

MORE STEPS FOR PREPAREDNESS

GOVERNMENT MAKES FURTHER STEPS TOWARD PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

OTHER STATE TROOPS CALLED

Executive Order Issued Directing That Marine Corps Be Recruited to Full War Strength.—Aliens May Be Registered. — Thirty Regiments Called.

Washington—War preparations by the Government included calling into the Federal service a score of additional National Guard regiments for police service in the Western and Middle Western States and an order for the immediate recruiting of the Marine Corps to full war strength of 17,400 men.

With both the Navy and the Marine Corps ordered up to full strength, the only step remaining to increase the Navy personnel without action by Congress is the calling out of the Naval militia. It has been understood that the militia will be needed to fill out crews for the many vessels to be added, but no announcement on the subject has been made.

Secretary Baker said no further call upon the National Guard was in prospect. More than thirty-two regiments have been summoned to Federal duty to guard industries or other property which might be threatened by internal disorder growing out of the German situation.

Marine Corps Increased.
The order to increase the Marine Corps from its present authorized maximum of 14,981 to 17,400 was announced by Secretary Daniels in the following statement telegraphed to newspaper editors whose aid in finding the men is sought:

"The President has signed an executive order directing that the authorized strength of the Marine Corps be increased to 17,400 men.

"He was authorized by Congress in case of emergency, to direct such increase in enlistment.

"The United States Marine Corps is the soldier branch of our first line of defense. Marines serve both ashore and afloat, and are trained as infantry, heavy and light artillery, and machine gun companies. They form the landing parties from ships of the Navy, are the first men detailed for expeditionary duty, and defend all naval bases. Each capital ship of the Navy carries one company of marines. There has been a net increase of over 3,000 in the strength of the corps since Congress recently authorized an increase but over four thousand more are needed and needed now.

"Will you please emphasize the needs of this important branch of our naval service by giving special prominence in your papers to the President's order.

"The marine corps offers exceptional opportunities to young men of grit and ambition to serve their country in the first line of defense.

"In this emergency you have the opportunity and privilege of performing this public service, and I am confidently appealing to you for your cordial and helpful co-operation."

WILL MAKE NO FURTHER PACTS WITH GERMANY

United States Declines to Reaffirm or Extend Treaties of 1879 or 1828.

Washington—In refusing the German proposal to affirm or extend the agreements of the treaties of 1879 and 1828, the United States government also said it was seriously considering the question of whether Germany's "flagrant violations" of these treaties had not in effect abrogated them. The position of this country became known definitely when the reply to the German suggestion was made public, having been delivered previously to Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, now representing the interests of Germany in this country.

LINER ST. LOUIS HAS REACHED DESTINATION

Washington—The American liner St. Louis, the first armed ship to cross the Atlantic, has arrived safely at her destination. Secretary of the Navy Daniels was informed by offices of the line in New York. No details of the trip were given.

New York—The St. Louis left an American port on March 17 with 31 passengers, of whom 14 were American citizens. Among the crew of 394 persons were 131 Americans.

GERMANS CROSS MEXICAN BORDER FROM UNITED STATES.

Brownsville, Texas.—Two escaped members of the interned crews of two German auxiliary cruisers at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, crossed the Rio Grande two miles below Brownsville and are now at Matamoros, Mexico, opposite here, according to information received at military headquarters at Fort Brown here. American military authorities have taken the matter up with Mexican officials at Matamoros.

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO PLACE NATION ON FULL WAR FOOTING

NAVY IS ORDERED RECRUITED TO FULL STRENGTH OF 87,000 MEN.

MANY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS CALLED TO COLORS

This With Naval Construction Already Ordered Means President Has Exercised Full Limit of Authority as Commander-in-Chief to Prepare For War.

Washington—President Wilson took steps to place the nation on a war footing.

By executive order, he directed that the Navy be recruited without delay to full authorized war strength of 87,000 enlisted men. Taken in connection with emergency naval construction already ordered, this means that the President has exercised the full limit of his legal powers as Commander-in-Chief to prepare the Navy for war.

For the Army, the President directed that two new military departments be created in the Atlantic Coast region. The order means that the task of organizing whatever Army Congress may authorize will be divided among six departmental commanders instead of four, in the interest of speed and efficiency in mobilization.

