship has been taken and one destroyed.

Teutons On the Offensive. Berlin, Feb. 28.—(Via Sayville.)—On the Northern Rumanian front yesterday the Teutonic forces took the offensive, the war office announces. They captured several hill positions from the Russians, taking more than 1,300 prisoners, 11 machine guns and 9 mine-throwers.

Russians and Germans Fight. Petrograd, Feb. 28.—(Via London.)—British Admiralty per Wireless Press—German forces yesterday attacked the Russian position on both sides of the Jacobeni-Kimpolung high road, says the Russian official statement issued today, and occupied the heights two miles southwest of the village of (Continued on Page Eight.)

PRIEST TELLS A GRAPHIC STORY OF FINAL HOUR

How Women and Men Perished in Open Boat From The Steamer Laconia.

HEART TEARING SCENES ON THE DEEP.

Mrs. Hoy Died in Arms of Her Daughter—Young Woman Tried Heroically to Save Her Lover.

(By Associated Press) Liverpool, Feb. 28.—The Rev. F. Dunstan Sargent, of Grenada, British West Indies, a passenger on the Laconia, who administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic church to seven victims, gave to the Associated Press today the following account of the death of Mrs. Mary Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, and Cedric P. Ivatt, of London.

"Mrs. Hoy died in the arms of her daughter. Her body slipped off into the sea out of her daughter's weakened arms. The heartbroken daughter succumbed a few minutes afterwards, and her body fell over the side of the boat as we were tossed by the huge waves.

"In icy water up to her knees for two hours, the daughter all the time bravely supported her aged mother, uttering words of encouragement to her. From the start both were violently seasick which, coupled with the cold and exposure, eventually wore down their courage. They were brave women.

Father Sargent continued: "The first to die in our boat was W. Irvine Robinson, of Toronto. After his body had been consigned to the sea we tossed about for an hour, getting more and more water until the gunwales were almost level with the sea. Then Mr. Ivatt, who was not physically strong, succumbed in the arms of his fiancée, who was close beside him trying in vain to keep him warm by throwing her wealth of hair about his neck.

"Even after he died she refused to give him up and although the additional weight made the situation more dangerous for us all we yielded to her pitiful pleading and allowed her to keep the body. It was taken aboard the rescuing patrol, from which it was buried. The burial aboard the patrol, at which I officiated, was a solemn and memorable ceremony.

"The Hays were next to pass away after Mr. Ivatt. Then a fireman died and later two others of the crew were expelled from the boat. A resolute thin man to resist exposure. Altogether, we were in the boat ten hours. We were rescued in the middle of the morning."

Father Sargent said his boat was badly damaged in launching and began to leak. At the start their boat had three feet of water, which increased steadily.

NO CONFIRMATION COMES OF STORY.

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 28.—At the Dutch legation it was said today there was no confirmation of the report published earlier in the week that the Dutch steamships Bandoeng, Eemland and Zaandijk were still afloat. The latest information received by the Dutch officials led to the belief that the vessels had been lost. A search for them proved unavailing.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY STAGED AT DOOR OF COURT HOUSE

***** ADMITS HE KILLED SAVANNAH WOMAN. *****

(By The Associated Press.) El Paso, Tex., Feb. 28.—W. C. Bradley today confessed that he and another man killed two women with an iron bar in Savannah, Ga., more than a year ago, while attempting to rob a house, according to the police.

The German government's action is based on circumstances which, through no concern of the United States, detained Consul Mueller at Havana, Cuba, while he was on his way from Atlanta to Quito, Ecuador.

That the German government has been misinformed regarding Consul Mueller and other German consuls formerly stationed in the United States is certain.

The departure of none has been hindered by this government. Mueller was forced to remain in Havana because of temporary lack of transportation and failure to receive passports from the Ecuadorian government. He left Havana for his new post several days ago.

***** REVENUE MEASURE WILL BE PASSED *****

Senate Democrats Clear it of All Amendments to Prevent Conference.

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 28.—In order to assure passage of the emergency revenue bill, the Senate finance committee has practically agreed to withdraw all its amendments when time for voting begins at 8 o'clock tonight. This would obviate any necessity for a conference and the bill could go to the President after the Senate votes.

