

Congress Meets Today In Extra Session

Marks Climax of Almost Three Years Effort on Part of Chief Executive to Gracefully Protect American Lives And Property.

Flash—The President will address Congress at 8 o'clock tonight.

CHAMP CLARK IS RE-ELECTED SPEAKER

Washington, April 2.—Champ Clark was today re-elected speaker by a vote of 217 to 205. Congressman Gillett received 2 votes and Congressman Lenroot 2. Congressman Schall, Independent, said in his speech nominating Clark that patriotism demanded his re-election.

By J. P. YODER

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Washington, April 2.—Congress met in extra session here today, to receive a special message from President Wilson.

This action marks the climax of almost three years' effort on the part of the Chief Executive to peacefully force the protection of lives and property of American citizens from the effects of ruthless German submarine warfare.

The session opened with prayers that America should prove mighty in defense of her rights.

Patriots, pacifists and suffragists tormented the Capitol with unfurled flags. The suffragists declared themselves "with the President."

Hot anti-war enthusiasts swarmed on Pennsylvania avenue wearing bands with the words, "Keep out of War."

PRESIDENT SPEAKS TODAY

President Wilson indicated that he would deliver his message to Congress as soon as the House organized no matter how late in the afternoon that should be. The message is an unusually long one and is designed to justify this country's course, placing the blame of the present crisis on the Kaiser. Wilson is expected to express the hope that peace will soon be restored to the entire world on the basis of equality of nations and freedom of the seas with the restriction of autocracies and with limited armaments.

A vigorously phrased resolution calling for immediate declaration of war against Germany was introduced in the House foreign affairs committee by Representative Gardner. The resolution completed by the committee is to be introduced immediately following Wilson's address.

TO SEIZE GERMAN SHIPS

Plans have been completed to take over approximately ninety German merchant ships interned at American ports immediately upon a declaration of a state of war.

Commercial, industrial and manpower mobilization of our forces have made great strides since the President suddenly issued his call to the nation's legislative body ten days ago; and so definite has been the conviction that aggressive war is to be waged upon Germany they stand ready at this moment awaiting only official word from Washington to go ahead.

Munition and shipbuilding plants are prepared to serve the equipment for the sea and land forces and the present session of Congress is expected to pass a universal service measure.

Today's historic situation resulted directly from Germany's repudiation of her submarine pledges of a year ago and the resumption of ruthless submarine warfare in an attempt to starve England into submission.

The first American ship to go down at the hands of a German submarine commander following the German decree establishing a submarine blockade zone around England February 1st, was the Housatonic. This ship was sunk without warning on February 3rd.

This was followed by the sinking of the Lyman M. Law on February 13, the Algonquin on March 12 and the Vigilantia, City of Memphis and the Illinois on March 18.

All these were American ships and all of them with the exception of the City of Memphis were sunk without warning. The Captain, four Americans and four other nationalities are missing from the City of Memphis and 15, including several Americans are missing from the Vigilantia.

A COALITION CONGRESS
The big question that stares the country in the face is: "What will Congress do? Probably never before in the history of the United States has there been so nearly a coalition congress. Democrats and republicans, with all members present will have 214 each in the House. The balance of power will be in the hands of five independents. Schall Progressive and Fuller, Independent are expected to vote with the Republicans and London, socialist and Randall, prohibitionist with the Democrats. Representative Martin of Louisiana, elected from a democratic district on a high tariff progressive ticket really holds the whip hand in the House organization. His vote may be the deciding one. And nobody knows how he will cast it.

Representative Jeanette Rankin of Montana, the first woman in congress, is present and will vote on the war questions.

The session beginning today is the most momentous since the Civil war, by reason of the critical situation which caused its being and the vital incidents, many unprecedented, which marked the

Hertford Loses To Edenton

Hertford, N. C., March 31—Edenton High School, representing the negative side of the argument, won from Hertford in the State debating contest held here Friday night. The contest was a close one, in which the Hertford debaters made a hard fight, easily carrying the oratory and delivery side of the question but the negative side presented more room for argument.

A large delegation of Hertford supporters met the late train from Elizabeth City to welcome home their own negative team, William H. Gaither and Thelma Elliott, who had won the contest in Betsey ville.

MARKET HOUSE OPENED TODAY

FISH MEN READY FOR ACTUAL BUSINESS. ATTRACTIVE SCENE IN SPITE OF TOO MANY EMPTY STALLS

The new market house is open, according to schedule and a number of visitors were down Monday who had not had opportunity to see the interior of the handsome and well equipped building before.

Thomas Crank & Sons, who have two stalls for fish, were the first men to be ready for business, and their wares were most attractively displayed and advertised. The variety of fish from big shad and drum to flounders, perch and blue fish were tempting. Indeed, and the cleanliness of the surroundings eliminated the usual "fishy" odor which drive away oftentimes the house keeper who likes to eat fish but not to cook and serve them.