The third step was to assume as a national duty the task of protecting American industries from domestic disorders in the event of hostilities. For this purpose, 11 full infantry regiments, two separate battalions and one separate company of National Guards were called back into the Federal service to act as National police in important districts. Supplementing these troops a regiment of Pennsylvania Guard and two companies of Georgia Infantry en route home from the border for muster out, were ordered retained in the Federal service.

No Explanations Given.
The President's orders were made known in terse official statements issued by both Departments. No explanation accompanied them except the statement that reorganization of the military departments, effective May 1, was designed to facilitate decentralization of command. Following is the Executive order bringing the Navy up to war strength.

By virtue of the authority vested in the President by the act of Congress approved August 29, 1916, entitled "an act making appropriations for naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and for other purposes" it is hereby directed that the authorized enlisted strength of the Navy be increased to 87,000 men. (Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

The Navy must enroll immediately approximately 20,000 men to reach the required strength. Secretary Daniels supplemented it with personal telegrams to newspaper editors all over the country urging them to aid the Department in every way in their power to obtain the men.

CALL TO COLORS FOR TROOPS OF NATIONAL GUARD

Fourteen Regiments are Again Called to Service for Police Purposes.

Washington—Calling into the Federal service of 14 regiments of the National Guard for police protection purposes was announced by the war department.

The department issued this statement:

"Many states have deemed it advisable to call out the National Guard for police purposes of protection. As the necessity for such steps arises from issues which are more national than local, it has been deemed advisable by the president to call into Federal service for the above-mentioned purposes fourteen organizations of the National Guard.

"Massachusetts, Second and Third Regiments.

"Pennsylvania, First and Third Regiments.

"Maryland, Fourth Regiment.

"District of Columbia, First Separate Battalion.

"Vermont, Company B, First Regiment.

"Connecticut, First Regiment.

"New York, Second and Seventy-first Regiments.

"New Jersey, First and Fifteenth Regiments.

"Delaware, First Battalion, First Regiment.

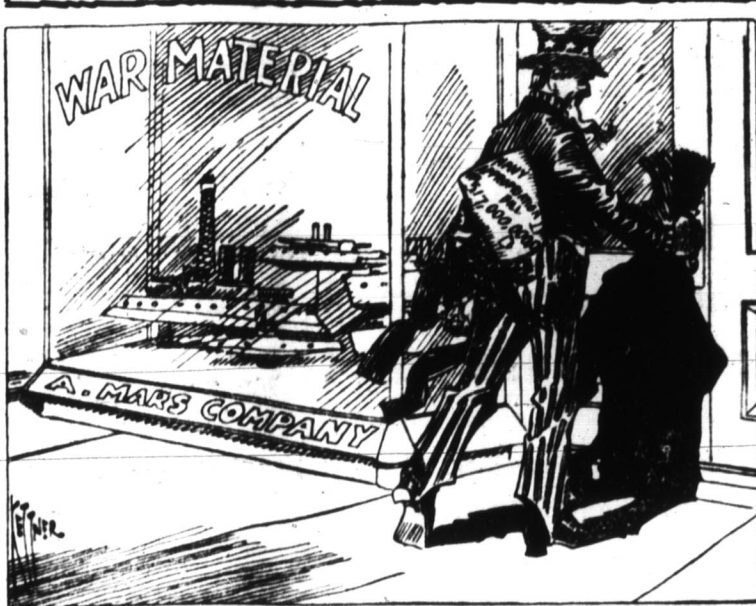
The following organizations which are now in the Federal service, will not be mustered out:

"Thirteenth Pennsylvania, A and B Companies of the First Georgia."

STRONG ADDRESS BY TAFT AT NASHVILLE

Nashville, Tenn.—Five thousand people heard President Taft deliver a strong address here in the interests of a World League to Enforce Peace and in explanation and justification of the entrance of the United States into war with Germany.

SPRING SHOPPING



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NATION OFFERS MEDIATION EXTRA SESSION ON APRIL 2ND

EUROPEAN NEUTRAL MAY TRY TO AVERT WAR BETWEEN GERMANY AND U. S.

Proposal Probably Another Move to Confuse the Issue and Divide Sentiment Here, Is Way Washington Regards the Matter.

Washington—Word that a neutral European Nation might offer mediation to prevent open war between the United States and Germany has come to the Administration without causing surprise or in any way affecting the Government's plans for meeting the situation forced by submarine ruthlessness. Such a proposal is regarded here as nothing more than another scheme fostered by Germany with the hope of confusing the issue and possibly dividing sentiment in this country while the destruction of American lives and ships on the high seas continue.

