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U.S. WILL NOT ENTER INTO DISCUSSION

GERMANY CONTINUES HER RUTHLESS U-BOAT WARFARE.

BLUNT REPLY TO PROPOSAL

Is Made by Lansing at President's Direction. — Renewal of German Pledge Prerequisite to Any Diplomatic Discussion.

Washington.—The United States has flatly rejected Germany's offer to discuss differences between the two nations while the ruthless submarine campaign is in progress.

In a note today to the Swiss minister, who on Saturday presented orally the German proposal, Secretary Lansing said the United States "does not feel that it can enter into any discussion with the German government concerning the policy of submarine warfare against neutrals which it is now pursuing, unless and until the German government renews its assurances of the 4th of May (the Sussex note) and acts upon the assurances."

The state department's announcement follows:

"In view of the appearance in the newspapers of February 11 of a report that Germany was initiating negotiations with the United States in regard to submarine warfare, the Department of State makes the following statement:

"A suggestion was made orally to the Department of State late Saturday afternoon by the Minister of Switzerland that the German Government is willing to negotiate with the United States, provided that the commercial blockade against England would not be interfered with. At the request of the Secretary of State, this suggestion was made in writing and presented to him by the Swiss minister Sunday night.

The communication is as follows:

"The Swiss government has been requested by the German government to say that the latter is now, as before, willing to negotiate, formally or informally, with the United States, provided that the commercial blockade against England will not be broken thereby.

(Signed) "P. RITTER," Lansing's Reply.

This memorandum was given immediate consideration and the following reply was dispatched:

"My dear Mr. Minister:

"I am requested by the president to say to you, in acknowledging the memorandum which you were kind enough to send to me on the 11th instant, that the Government of the United States would gladly discuss with the German Government any questions it might propose for discussion were it to withdraw its proclamation of the 31st of January, in which, suddenly and without previous intimation of any kind, it cancelled the assurances which it had given this government on the 4th of May last; but that it does not feel that it can enter into any discussion with the German Government concerning the policy of submarine warfare against neutrals which it is now pursuing unless and until the German government renews its assurances of the 4th of May and acts upon the assurances."

MEXICAN FIRST CHIEF WOULD BE DOVE OF PEACE

Washington.—Revolution swept Mexico's de facto government has entered the lists of international peace-makers. With an identical note to all neutrals, it proposed a joint effort to end the European war, to be followed, in the event of failure, by the cutting off of all exports of munitions and supplies to belligerents.

The communication was handed to the state department by R. P. de Negri, charge of the Carranza embassy here. It was received with expressions of mingled amusement and gravity in official quarters.

CHINESE DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO JUAREZ

Columbus, N. M.—Five hundred Chinese refugees from Mexico protested against the contemplated plan of deporting them to Juarez. Leaders said Villa was expected to attack Juarez and that all Chinese would be executed if he captured the town. The protest has been forwarded to Chinese minister at Washington. Immigration officials said arrangements have been made at El Paso to give asylum to Chinese if the Mexican town is attacked.

HAS LITTLE HOPE OF AVOIDING WAR

BERLIN HAS NO EXPECTATION THAT HOSTILITIES WITH U. S. CAN BE PREVENTED.

RATHER DEFER THAN AVOID

Ultimate Hostilities Inevitable if President Adheres to Position That Loss of American Life is Hostile Act.

Copenhagen, via London.—Little hope or expectation prevails in Berlin that war with the United States is avoidable, or that a modus vivendi reconciling the policies of the two governments can be found.

There now is a desire on the part of the authorities and a vast bulk of the people to avoid actual hostilities in any way consistent with the general lines of the present submarine policy, but only in such a way. Accordingly, instructions were given, so the Associated Press has been reliably informed, to submarine commanders before they started on their February mission, to take the safe side when neutral vessels, particularly American, were in question, whenever possible. Enemy merchantment, when recognized as such, were ordered to be sunk at sight, but neutral merchantment were to be warned when such action, in their judgment, was consistent with the object of the campaign and the safety of their own ships.

It is realized, however, that after the prompt and resolute stand taken by President Wilson, these orders could only be palliative and only defer, not avoid, an ultimate break. Also, that if President Wilson stood by his announcement that the destruction of American lives or ships would be regarded as an act of hostility, a casus belli must come sooner or later—probably sooner on account of the number of Americans on enemy ships. Moreover, there was the discretionary nature of the instructions to submarine commanders, who were informed that while the careful course toward neutrals was recommended and desired, they would no longer be subjected to punishment for departing from their former procedure of warning, if they found this advisable.