Maurice Pappendick had his sign already up at the East corner and was preparing his meat stall for customers. Electricians were putting in electric bulbs where this had not been done, and the place by ten o'clock began to look like a real market, in spite of its too large space and too limited number of dealers.

C Pappendick has taken the western corner stall for meats.

The parade was followed by the usual declamation, spelling and reading contests held in the High School building where an exhibition of art and craft work by the different schools was also made.

At noon a picnic lunch was served on the school grounds, about fifteen hundred people being present. Following lunch the crowd again returned to the auditorium, where medals and prizes were awarded the winners of the various contests, and Dr. T. S. McMullan delivered the address of the day. So great was the crowd that only a portion of them could be accommodated in the school building, so the Hertford girls played an inter-class basket ball game, to entertain those who could not gain admission to the speaking.

The day concluded with a big field meet on the school yard, in which there were many interesting and closely contested races, jumps and contests for the smaller children.

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WAS BIG DAY FOR PERQUIMANS

OVER THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTENDED AND PARADE PRESENTED ENTERTAINING FEATURES

Hertford, N. C., March 31st—The first County Commencement of the Perquimans County Schools, held in Hertford Thursday was a success from every standpoint.

The program opened with a big parade through the principal streets of Hertford in the morning. Approximately one thousand school children participated in the parade, which was led by the Woodmen drum corps. The Primary Department of the Hertford schools followed with a story reader pageant, in which Red Riding Hood followed by a "sure enough shaggy wolf, Goldy Locks and the Three Bears, and the Pilgrim family was the outstanding feature.

Then followed the Grammar School girls who added a brilliant touch of color to the line. There were fifty girls in the detachment all wearing white middie blouses, red ties and blue skirts. A military touch was given to the line by the grammar Grade Boys, who came next in regulation formation. The boys were clad in Scout uniforms and carried rifles and marched with the precision of regulars. This company was followed by a squad of girls clad in Red-Cross uniforms.

The Second Division was composed of the County Schools, all but two of the schools being represented. Each school wore some distinctive costume or uniform and carried school pennants and banners.

The parade was followed by the usual declamation, spelling and reading contests held in the High School building where an exhibition of art and craft work by the different schools was also made.

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Jesse White Dead

Jesse White, aged forty years, died at his home on West Church street Friday evening at a few minutes before seven o'clock.

The funeral was conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at two thirty by Rev. D. P. Harris and Rev. J. L. Cunningham.

Mr. White is survived by his wife and two little girls, Mary Louise and Elizabeth White, also by his father, Alonso White of Winfall; two brothers, R. T. White of Hertford and Alphonso White, Jr. of Winfall; a sister, Mrs. E. B. Daughtrey of Winfall; six half brothers, J. H. Opal, Charles Elijah and Thomas White of Winfall; and four half sisters, Mrs. J. H. Baker, Misses Ruth, Dana and Helen White of Winfall. His wife is the sister of Mrs. T. T. Turner of this city.

Mr. White was a native of Perquimans County and moved to Elizabeth City last November with his family and his wife's mother, Mrs. J. W. Turner, from Winfall, and since that time has been with the Foreman Blades Lumber Company with headquarters at Williamston where he was in charge of logging operations with a large force of men under him with whom he was very popular and to whom his death brought real grief.

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NO PACIFICISM IN SOUTHWEST

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT SAYS SECTION HAS NO TAIN OF ANTI-WAR SPIRIT AND IS FREE FROM JINGOISM AS WELL

(By United Press)
"The South and Southwest are ready for conflict with Germany. This great section which was led to Mexico by Zimmerman has not an ounce of anti-war spirit and neither has it any rampant jingoism."

This is the opinion of Ex-President Taft upon his return from a week's tour of nine states as announced today through the League to enforce peace. Taft started in Richmond and wound up in Kansas City.

"The people of the South and Southwest feel that war is inevitable," said Taft. "They are willing to go into it for the defense of their rights. They feel as I do that Germany has forced war upon us."

"The South is in favor of compulsory military training."

KNOCKED DOWN BY PACIFISTS

SENATOR LODGE DARES TO SAY THAT A PACIFIST IN SUCH A CRISIS IS MERELY A COWARD

(By United Press)

Washington, April 2.—Senator Lodge was knocked down and painfully injured today in a clash with two pacifists, Alexander Barnhart of Boston and Mrs. Anna Mae Feabody of Cambridge, who were at once arrested on the charge of assault. They argued in defense that Lodge had said "Any body who could be a pacifist at this time is a coward," whereupon Barnhart struck Lodge to the floor and a telegraph operator, Herman, threw himself upon Barnhart.

Washington, April 2.—Additional guardsmen ordered out today were the Second Virginia Infantry and the Fourth Virginia Infantry, Battery E, Virginia Field artillery.

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Cheerful She Takes Oath

(By United Press)
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United Press At Richmond

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