At the State Department officials would neither deny nor confirm that the Government already had been approached on this subject, although it was admitted informally that some such move was not unexpected.

It was very emphatically stated that no suggestion of mediation or discussion would be considered unless it was accompanied by abandonment of illegal assaults upon American shipping, a course which there is no reason for believing the Imperial Government is giving a thought.

The feeling in all quarters here is that the United States has with infinite patience and forbearance done everything possible with honor to avoid the virtual state of war now existing through Germany aggression. So long as this aggression continues, officials say, there is nothing to do but adopt measures of defense, and no basis exists for discussion.

Suspends Eight-Hour Law.

During the 10 days that must elapse before Congress assembles in response to his call, President Wilson will give close personal attention to the preparations going forward through the War and Navy Departments. He saw no callers today, but was in touch with both of the Departments. One of the duties he performed was the signing of a formal proclamation suspending the eight-hour law as applied to plants engaged on naval work, as step authorized by Congress as a part of the general plans for speeding up construction.

ANOTHER VESSEL FLYING AMERICAN FLAG IS SUNK.

Headton is Torpedoed in North Sea Without Warning.—Twenty of Crew Lost.

Washington—American Consul Mahin, at Amsterdam, cabled the State Department that the American steamer Headton, sunk by a submarine off Terchelling, Holland, was torpedoed without warning, and that 20 of the crew were drowned. The Consul's dispatch follows: "Standard Oil Ship Headton, from Philadelphia for Rotterdam, cargo oil, torpedoed without warning 8:15 evening of 21st, 25 miles north of Terchelling, Holland. Twenty of crew drowned. One died of injuries. Others (taken) to north of Holland. Submarine seen after torpedoing. More details to follow."

The sinking of the Headton adds another grave chapter to the story of war waged against American shipping by Germany to be laid before Congress by President Wilson at the special session he has called for April 2.

BIG DEMONSTRATION IN NEW YORK CITY

New York—Led by more than 40 patriotic and civic organizations and clothe clubs, a crowd that filled Madison Square Garden enthusiastically pledged itself to the support of President Wilson and urged that there be no more delay on the part of the United States in entering the European war against Germany. Among the speakers were Ellhu Ropt, who presided; Dr. John Grier Hibbon, and Charles S. Fairchild.

STORM SWEEP OVER NEW ALBANY, IND.

TWENTY-FIVE TO FIFTY ESTIMATED KILLED AND OVER HUNDRED INJURED.

MASS OF WRECKAGE IN PATH

State Troops Asked For.—Aid Rushed From Louisville and Jefferson.—Work of Devastation Leaves Many Homeless.

New Albany, Ind.—Between 25 and 50 persons were killed and probably 100 or more were injured by a storm which swept over New Albany, demolishing scores of residences and several industrial plants.

Twenty-five bodies have been recovered, and it is expected this number will be materially increased when all the debris of wrecked buildings has been cleared away.

The lighting system for the residence section of the city was put out of commission by the storm, and the work of rescue is proceeding with difficulty.

The storm struck about two miles from New Albany and moved southwest. Entering the city at State street, near Haly, it swept through three blocks. At the intersection of State and Pearl streets, it left the ground and then struck again at Vincennes street and the Charlestown road nearly a mile away. At that point, dwellings in three blocks were demolished.

In its progress along the Corydon Pike, the storm uprooted hundreds of trees and destroyed many small houses, many of whose occupants were injured.

The streets in the path of the storm were a mass of wreckage and it was soon seen that outside assistance was needed to meet the situation.

An appeal was made to the city authorities of Louisville, who sent a large number of policemen to the scene. In addition, every available officer from the Indiana State Reformatory at Jeffersonville and from the Jeffersonville police force were hurried to the stricken district. A call was made on the Governor for state troops, and it was reported that these were on the way. Numbers of citizens from surrounding towns hastened to New Albany and offered such aid as they could.

PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION OF UNITED STATES IN WAR.

Preparations Are Talked Over at Cabinet Meeting.—No Half-Way Measures.

Washington—The American Government has decided upon sweeping measures to be put into effect, following the expected declaration by Congress on after it meets April 2, that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Fully appreciating Germany's policy of acting in war first and talking afterwards, the Government has determined to provide against every possible emergency.

Questions involved were discussed at a Cabinet meeting, to which heads of departments carried reports on preparations already made and others contemplated.

