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ORGANIZED LABOR SUPPORTS NATION

IN CASE OF WAR SERVICES IN EVERY LINE OF ACTIVITY PLEDGED COUNTRY.

DELEGATES VOTE UNANIMOUS

Three Million Workers Are Represented by Delegates Meeting in Washington.—Work of Conference Finished in Three Hours.

Washington.—Organized labor in America, through its representatives in conference here offered its services to the country in every field of activity if, despite all endeavors and hopes, the United States should be drawn into war.

The action was taken by unanimous vote of more than 150 delegates from national and international trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and five brotherhoods. In all, about three million American workers were represented in the conference, called to determine and announce the part to be claimed by labor in national preparedness plans.

A statement formally adopted and issued after the meeting set forth in addition to the offer of services in case of war, various demands which were held to be fundamental in safeguarding the rights of workers in war time as well as in peace. Militarism was protested against. It was held that industrial service should be deemed equally meritorious as military service; that service should conform to trade union standards and that organized labor should have representation on all agencies determining and administering policies of national defense and controlling publicity.

The statement was drafted by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor which submitted it to the delegates gathered here in response to a call from Samuel Gompers, president, who presided at the conference. It had been thought that perhaps two or three days might be required for a discussion but the conference finished its work in a few hours.

BI-PARTISAN ORGANIZATION OF HOUSE IS POSSIBLE

Such is Opinion of Republican Candidate for Speaker.

Washington.—Despite many conferences among leaders and animated discussion of many proposals for working out Democratic, Republican or bi-partisan control of the incoming house of representatives, there are few signs that the plans of either of the big parties or the little group of independents will take definite form until within a few days of the meeting of the special session on April 16.

Most of the members have left the capital with the impression that the lines for the organization fight will not be drawn a month in advance because of the shifting of strength due to deaths and uncertainties surrounding plans for special elections to fill the vacancies. Republican Leader Mann, who will be his party's candidate for speaker, departed after announcing that he would not favor any trading for Republican control and predicting that bi-partisan organization was "not improbable."

The fluctuating standings of the parties presented the prospect that the Democrats will have 215 votes and the Republicans 214 when the special session convenes. It will require 218 to elect a speaker. The five so-called Independents holding the balance of power have been unable so far to agree on a concerted course, but they will meet again just before the beginning of the session.

RUPTURE IS GIVEN APPROVAL OF SENATE

Peking, (Bulletin).—The senate approved the severance of relations with Germany by a vote of 15 to 7. It is expected that the government will take action to this end at once.

NEW YORK IS AGAIN TO VOTE ON SUFFRAGE

Albany, N. Y.—The resolution to provide for a referendum on the woman suffrage question at the state election next November was passed in the Senate by a vote of 39 to 7. The action was the last step in the legislative procedure preliminary to referring the subject to the electorate. The measure is concerned with amending the state constitution and consequently does not have to receive the approval of the governor.

RESOURCES OF THE NATION ARE READY

SHOULD SUBMARINE ATTACK AMERICAN SHIP ALL FORCES WILL RESIST

SHIP OWNERS ARE NOTIFIED

Vessels May Now Mount Guns and Will Have Full Backing of Government Forces.—But No Shot or Slight Policy is Not Announced.

Washington.—The United States Government has begun making preparations for armament against Germany's submarine warfare. Ship owners having been notified of President Wilson's decision that he has full authority to proceed with this policy, details were taken by so there might be as little delay as possible in granting requests for defensive armament.

When vessels sail under the policy of armed neutrality, they will have the full backing of the Administration, expressed in the form of naval guns and gunners and war risk insurance. It was made clear that the entire resources of the United States will be ready for action should Germany attack an American armed ship in violation of the warning of the American Government.

The State Department's view of defensive armament, was that the mere appearance of a German submarine periscope near an American armed vessel would entitle the ship to take all measures of protection on the presumption that the U-boat's purpose was hostile. This was based on Germany's announcement that her submarines would attack without warning any belligerent or neutral merchantmen encountered within the barred zone.

