

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 1, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WEATHER FORECAST. North and South Carolina—Rain in the east and rain or snow in west portion tonight. Friday partly cloudy

FINAL EDITION

THEY RALLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT

PATRIOTISM RUNS FULL SPEED TODAY IN HOUSE AND SENATE

Party Quarrels Seem Forgotten as Congressmen Pledge Support to Wilson.

AMERICA SHOCKED BY THE REVELATIONS

Members of National Congress Amazed at Germany's Move and Disclosures Stimulate The Necessity for United Country.

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, March 1.—Shocked and amazed by the revelation of Germany's attempt to unite Japan and Mexico to war upon the United States, Congress today forgot its differences of opinion and began swinging into line behind the President.

Senate Republicans abandoned their general filibuster and gave Democratic leaders assurances of their support to the President in a National emergency.

In the House, without a roll call and under special provision for its immediate consideration, Representative Flood's bill to clothe the President with authority to deal with the German submarine menace by arming ships, was taken up under an agreement for a vote after three hours of debate.

President Wilson, however, will insist on being empowered to use "other instrumentalities" as proposed in the bill pending in the Senate.

Full official confirmation of Germany's move as revealed by the Associated Press was given at the White House, State Department and on the floor of the Senate.

Secretary Lansing, in an official statement made clear that the United States did not believe Japan had knowledge of the scheme or would take part in it.

The magnitude and astounding character of Germany's proposal completely overshadowed all other considerations in the government today.

TRAIN PLUNGED INTO A CREEK

Engineer on New Orleans and Northeastern Train Killed in Wreck.

(By Associated Press.) Laurel, Miss., March 1.—Southbound passenger train No. 1 on the New Orleans and Northeastern from Cincinnati, left the rails at a curve near here early today, the engine, baggage and mail cars overturning into a creek.

David Corbett, engineer of Meridian, was drowned. Frank Bizot, fireman, and several express messengers and mail clerks were slightly injured. None of the passengers was hurt.

GREAT BRITAIN HAS WITHDRAWN OBJECTION

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 1.—Great Britain has withdrawn its objection and made known its permission for the Heddles, Ltd., the English munitions concern, to enter into contracts with the United States navy for armor plating shells of the 14 and 16-inch type.

(By Associated Press.) Juarez, Mex., March 1.—The German consulate here was robbed late last night and a number of important official papers were reported to have been taken from the files of Consul Max Weber, who has been in charge of consular and diplomatic affairs for the German government in Northern Mexico.

HOUSE SWEEPED OFF FEET BY FIERY SPEECH TODAY

Republican Leader Takes Stand By Democratic Leader For The President.

BILL AS REPORTED CERTAIN TO PASS

President Stands Pat For Passage of Senate Measure—Mann and Kitchin Arouse Enthusiasm

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 1.—Spurred by the developments of the International situation the House today took up the bill to clothe the President with authority to deal with the German submarine menace under agreement to vote after three hours debate.

The statement was made officially that the White House stands behind the bill as drawn in the Senate, "last and all the time," does not approve the House bill in its entirety because it does not provide the "other instrumentalities" which the President desires and proposes to refuse war insurance to ships which carry munitions.

The portions the administration wants may be inserted on the floor of the House or after the bill gets to the Senate.

At the outset of the House debate Chairman Flood aroused intense enthusiasm on both sides. Every reference to America's willingness to protect the rights of citizens wherever they had a right to travel, was met with a volley of applause. He cited that authority for the President to act as suggested in the bill had been granted to other executives in 1794, 1798, 1805, 1815, 1839, and 1856, and incidentally attacked the pacifists protesting against the bill.

"In 1798," he continued, "many people in this country at that time said our rights should not be upheld and that to uphold them would lead to war with France. We gave the President the power, our commerce was protected, our honor vindicated and war was averted."

Even greater applause greeted Republican Leader Mann's stirring speech in favor of the bill, his remarks being interrupted by patriotic outbursts.

"It is well known," Mr. Mann said, "that I have done and will do everything in my power to keep this country out of the European war and the peace settlement that is certain to follow its end, but I do not see how it is possible for a patriotic nation to refuse to give the President at the time of this crisis power which he asks and which is provided for in the pending bill.

"I recognize the fact that those opposing this proposition are filled with patriotism and devotion to the country as the rest of us are," he continued, "but I am not willing to cavil over the terms of power conferred on the President.

"When the time comes that our ships shall be assaulted and the limit of our patience bearing for insults or destruction that may be heaped upon us is passed, it becomes the duty of a great or small government to defend its rights upon the sea.

"I hope and believe that by giving this power to the President we shall be more apparent to keep out than to get into war."