Regretfully the Government apparently has decided that since Germany is making war upon the United States through ruthless killing of Americans and destruction of their ships, the issue must be met with steps much more far-reaching than mere attempts to protect individual merchant craft. Once a state of war is declared to exist, aggressive measures are expected to be taken.

As outlined after Friday's Cabinet meeting, the preparations of the Government are not to be for a short war, or a war marked by half-way measures. A complete program has been prepared so that everything will be carried out in a systematic manner.

The exact measure of American participation in the war is not expected to be revealed until after the President addresses Congress and until public sentiment crystallizes.

Whether an army will be sent abroad is left to the future. But this possibility is being taken into consideration, and the Government proposes to be ready for it as soon as practicable.

Detailed plans requiring Congressional action are expected to be complete when Congress meets April 2. Prior to that time, the Democratic and Republican leaders will confer with the President and members of his Cabinet. Speaker Clark and Representative Kitchin returned to Washington from the South.

The President has not yet written his address to Congress, although he has a general idea of what he will propose.

The measures decided upon are military, naval, industrial and financial. They are understood to be most comprehensive.

The Army plans have been fully drawn. Their first object will be to fully protect the United States against any contingency.

The naval program contemplates the building of vessels of all classes as rapidly as possible, and the manning of them when completed.

SECRETARY DANIELS APPEALS FOR RECRUITS

Following the President's authorization that the enlisted strength of the navy be recruited to 87,000 men, Secretary of the Navy Daniels is making a direct appeal to the nation, through the press, for a quick response by young men to the President's call. The following telegram was received from Secretary Daniels, which is self-explanatory:

Washington, D. C., March 15, 1917.

To the Editor:

"The President last night signed an executive order directing that the authorized enlisted strength of the navy be increased to 87,000. He was authorized by Congress in case of emergency, to direct such increase in enlistment. New ships and ships in reserve are being fully commissioned as rapidly as possible and the need is imperative for a larger enlistment to man them. There has been a net increase of over 6,500 in enlistment since Congress recently authorized an increase, but many more are needed, and needed now.

"Will you not emphasize this need by giving special prominence in your paper, to the President's order, and also by making an editorial appeal for new recruits for the navy?"

"The navy offers exceptional advantages to young men of stuff and ambition to serve in the first line for national defense. In this emergency you have the opportunity and the privileges of performing this public service, and I am confidently appealing to you for your cordial and helpful co-operation."

"JOSEPH S. DANIELS"

SOME CHANGES MADE IN MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Washington—Division of the United States into six instead of the existing four military departments was announced by the War Department.

Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood is transferred from command of the Department of the East to the new Southern Department, with headquarters at Charleston; Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell from the Western Department to the Eastern Department; Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett from the Philippines to the Western Department and Brig. Gen. Clarence R. Edwards from the Canal Zone to the Northeastern Department. Major General Barry, of the Central Department, and Major General Pershing, of the Southern Department, remain in their commands.

The changes were outlined by the Department in the following statement:

"To facilitate decentralization of command, the United States is divided into six military departments in place of four now existing. The new organizations become effective May 1, 1917, and comprise the following:

"(a) Northeastern Department, to embrace the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Headquarters at Boston.

"(b) Eastern Department to embrace the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia and the Canal Zone and the Island of Porto Rico, with the islands and keys adjacent thereto. Headquarters at Governor's Island.

"(c) Southeastern Department, to embrace the States of Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, together with the coast defenses of New Orleans and the coast defenses of Galveston. Headquarters at Charleston, S. C.

"(d) Central Department, to embrace the States of Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado. Headquarters at Chicago.

"(e) Southern Department, to embrace the States of Louisiana (except the coast defenses at New Orleans), Texas (except the coast defenses at Galveston), Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. Headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

"(f) Western Department, to embrace the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and the territory of Alaska. Headquarters at San Francisco.

"Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood will command the Southeastern Department and Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell will command the Eastern Department. Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett will command the Western Department and Brig. Gen. Clarence R. Edwards will command the Northeastern Department. Brig. Gen. Edward H. Plummer will command the troops in the Panama Canal Zone. Other Department commanders will remain as at present."

BRAND WHITLOCK HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM BRUSSELS

Washington—Because of "the German government's disregard—of its written understandings—for the protection of Americans and American relief work in Belgium, the state department announced that American Minister Brand Whitlock had been withdrawn from Brussels, and the staff of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium advised that they should not remain longer in German occupied territory.