Whether this position will be embodied in instructions to commanders of American armed ships, and whether arms and ammunition will be furnished to vessels carrying contraband were up for discussion, but no announcement on either point was authorized.

President Wilson's attitude has been that no steps of a belligerent character should be taken and that if a state of war comes it must be through Germany's commission of acts in clear violation of international law. Despite the State Department's ruling, some officials are known to feel that in line with this policy the United States should not sanction a shoot-on-sight program which might be construed as aggression.

TORNADO IN INDIANA KILLS MORE THAN SCORE

Newcastle Wrecked by Storm, Damage Estimated at \$1,000,000.

Newcastle, Ind., twenty miles from Chicago, was the scene of a terrible storm which killed more than a score of persons and damaged to the extent of \$1,000,000.

The damage was roughly estimated at \$1,000,000, but may exceed that figure. The storm was a combination of a hurricane and a tornado.

Although the skies had been threatening during the early afternoon there was little warning of the approaching storm. A huge funnel-shaped cloud suddenly appeared in the west, hanging low and sweeping toward the city. Groups of persons in the streets began seeking shelter and women running wildly through the streets.

GEN. CARRANZA ELECTED PRES. IDENT WITHOUT OPPOSITION

Mexico City.—Gen. Venustiano Carranza was elected President of Mexico by what is believed to have been the largest vote ever cast in the Republic.

Although the voters had the privilege of writing in or designating any name they desired, General Carranza received all but a few scattering ballots. The estimated vote cast runs all the way from several hundred thousand to a million.

AN ARISTOCRAT



HAS AUTHORITY TO ARM SHIPS WILL TAKE NEW ACTION SOON

AGAINST SUBMARINES RULING OF SECRETARY LANSING AND AT-TORNEY GEN. GREGORY.

Whether to Act on This Advice or Call Special Session of Congress Will Be Determined Soon By President.

Washington.—Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory have advised President Wilson that he has full authority to arm American merchant ships against illegal attacks by German submarines.

It was to these two officers, the government's authority respectively on international questions and law, that the President referred the contention raised in the Senate that old statutes enacted to authorize merchantmen to resist pirates raised an insuperable bar to the step he desired to take to meet the submarine menace. They have reported that the statutes have no application to the present situation.

Whether the President will act immediately in accordance with this opinion, or will wait to call a special session of Congress to pass a resolution similar to that filed by a filibuster during the last session was not revealed at this time.

In view of the action of the Senate in revising its rules to prevent an other filibuster, it was thought in some Administration quarters that the President would immediately call an extra session.

One problem involved is the probable difficulty over the organization of the next House because of the almost evenly distributed balance of power between the Democrats and Republicans. A long drawn-out fight over the organization of the House, probably would delay the action on the armed neutrality question, a contingency which the President is determined to avoid.

It is likely for several quarters that before July 1st, Wilson will summon an extra session of Congress. The only question open is whether it will be called immediately, or whether it will be called at a later date.

Washington.—The President has decided to call an extra session of Congress to discuss the question of arming merchant ships against submarine attacks.

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SERIOUS SPEECH ON FOOD SITUATION MADE TO DIET.

London.—The Prussian food controller, Dr. George Michaelis, made in the Reichstag Diet what The Koelnische Zeitung calls a serious speech on the food situation says a Reuters dispatch from Amsterdam, Dr. Michaelis declared that the distress was such that a more severe state of things, especially in the large industrial centers, could hardly be imagined.

ORDERS STATE OF ARMED NEUTRALITY

PRESIDENT WILSON TAKES ONLY STEP TO KEEP MERCHANT MARINE AFLOAT.

SITUATION IS VERY BRAVE

Extra Special Session of Congress for April 16—Decision Came Quickly Following Action of Senate Amending Rules to Stop Filibustering.

Washington.—President Wilson from a sick bed ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of Congress to meet April 18. The President's decision came suddenly following the action of the Senate in revising its rules to permit prompt action on important questions and the submission of formal opinions by Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory that he has the power to arm merchantmen without action by Congress.