The first vote on the revenue bill was on the Underwood oleomargarine amendment which was lost 59 to 21. It proposed a flat revenue tax of 2 cents a pound on all oleomargarine instead of the present tax of 10 cents a pound on the colored and 1-4c a pound on the uncolored article.

Senator Underwood urged adoption of his amendment predicted that unless steps were taken in the present food situation the people will organize and "the capitol resound with their cries for their rights, justice and relief from the yoke of special interests."

"Inability of the government to relieve the situation," he said, "is partly due to control of railroads by special interests. The time will come when the great consuming public will not consent to have bread taken from their mouths through laws in behalf of special interests."

The determination of the finance committee to offer no amendments was clearly indicated by Senator Simmons after defeat of the oleomargarine amendment, announcing that the committee had nothing further to offer. This forced Republican Senators to begin introduction of their own amendments.

***** STATE SENATORS KICKED OUT. *****

(By The Associated Press.) Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 28.—State Senator I. V. Burgess and S. C. Sims, indicted Monday on charges of bribery, today were expelled from the Senate. A resolution which declared that bribery charges against them had been sustained in an investigation by a Senate committee and ordering them expelled, was adopted by a vote of 25 to 8.

***** ENGLISH AIRSHIPS MADE SUNDAY RAID *****

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 28.—British airplanes made a raid over German territory Sunday, attacking iron works near Saarbrücken, in Rhenish Prussia, about 50 miles beyond the border. The following official account of the attack was given out here today: "On Sunday naval airplanes raided the Brenbach Iron Works, five and a half miles southeast of Saarbrücken. There were several air encounters. One hostile machine was destroyed."

Law Suit in Nashville Climaxed By a Murder Row This Morning.

PISTOL AND KNIFE WERE FREELY USED.

E. G. Tompkins Shot Man, Who While Dying Plunged Knife Into His Heart—Another Man and a Woman Wounded.

(By Associated Press) Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 28.—E. G. Tompkins was killed, Will Hoffstetter fatally shot and Jim Hoffstetter and Mrs. W. A. Bevington, a bystander, were wounded in the Davidson county courthouse this morning, following the continuance of a case in the circuit court in which Tompkins is suing the Hoffstetters for alleged alienation of his wife's affections.

Following his wife being divorced, Tompkins filed suit for \$50,000 damages against Hoffstetter's brothers and their sister, Miss Emma Hoffstetter, alleged to have embittered his wife against him. The case was continued today because of Tompkins' counsel withdrawing from the case.

As the parties were leaving the courtroom it is alleged Tompkins drew a pistol and shot Will Hoffstetter in the abdomen. Another shot struck Jim Hoffstetter in the arm. Still another struck Mrs. Bevington, a bystander, in the leg. Before the trial, Will Hoffstetter plunged a knife in Tompkins' heart. The parties are farmers and live near Donelson.

WILL DEDICATE CHURCH SUNDAY

Bishop Kilgo Will Be Present at Dedication of Church in Lumberton.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Lumberton, Feb. 28.—Chestnut Street Methodist Church, one of the finest buildings of the kind in this section, will be dedicated Sunday, March 4, at 11 a. m. Bishop John C. Kilgo, of Charlotte, will conduct the dedicatory exercises.

The church was completed about four years ago during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Bradley. The first money to build it was raised while Rev. J. P. Pate was pastor. The work was continued by Rev. E. M. Hoyle and he saw the foundation for the building laid. All indebtedness was paid since Dr. W. B. North, the present pastor, came to this charge.

All former pastors of the church who had a part in building it are expected here Sunday. Rev. E. M. Hoyle will address the Sunday School at the regular Sunday School hour. Dr. Kilgo will preach at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. and Rev. J. W. Bradley will speak to the Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Special music is being prepared for the dedicatory exercises. A large number of visitors are expected here for the occasion.

Chestnut Street Church was built at a cost of approximately \$25,000. Six hundred dollars was contributed to the organ fund by Andrew Carnegie.