It is considered that the only possibility of the avoidance of hostilities would result from a modification of its standpoint by one or the other side, and before the Associated Press correspondent's departure from Berlin, there seemed no probability that Germany would give way this time or abandon the ruthless campaign now started.

FOUR MILLION DOLLAR FIRE LOSS IN PITTSBURG SUBURB.

Machine Shop of Union Switch and Signal Company Destroyed.

Pittsburgh.—The machine shop building of the Union Switch and Signal Company, the largest plant for the manufacture of switch signals in the United States, and until recently engaged in filling munition orders for the European Governments, located at Swissdale, a suburb, was destroyed by fire with a loss estimated at \$4,000,000. The cause of the fire has not been determined, although officials of the company believe it resulted from spontaneous combustion.

The blaze started in the packing department of the building and, fanned by a high wind, gained such headway that it was necessary to call out the fire departments from the adjoining boroughs of Braddock, Wilkinsburg, North Braddock and Rankin, and a part of the Pittsburgh department.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS HOLD CAUCUS AND APPROVE MEASURES

Washington.—The diplomatic breach with Germany having been indorsed by the Senate, Congress is devoting itself to important general business, together with emergency measures necessitated by the strained international situation.

Emergency measures awaiting action in the Senate include espionage and conspiracy bills recommended by the Attorney General, and amendments to the shipping laws. The Senate expects to pass the Porto Rican citizenship bill during the early part of the present week, after which a fight again will be instituted for legislation in the pending postoffice appropriation increasing the rate on newspapers and periodicals and providing for one-cent drop letter postage. Revenue legislation also will be pressed in the Senate within a few days.

PROUD MEN I HAVE MET



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LINER SUNK WITHOUT WARNING

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABOARD BRITISH LINER CALIFORNIA.

One Death and Thirty Hospital Cases—One Woman From Wyoming Whose Husband Had Taken Out Naturalization Papers.

Washington.—Consul Frost, at Queenstown, cabled the State Department that the British passenger liner California had been torpedoed without warning off the Irish Coast, and that the one American known to have been on board was saved. Some of the passengers and crew still were missing, including two women and several children.

Frost's dispatch was as follows: "Anchor liner California has been sunk; bound Glasgow, presumably from New York. Two hundred persons on board; one death; 30 hospital cases; survivors reach here late tonight."

The captain of the ship is quoted as saying the submarine did not hail or give any warning before firing two torpedoes from a distance of 300 yards and sending the California down.

The American survivor was John A. Lee, of Montgomery, Ala., who is supposed to have been a member of the crew.

Wyoming Woman on Board.

Casper, Wyoming.—Mrs. Alexander Cuthill, a passenger on board the liner California, sailed two weeks ago to visit her parents in Scotland. Mr. Cuthill has taken out his first papers of naturalization and has filed on a homestead here.

No Americans Aboard.

New York.—No American citizens were among the 31 passengers on the California, according to officials of the Anchor Line in the city. Records filed when applications were made for passage showed that while many of the persons who sailed on the liner lived in the United States, they were subjects of Great Britain. The crew numbered 134. The cable message received at the Anchor Line offices in this city announcing sinking of the California said that 160 survivors out of the total of 215 persons aboard the vessel had been landed. Nothing was said of the fate of the remaining 55.

LEFT TO PRESIDENT TO MAKE THE DECISION.

Washington.—The steady stream of reports telling of the destruction of merchant ships by German submarines was brought to a climax by a cablegram to the State Department from Consul Frost, at Queenstown, announcing that the British passenger liner California had been torpedoed without warning, and that an American citizen was among the survivors. Whether this will prove to be the overt act to drive the United States into war no one would attempt to say. President Wilson, who must make the decision, had retired when the news came, and officials did not wake him. He had been informed of a message from Consul Frost telling of the sinking of the California, but giving no details as to warning or the presence of Americans.

The President undoubtedly will wait for complete reports on the subject before determining whether to go before Congress and ask authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people."

SPEED UP WORK ON BIG SHIPS

ALL WORKING FORCES DOUBLED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE RUSHED TO LIMIT.

All Possible Steps to Prepare For Any Orders in Event That Country Enters Into War.—Just Waiting For Word to Go.