Representative Kitchin, of North Carolina, Democratic leader of the House, announced amid applause that he would vote for the bill.

"I shall vote for this bill, but not without hesitation and misgiving," Mr. Kitchin said.

"The Nation confronts the gravest crisis. It faces the supreme responsibility to itself and to the world.

"Already the European atmosphere threatens the faith of mankind in Christianity, in civilization.

NO VOTE ON COURT HOUSE REMOVAL IN BRUNSWICK

Senator Cranmer Has The Bill Tabled When It Reached The Upper House.

GRANT INTRODUCES TWO NEW BILLS.

New Hanover's Bill For Rural Policemen Is Passed—Prison Reform Bill Up Again.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., March 1.—Parson Hewitt, of Brunswick, won his fight to submit the Brunswick court house question to referendum today, but immediately lost it when Senator Cranmer tabled it. The table was the same today. The minority opposing the submission of the court house to popular vote lost its report when Parson Hewitt tabled its recommendation.

Grant introduced new bills today relating to oil inspection, and prohibition of the sale of quail in New Hanover, and Forsyth. His bill, providing rural policemen, passed.

By amending the prison reform bill presented by Senator Turner, the Senate today threw such safeguard about it as to make the whip last resort for incorrigibles. Senator Turner would have abolished it and Wednesday twenty-six against twenty-one supported him.

Today Senator Burgwyn, of Northampton, offered an amendment, providing corporal punishment shall be inflicted not earlier than twenty-four hours after the offense, shall be done in the presence of the chaplain and the physician in charge of camps, and they shall be sole judge as to the amount and the character of such punishment, "whether by whipping or otherwise." The vote was twenty-seven to nineteen.

There was an amendment by Jones to exempt Buncombe county from the operation of section one of the bill, which provides for the sending of all county convicts sentenced to two years or more at hard labor. Long, of Alamance, and Justice, also sought to amend the bill, asking that the provision as to pay be stricken out so as to provide for the operation of the Sawyer house bill providing for the payment to dependent families of the prisoners of not less than ten nor more than fifty per cent of the convict's net earnings. This was also lost and the bill passed third reading and was sent to the House.

The Senate passed the machinery act in a short time this morning. The most important change in the 1915 act is a re-assessment by the Corporation Commission of land values in the flood districts. An amendment offered by Pollock to exempt all property of churches from taxation was voted down.

The Senate—Wednesday. The Senate was convened at 11 o'clock by President Gardner. New bills were introduced as follows:

Oates—Amend the act dividing the State into judicial districts.

Harrill—Extend corporate limits of (Continued from Page Seven)

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GERMAN CONSUL MAKES DENIAL.

(By Associated Press.) Mexico City, March 1.—H. von Eckhardt, German minister to Mexico declared today that he knew nothing about the instructions alleged to have been sent to him by Foreign Secretary Zimmermann regarding a German-Mexican alliance in the event of war between Germany and the United States.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR GIVES OUT STATEMENT, DECLARING FOR THE ENTENTE.

FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES

This Statement Causes Congressmen to Rally to Support of President Wilson. Filibuster Dying.

JAPAN WOULD REFUSE TO BE AN ALLY OF GERMANY

Japanese Ambassador Gives Out Statement, Declaring For The Entente.

FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES

This Statement Causes Congressmen to Rally to Support of President Wilson. Filibuster Dying.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 1.—The Japanese embassy made the following comment today:

"With regard to the alleged German attempt to induce Japan and Mexico to make war upon the United States made public in the press this morning, the Japanese embassy, while lacking information as to whether such invitation ever reached Tokyo, desires to state most emphatically that any invitation of this sort would under no circumstances be entertained by the Japanese government, which is in entire accord and close relations with the other powers, on account of formal agreements and our common cause, and, moreover, our good friendship with the United States which is every day growing in sincerity and cordiality."

The effect on the situation on Congress was almost instantaneous. Republican Senators who had been filibustering against the proposal to empower the President to arm ships and "use other instrumentalities" to deal with Germany, began abandoning their opposition and assured Democratic leaders they would stand behind the President.

In the House a special rule was adopted for immediate consideration of the Flood bill to clothe the President with authority and to authorize a bond issue of \$100,000,000.

MEXICO NEUTRAL.

(By Associated Press.) Mexico City, March 1.—Most of the Mexican officials here declined today to discuss the effort of Germany to involve Mexico in a war with the United States except to say that they thought such efforts were vain and that Mexico would be neutral.

BOTH JAPAN AND MEXICO EXONERATED BY GOVT.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 1.—Secretary Lansing today authorized this statement:

"We do not believe that Japan has had any knowledge of this or that she would consider any proposition made by an enemy."

