

WAR DEPENDS ON FATE OF FIRST ARMED LINER

Declaration of Hostilities Will Not Result From Sinking of Freighters But Very Preparedness Step is Being Taken.

ROBERT J. BENDER
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Washington, March 20—Actual declaration of war by the United States against Germany appears to depend upon the fate that befalls the first armed American liner. It appears also that an avowal of hostilities by President Wilson will not result from the sinking of the three American freighters Saturday. While taking every preparedness step, it is believed that can be taken, the President is loath to take further action just now. He is considering further aggressive steps, however. It was definitely ascertained today that the President strongly questions the advisability of forcing the present situation, and it may be a day or two before further decision is announced.

Two Sailors Are Missing

(By United Press)
Washington, March 20—Only two are missing from the interned German ships at Philadelphia, according to the latest Navy messages. The missing are Lieutenant Cort and mate Schreder. They are believed to have been drowned when with five others they attempted to escape last night from the ships. The others caught in the waters were nearly frozen to death when brought out by marines and police. They were well supplied with money for their venture.

Progress In Aisne Region

Paris, March 20—Slight progress despite bad weather is reported from the Aisne and Ardennes district.

Vigilancia Was Unwarned

London, March 20—The American consul has confirmed the report that the Vigilancia was unwarned.

Nicholas is In High Favor

Birmingham, March 20—David Overton, convicted of murder before Probate Judge Lawler and sentenced to death, escaped prison to day with six others. Overton left Birmingham today by auto. It is said that friends organized the plot for his delivery.

Makes Escape From Prison

Petrograd, March 20—Grand Duke Nicholas cemented his alliance with the people in revolution and added to his popularity when it was learned that it was he who induced Zar to abdicate.

Cotton Report For 1916 Crop

Washington, March 20—The 1916 cotton crop amounted to 11,356,344 bales against 11,000,173 bales in 1915.

WILL ASK FOR INCREASED RATES

RAILROADS ARGUE THAT IF CONGRESS HAS POWER TO FIX WAGES IT CAN ALSO REG- ULATE ROAD RATES

(By United Press)
Washington, March 20—That Congress at the coming session will be asked to pass a law granting increased freight and passenger rates to railroads to reimburse them for increased wages under the eight hour law was the statement given the United Press this morning by prominent railroad heads and officials of the Interstate Commerce Commission.
"Since the Supreme Court has decided that Congress has power to fix trainmen's wages, then applying the same rule it has the right to legislate in regard to road rates," said a prominent government official.
The Adamson decision established the right of the government to prevent strikes, the railroad managers also contended today.

Tonight's Show At Alkrama

The scenes of the newsboys struggling for their papers which appears in the Jesse L. Lasky production "Lost and Won", a Paramount Picture in which beautiful Marie Dora will be seen at the Alkrama on Tuesday were taken in the rear of a great Metropolitan daily. In the throng of youngsters with Miss Dora was a little chap who was always being pushed out of the way by his larger companions. Subsequently, an older boy struck him and the two got in a fight, which Miss Dora was finally able to stop. The little fellow's nose was bleeding, one eye nearly closed, he had cut his grimy little hand on the older one's teeth and his shirt was nearly torn off. The charming star, all sympathy, gave the little fellow her own handkerchief, patted him on the back and fussed over him and finally Miss Dora dropped a handful of change in his pocket. The big boy surrounded by a circle of admirers viewed all this at attention and when the dirt and blood had been wiped from the tear streaked little face, the big fellow remarked, "Oh, Gee! ain't he lucky, he gets everything."
Also Billie Burke in "Gloria's Romance."
Only two more chapters of "Gloria's Romance," and one of them will be shown tonight and night at the Alkrama.