Washington.—Construction work on warships building at the plants of the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., the Fore River Shipbuilding Company and the Electric Boat Company will be speeded up to the limit of these plants. Work on the two superdreadnaughts building at the Newport News yard is proceeding under doubled crews at the suggestion of Secretary Daniels, and the Secretary accepted the proposal of the other two plants to similarly hasten work on the war vessels they are building.

At the Newport News plant it is estimated that the battleship Mississippi, recently launched, can be completed by midsummer instead of January 1, 1918, as called for in the contract. The keel of one of the four new battleships recently contracted for will be laid on the slip vacated by the Mississippi instead of a merchant vessel, as had been intended.

Representatives of the Fore River and Electric Boat Company called on Mr. Daniels, offering to rush work on destroyers and submarines, for which they would set aside private work. They were told to go ahead at full speed. The plan is to get the vessels launched as soon as possible, freeing stocks for then new set of destroyers and submarines to be authorized in the pending navy bill.

SAFE CONDUCT FOR COUNT BERNSTORFF.

Will Be Given by Great Britain, the Foreign Office Informs Ambassador.

London.—Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States, will be given safe conduct so far as it is within the power of the British Government to bestow. This announcement was made by the Foreign Office. It followed a conference between A. J. Balfour, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Page.

The two were closeted for nearly an hour. Both were non-committal on their deliberations, but at the conclusion of the conference, the Foreign Office authorized announcement of Great Britain's decision to accede to Washington's request, made two days ago. At the same time, the Foreign Office cabled its decision to the State Department at Washington. It is said that Great Britain is ready to grant Count von Bernstorff safe conduct, but that it could not guarantee the former Ambassador's safety against the acts of his own countrymen. The British Government has expressed itself as anxious to meet the State Department's wishes.

GERARD'S COURSE IS GIVEN APPROVAL.

Washington.—Ambassador Gerard's refusal to enter into any sort of negotiations with the German Foreign Office is approved by the State Department as the only possible course for him to pursue in view of his status of a private citizen. Any communication from the German Government regarding a treaty or any other subject would have to be carried out through the Spanish or Swiss diplomatic representatives in Berlin.

WILSON DECIDES COURSE TO PURSUE

DETERMINES MOVE IN EVENT GERMANY MAKES USE OF FORCE NECESSARY.

PROTECT AMERICAN RIGHTS

If President Goes Before Congress It Will Not Be to Declare War, But to Protect American Rights.

Washington.—The course to be taken by the United States if Germany compels the use of force to safeguard American rights, has been determined. It was learned authoritatively after the Cabinet meeting that in the event President Wilson goes before Congress again, it will not be to ask for a declaration of war, but to follow literally the words of the address in which he announced the break of diplomatic relations, and request authority to use means deemed necessary to protect American seamen and people.

The President, it was said, is as anxious as ever to avoid war with Germany, but also is as determined as ever that American citizens and ships shall be free to travel the high seas unmolested. His next step, if taken, will be to enforce that right, and even then the issue of war or peace will be with Germany. Any hostile action will have to come in the form of an interference with an American right.

Details of the Government's plans are not discussed. It is known, however, that conveying and arming of merchant ships are being considered.

No new development came to indicate that the overt act by Germany regarded as inevitable was nearer at hand. Fewer reports of ships sunk came in, and more told officially of the loss of American life. Further information received about George Washington, the negro fireman lost on the Turino indicated that he probably was a British subject.

Practically every member took to the Cabinet information about the activities of his department in connection with the general precautions being taken. Questions discussed included proposed emergency legislation, steps for protecting property, mail problems precipitated by the failure of ships to sail from American ports for Europe, economic issues and the Army and Navy preparation.

After the meeting, it was authoritatively stated that nothing had yet happened to change the course pursued by the Government since the break in relations with Germany.

The effect of the tying up of ships in American harbors because of fear that they will be sunk, if they pass through the war zone, is one of the questions being given careful consideration. The enforced idleness of the merchant fleet is a subject of growing exasperation.

RED CROSS PREPARED TO CARE FOR ARMY OF MILION.

According to Reports to Washington Headquarters — Chapters Are Ready For Field Service.

Washington.—An expert hospital force sufficient to care for an army of a million men, could be mobilized by the Red Cross within a few days after an outbreak of hostilities, in the belief of officials at headquarters of the society here.