Details of the Government's armed neutrality plans for defending the merchant marine were withheld to avoid endangering Americans and their ships by permitting the information to reach Germany.

The decision, coming at the end of a period of tense waiting, was generally hailed as the natural and unavoidable next step in the policy adopted by the President when he broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and gave warning that the United States could not tolerate attacks on American ships and citizens in violation of international law.

Fought with the grave possibility of war with Germany, the action taken by President Wilson only after he was convinced that Germany was actually proceeding with a campaign of ruthlessness.

Long before the order was issued from the White House, all preparations for the arming of merchantmen had been completed. Navy Department Secretary Josephus Daniels, however, issued an appeal to the Nation to refrain from criticism of these preparations.

The President's action, through the Senate, marked a new departure in the history of the Government's relations with Germany.

FIRST COLLISION WITH MERCHANT MARINE

Washington.—Armed merchant ships will be the status of the United States fleet at the first moment that the first German submarine is sighted under the American flag.

President Wilson in his address to Congress when he asked for authority to arm merchant ships against submarine attacks, placed upon his own shoulders the responsibility of defending the country.

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AMERICAN SEAS GERMANY ARE

Berlin, by wireless.—Fifty-nine American vessels sunk by the South Atlantic Swinemuende on Jan. 19, the captured British ship, were released and left for the Swinemuende over which the United States Government has a claim.

GERMAN SEAMAN SHIP

Florence, S. G.—A German freighter Liebenfels, was sunk in Charleston harbor on the night of January 31, were found guilty of sinking the vessel in a navigable stream by a jury in the United States District Court here. The ship was found to be equipped with a 50,000-bushel elevator. Work will at once be begun on the building and it is hoped that the ship will be in operation within a few days.

FAREWELL SPEECH OF PRES. GARDNER

ELOQUENT AND FORCEFUL WAS SPEECH OF PRESIDENT OF SENATE

WAS SADNESS IN SEPARATION

Lieutenant Governor Thinks That Legislature Has Worked Hard in Vain For Betterment of State.

Raleigh.—The views of President Gardner, of the Senate, on the work of sessions just ended were eloquently and forcibly expressed in his little speech accepting the silver service by the Senators.

The speech follows: "This is one occasion in my life in which my real sentiments are suppressed and circumscribed by the utter poverty of words to express the thoughts that arise from within. I stand in this presence paralyzed as I were with a deep sense of obligation, love and affection for each member of this Senate and the silver token of your generous thoughtfulness will forever serve in my home as a perpetual and personal tribute to your memories, and as I drink in these goblets in the years that are to come, there shall go out from my heart a silent but spontaneous response to each of you and to the scattered forces of our lives."

"We leave in a few hours and one generation after another will assemble in these halls as our successors to work for the upbuilding of our dear Mother State, until on every hillside and every valley, by seashore or mountain brook, in the towns, counties and cities they shall filter the humanitarian and social betterment; a wide General Assembly. The water is a little too high for the mill to face the thought and we are a little far our efforts to properly appreciate the significance of the constructive work of this assembly, but we have hope in that in the final verdict of our services the verdict of history will be that we labored hard in North Carolina."

The association with you has been a very happy that I reluctantly have been sorrowful contemplate the future, and standing with unshaken confidence in the earnestness of all the members of this assembly, I believe that there is a felicitous future for our State, and that after all we are secretly linked with a common cause for a common good that our pulse will be strikingly vital forces in the life of this State."

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Grading Interurban Road.

Salisbury.—The county commissioners have ordered a survey and estimate made on broadening and grading Salisbury avenue from Steele street in Salisbury through Spencer.

Another Flour Mill For Statesville.

Statesville.—Statesville's fourth flour mill is a certainty with the organization of the Sterling Mills, Inc. A five-story mill building and warehouse will be erected near the railroad station. Machinery will be installed capable of producing 500 barrels of flour per day. The building will be equipped with a 50,000-bushel elevator. Work will at once be begun on the building and it is hoped that the mill will be in operation within a few days.