CARRANZA'S PLAN IS REJECTED

PRESIDENT WILSON CALLS AT- TENTION TO GERMAN-MEXI- CAN-JAPANESE PLOT IN NOTE TO MEXICAN CHIEF

(By United Press)
Washington, March 20—While rejecting Carranza's peace plan and proposal for embargo on shipments to the Allies, President Wilson in a note to Carranza today renewed his suggestion for co-operation among neutrals for halting the war.
The President called attention to the break with Germany emphasizing the German-Mexican-Japanese plot as making it impossible for the United States to participate in Carranza's proposal for joint neutral mediation now.
The Allied control of the seas was pointed out as the only reason why munitions do not reach Germany, and it was stated that the United States was well within her own rights in furnishing supplies and munitions to the Allies.

WEATHER OR NO
The man who is long on conviviality usually has a wife who is short on house money.
Fair tonight and Wednesday. Probable local rain.

Crowds Throng The Busy Store

"Meet me at McCabe and Grice's is the slogan today most popular throughout the city, and indeed, that is the surest place to find one's friends this afternoon.

The morning opening with a large crowd, included many shoppers from the country. Then at noon there was a brief lull while even the daintiest damsels must needs take time for something more substantial than mere loveliness.
Decorated with wistaria and apple blossoms the east windows of the Busy Store are an inviting bowler of beauty with their dainty hued silk gowns for evening wear. Not to be outdone, on the men's side of the store, the color note in one of the windows is found in the gorgeous designs of new neckwear and in the other by the handsome display of Spring shoes.

Inside a veritable rainbow of majenta, mustard, chartreuse, copenhagen, French Blue, and apple green, beige and castor, gladdens the vision and the pot of gold is found, too, in other fabrics of equally pleasing texture and stripes.
Speaking of stripes, they are fascinating—whether you call them Society stripes Khaki Kul, or—well anything but chain gang stripes. They are too lovely for that appellation and too radiant with joy.

Plaids are of every kind and in every material. Printed pongees, printed china silks, printed silk poplins, all with the most Oriental designs, a mixture of Chinese, Japanese and all of the other eastern countries it might seem, yet wholly adaptable to modern America.

Yes, the ladies are all there, and the band is playing now. And tomorrow many who went today will go again, and those who could not get there today will set Big Ben for an early hour tomorrow and get down in good time.

Kitchell Case Is Postponed

The slander case of the State vs. Kitchell, on the docket for trial in Superior Court Monday was continued.

Connie Page, colored, tried for assault was acquitted.

Agustus Whedbee, colored, tried Tuesday for stealing cotton, was found guilty. Sentence has not yet been passed.

To Night At New Theatre

Tonight the New Theatre will present an especially attractive program featuring William Russell, in "The Man Who Would Not Die" a remarkable production of the Mutual Film Company. This is the first of a series of a series of pictures from this company that will be shown at the New Theatre every Tuesday, and the management thinks that these pictures will make Tuesday's program one of the best of the week.
"The Social Buccaneer" is Wednesday's attraction for the matinee and night.
The story is a fascinating one of a young American's experience first in China, then later in New York where his love of adventure and philanthropy are interwoven with the Chinese, in the big city.

Warren Kerrigan and Louise Lovely are supported by a notable cast in this Bluebird photoplay and its unusual plot and oriental charm make it a picture quite out of the ordinary.

NOTICE
I hereby announce that I am a Candidate for Alderman from the Fourth Ward, subject to the action of the Democratic primary.
Any support given me will be appreciated.
March 20, 1917.
W. S. GATHERER, JR.

Wanton Destruction Marks German Retreat

Roads Blown up, Trees and Fences Down, Building Razed, Even the Land Itself Damaged as Much as Possible.

ORGANIZE FOR RED CROSS WORK

TWENTY SIX CHARTER MEM- BERS OF NATIONAL SURGICAL DRESSING COMMITTEE MEET MONDAY IN REST ROOMS

Elizabeth City has always been interested in the work of the Red Cross Society and on Monday a number of ladies gathered at the Rest Rooms in the Hinton Building and organized a Chapter of the National Surgical Dressing Committee a branch of Red Cross work which has for its object the making and giving of surgical dressings for relief work.