Since this call was issued February 3 instructing Red Cross chapters throughout the country to place themselves on a footing for field work, many encouraging reports have been returned to headquarters, together with a great flood of personal offers of service. Eliot Wadsworth, acting chairman, estimated that the force which could be mobilized immediately in case of war would include:

Twenty-six completely equipped army and navy base hospital units with a total personnel of 1,250 men and 525 nurses' aids.

A hospital base reserve of 415 men and 525 nurses' aids.

A corps of expert instructors in surgical dressings, totalling about 1,000 men.

Thirty-two partially completed detachments of 20 nurses each.

One hundred and fifteen emergency detachments.

"With the customary assignment of 10 patients to each nurse," it is estimated, "we could thus take care of 1,000 sick and wounded at once. In the earlier stages of war, the proportion of sick and wounded is about 50 per cent. In other words, we are prepared today to give expert nursing service to an army of 1,000,000 men."

"No National emergency has ever found the Red Cross better prepared than it is today."

NAVAL MILITIA IS REORGANIZED

GENERAL ORDERS WERE ISSUED BY THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL REGARDING IT.

LIEUT. WILSON IN COMMAND

Commissioned Officers Take Drop in Rank Under the New Rules Governing Them.

Raleigh.—Reorganization of the naval militia of the state to conform to Federal regulations has just been completed, and general orders were issued by the Adjutant-General regarding it. The militia is organized into a battalion, comprising the second division of New Bern, fifth division from Elizabeth City and the sixth division from Washington.

In the reorganization scheme all the officers are reduced one peg in rank, and Lieut. J. Kenyon Wilson, of Elizabeth City, is made commanding officer. Other officers are: J. C. B. Ehringhaus, lieutenant, executive and navigation; E. E. Williams, lieutenant, engineering officer; R. Duval Jones, passed assistant surgeon, with rank of lieutenant, medical officer; Claud B. Williams, assistant surgeon, with rank of lieutenant, junior grade assistant medical officer; Everard H. Baker, passed assistant paymaster, with rank of lieutenant, paymaster; E. F. Huske, chaplain, rank of lieutenant. The warrant officers are L. W. Nelson, boatswain; J. L. Bell, machinist, and J. K. Hollowell, pharmacist.

Funeral of Soldier at Newton.

Newton.—The funeral of Patrick Thornburg, of Company A. Hickory, who was knocked from a car at Knoxville and killed, when the troop train bearing the National Guard companies passed under a bridge, was held from the residence of his father, George Thornburg. Interment was made in Eastview Cemetery with military honors, a detail of 16 men, his comrades, being sent from Company A.

Rev. V. L. Fulmer, of the Lutheran church, conducted the services; "taps" was sounded over the flag-draped, wreath-covered grave, and three volleys fired. The young soldier is survived by his wife and an infant which he had not seen; his parents and several brothers and sisters.

Fifty-Five Pass Law Examination.

Raleigh.—Fifty-five applicants for license to practice law in North Carolina were successful in the examination prepared by Justice Walker for the court, according to announcement of the court. Two out of the five negroes who took the examination passed.

Mr. J. R. Golter and Mr. O. F. Johnson, were the two Raleigh applicants for license who were successful. They were present for the examination by Judge J. B. Bell and were the only ones to pass the license with his certificate.

The case who applied for license before the court, or a petition for a writ.

Light Stories.

Griffith, a young man in the hospital, suffered skull and facial injuries in a plunge from an elevator shaft at the hotel here. In addition to the 100 men this number of men on the third floor of an elevator. Walter was accompanied on the aerial journey by a trunk, and despite this combination of circumstances, he has a good chance of recovery. The negro as wheeling the trunk on a truck and did not notice that the gate guarding the freight elevator was open.

State Normal Has Big Fire.

Greensboro.—One of the dormitory buildings of the North Carolina State Normal College, located here, was destroyed by fire. Thirty young lady students in the structure escaped unharmed. The students lost all their personal effects. The property loss is placed at \$10,000.

Bonds For Bridges.

Shelby.—The county commissioners decided on a bond issue of \$30,000 to bear four and a half per cent interest. The question of the issue will not be submitted to a vote of the people because the money is needed to replace a public necessity, namely the washed away bridges of the July floods. The commissioners have gone ahead with the bridge work, however, and erected and contracted for something like \$60,000 worth of new steel bridges. Three new steel bridge were contracted for.