As to Mexico, the Secretary said: "We have confidence that Mexico would not be a party to any such agreement in view of the friendly relations existing between this government and the defacto government of Mexico."

Secretary Lansing took great care to exonerate both Japan and Mexico and said this government had no knowledge that the proposal had been conveyed through Mexico to Japan.

In view of the fact that the plan was not to be presented until "it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States," it was not certain, Secretary Lansing said, "that the matter had been officially presented to General Carranza at all.

It is known definitely, officially said, that Zimmermann's instructions reached Count von Bernstorff here, that he forwarded them to Mexico City and that they reached the German minister there. At this point, the trail of official certainty is lost to view.

Secretary Lansing flatly refused to give any indication of how the information came into possession of the United States government on the ground that it would endanger the lives of those concerned. For obvious reason, which he could not amplify, he refused to discuss the source in any way.

Ambassador Sato of Japan was informed of the possession of the text of Germany's proposal by this government yesterday afternoon when he called at the State Department to see Counsellor Polks.

Officials here expect Japan will welcome the opportunity to reiterate her allegiance to the Entente alliance and that the occasion will be taken as a means of cementing relations between the United States and Japan.

GERMANY ADMITS WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS IN WEST

Berlin Declares Rear Guard Action Inflicted Losses to The British.

ANOTHER AIR RAID ON ENGLAND.

British Official Report Says One Woman Killed—Four More Vessels Sunk by Submarines.

Berlin today made its expected announcement on the Somme front retirement, referring to the move as an evacuation of a part of our advanced positions on both sides of the Ancre. The move was made several days ago, it is declared, and remained concealed from the British, upon whom considerable losses were inflicted by the German rear guards as they fell back, according to orders. The defense, it is stated, has been transferred to another prepared line.

The German office also reports the repulse of two British attacks, just south of the evacuated ground, one near Le Transloy and the other near Sailly. The British appear to have penetrated the German position in the latter case and to have established themselves in what Berlin alludes to as a "riflemen's nest" of local importance only.

According to Paris dispatches, the great retrograde movement of the Germans on the Franco-Belgian front continues. Apparently even the stronghold of Bapaume for months the main objective of the British operations on the Somme front is to be abandoned, if indeed, it has not already been evacuated.

Paris military circles report information that the fall of Bapaume is imminent, the Germans having already fallen back behind the town. Despatches from the front by way of London lent color to the reports. The Germans appear to have been preparing for evacuation and were said to have blown up the famous clock tower there.

The new German line, according to French information runs behind Bapaume and thence southward along the Bapaume-Peronne road. This would approximate the present line from Le Transloy, three and a half miles south of Bapaume, southward to Peronne.

Northwest of Kut-el-Amara, on the Tigris, the British still have the Turks in full retreat, according to the latest (Continued on Page Eight.)

TEUTON CONSPIRACY NOW MADE KNOWN BY UNITED STATES

Would Have Inveigled Both Japan and Mexico Into War Upon America.

SENATE TACKLED LATEST THRILL WITH A WILL

President Called Upon For More Particulars as to The Disclosures.

WHITE HOUSE GIVES "O. K." TO THE NEWS

Senator Lodge Introduces Resolution, Which Foreign Relations Committee Considers at Once.

\*\*\*\*\* FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AT WORK. \*\*\*\*\*

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 1.—Full official confirmation of Germany's intrigue to ally Mexico and Japan with her to make war on the United States, as revealed last night by the Associated Press was given today at the White House, the State Department and in the Senate.

On the floor of the Senate, it was announced that Democratic Senators had been authorized to state that the revelations, including the text of the instructions from German Foreign Minister Zimmermann, to German Minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City, which was transmitted through Count von Bernstorff, late German ambassador here.

At one sweep Germany proposed to weaken the entente alliance by the defection of Japan; strike a crushing blow at England's naval power by cutting off the vital supply of Mexican fuel oil; and thoroughly engage the attention of the United States by an invasion in which Japan was to be invited to join and for which Mexico should be rewarded by reconquering her "lost provinces"—Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

This astounding document, dated Berlin, January 19, 1917, contents of which have for some time been in possession of the United States government, shows plainly that Germany, while making repeated protestations to the United States that she had no intentions of resuming her sea campaign of ruthlessness for its execution two weeks before it was announced and had even gone so far in consideration of the consequences that she proposed to meet them by the attack with Mexico and Japan upon the United States. The text of this document is as follows.

"Berlin, Feb. 19, 1917. "On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

"You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan, suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months. "ZIMMERMANN."

The documentary proof of Germany's plot to unite Japan and Mexico against the United States has been in the hands of the United States government while German statesmen have been pleading that President Wilson's action in breaking off diplomatic relations was "brusque" and harsh, and (Continued on Page Three.)

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