Twenty six charter members took up the work and were addressed by Miss Anne Brown of New York City on the work of this organization throughout the United States. More members are wanted and Miss Elosie Robinson, chairman of the Chapter urges all who can do so to co-operate at once in the movement. She will be glad to furnish any information about the work to those interested.

The Singer Sewing Machine Agency has given one of its best machines to the Chapter which will greatly facilitate the work undertaken.

On Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock a second meeting will be held to which all ladies of the city are invited.

Just Getting Ready to Move

"The announcement that we are moving into the Hinton Building" says Mr. Duff of the Duff Piano Company, "is just a little premature." It is true that we have leased quarters in the Hinton Building but it will be another month before we can move in, as that much time will be required to fit up.

REV HURST PLEASURES

Rev. S. N. Hurst of South Mills greatly pleased the congregation of Blackwell Memorial church last Sunday morning and will fill the pulpit again next Sunday morning.
His subject was "Earnestly Contend for the Faith", and he stressed the responsibility and duty of the denomination in Christian work.
Mr. Hurst left the bar in Virginia after a successful practice and after writing a number of law books and entered the Baptist ministry, coming to this section from Roanoke, Virginia.

HAVE A DOLLAR READY

The Merchants Mercantile Agency at a recent meeting voted to assess each member a dollar a piece for advertising.

Collectors will be sent out again on Tuesday and those who have not paid are requested to make their payments promptly.

HENRY WOOD

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
With French army advancing from Roye, March 20—One hundred and sixteen square miles of territory burned black and rent with wanton explosions—this is the prize wrenched from the Germans by the French from around Chaulnes to the Oise, which is merely a part of the vast territory repatriated by the French after hot pursuit. The German retreat resembles the retreat from the Marne. This however, is typical of German ruthlessness in retreat. The retreat was marked by wanton destruction far exceeding the German invasion. Travelling in every direction on a thirteen mile front around Roye from Chaulnes to the Oise one finds roads everywhere blown up, trees and fences down, houses and buildings of every kind razed, and the very land itself damaged as much as possible.

Roye was mined and blown up instead of burned. The swiftness of the French advance caused the Germans to touch off the mines at night without warning. The civil population were hurried from their beds by startling explosions. The quick arrival of the French and the cutting of wires connecting the mines saved some sections from destruction.

Wreaking their final vengeance, the Germans entered the houses and smashed furniture and dishes and everything breakable.

For Sale Real Estate

One lot on West side of Poindexter Street next to Poindexter Creek. Foundation for building already prepared.

Mill site, on Sheppard Street and Factory Avenue and Charles Creek. Sawmill on property will also be sold.

Lot fronting 63 feet on Parsonage Street and adjoining the Graded School property. On this lot is a comfortable two story dwelling with all conveniences.

Lots 68 and 69, as designated on Plat of Skinner and Gregory, Elizabeth City, N. C.
mar 16 17 19 20 21

TOPIC SOCIAL WEDNESDAY

The Ladies' Aid Society of Blackwell Memorial Church will have a Topic Social at Mrs. Mary H. Britles, 709 North Road street, Wednesday afternoon from three to six o'clock.

Only a dime insures each who come an afternoon's entertainment with refreshments included. A well known Southern Suffragette will be present who will talk to the ladies for a few minutes after the close of the Social.

BONDS FOR SALE

Elizabeth City, N. C.
Paving, curbing, stables and fire equipment.
\$84,000 five per cent bonds.

Sealed bids will be received for the above issue, dated May 1st, 1917 until April 26, 1917, 2 o'clock p. m.

Five per cent of amount to accompany bid.
J. C. COMMANDER,
mar 16—apr 16 City Mgr.

John A. Meades of Washington was in the city Monday on business.