GERARD LEAVES SPAIN FOR CUBA

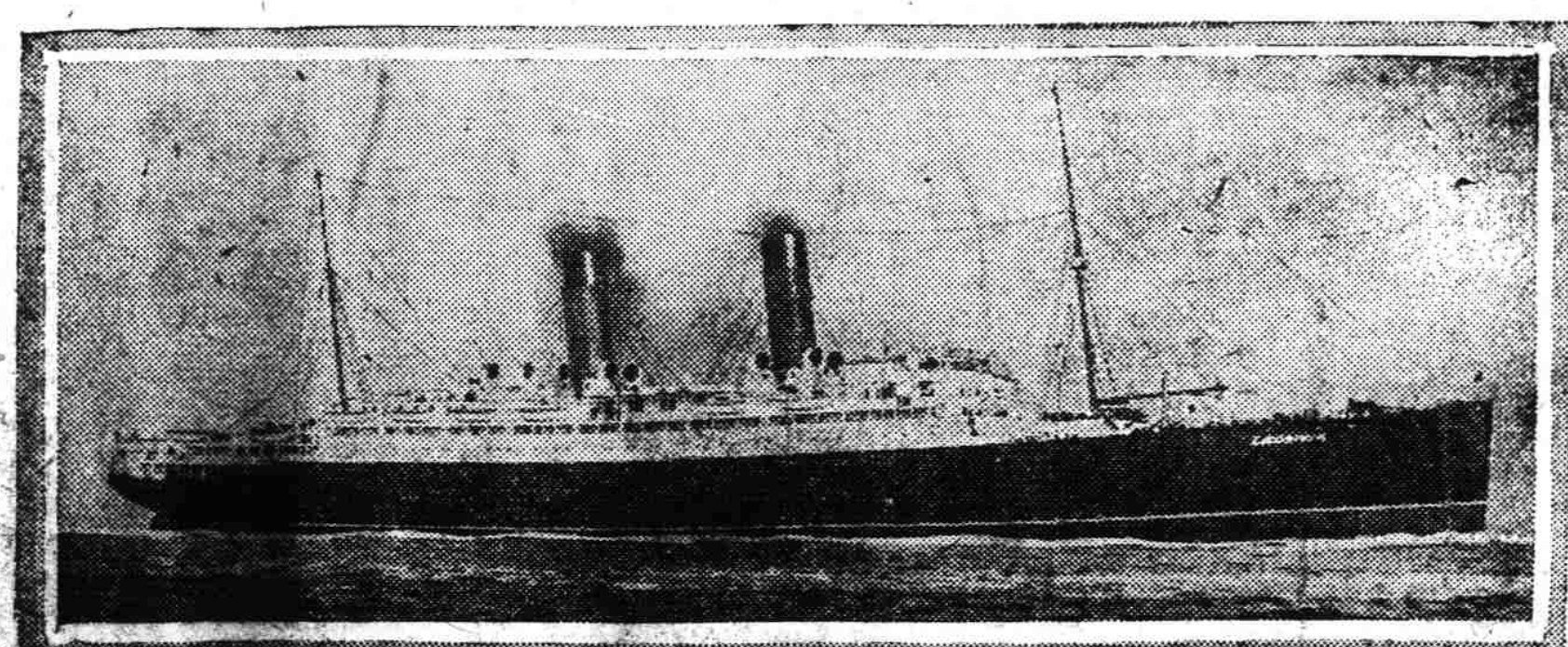
American Ambassador and Party Now On Way Back to United States.

(By Associated Press) Corunna, Spain, Tuesday, Feb. 27.—(Via Paris, Feb. 28.)—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador at Berlin, sailed today on the steamship Infanta Isabel for Havana. The steamer is expected to reach that port March 8 or 9.

Mr. Gerard was escorted to his boat by the Mayor of Corunna, in place of the Governor, who is ill; the British vice consul, and the Cuban consul. The Infanta Isabel was filled to capacity, carrying 750 in the steerage.

William H. Gale, formerly American consul general at Munich, arrived here today and with difficulty obtained passage on the Infanta Isabel.

LACONIA SUNK BY SUBMARINE



The Cunard Line steamship Laconia, of 18,999 tons gross, sunk by a German submarine off the Irish coast, with it is reported, many Americans on board. The Laconia sailed from New York for Liverpool on Feb. 18.