

The Roanoke Beacon

\$1.00 a Year in Advance

"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR TRUTH."

Single Copies, 5 Cents.

VOL. XXVII.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1917.

NO. 42.

ISSUES WARNING AGAINST TREASON

BOMB PLOTTERS MAY NOW BE GRIPPED WITH LAW'S IRON HAND.

PROCLAMATION BY WILSON

Resident Aliens as Well as Citizens Owe Allegiance to United States, Says President.—Treason is Defined.

Washington.—All persons in the United States, citizens and aliens, are warned in a proclamation issued by President Wilson that treasonable acts or attempts to shield those committing such acts will be vigorously prosecuted by the Government.

The proclamation defines treason, citing statutes, provisions of the Constitution and decisions of the courts, and declares that the acts described will be regarded as treasonable, whether committed within the borders of the United States or elsewhere.

Far-reaching importance attaches to the direction of the warning to aliens and the declaration that "resident aliens as well as citizens owe allegiance to the United States" and therefore are equally subject to the laws against treason and like crimes.

Bomb plotters now may be gripped with an iron hand. Not only are conspirators themselves subject to heavy penalties, but any one, even a German resident, who has knowledge of treasonable acts and fails to make known the facts to the authorities, may be sent to prison for seven years and fined \$1,000 for misprision of treason.

EVERY POSSIBLE HONOR WILL BE ACCORDED VISITORS

Washington.—Major General Leonard Wood, ranking officer of the active list of the army, was designated to represent the military branch of the government on the committee which will welcome to the United States the distinguished British war commission headed by Foreign Minister Balfour.

The selection of General Wood is in line with the administration's plans for according every possible honor to the high rank and notable character of Great Britain's commissioners. The state department is represented on the committee by Breckinridge Long, third assistant secretary; the navy by Rear Admiral Fletcher, of the general board, and Commander E. F. Sellers, and the army by General Wood and Col. R. E. L. Michie.

It was stated at the White House that the president had arranged to see the British visitors this week and the French commissioners at the same time, if they had reached Washington. The state department announced, however, that it was not certain when Mr. Balfour and his party would come, and that nothing definite was known concerning the arrival of the French commission.

WHEAT AND FLOUR PLACED ON FREE LIST

Ottawa.—The government has placed wheat, wheat flour and semolina on the free list, thus opening the United States markets to Canada and Canadian markets to the United States in these products.

Plant Land in Food Crops.

Washington.—Secretary Lane appealed to holders of land made valuable by government reclamation work to put all their available soil in food crops.

FLEET BASE AT HAMPTON ROADS IS RECOMMENDED

Washington.—An appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the acquisition of land and equipment for a fleet operating base at Hampton Roads, Va., to be immediately available, was recommended to Congress by Secretary Daniels.

"The \$3,000,000," Secretary Daniels stated, "is urgently and immediately necessary for the acquisition of the Jamestown Exposition site, on Hampton Roads, Va., to be developed and equipped as a fleet operating base and to include a training station, submarine base, aviation operating base, oil fuel storage, fleet storehouses, mine and net storehouses, torpedo storehouses, etc. The land can be purchased for \$1,400,000 and the immediate necessities are the training station, the initial development to cost \$1,600,000."

\$7,000,000,000 WAR LOAN PASSES HOUSE

NOT A VOTE WAS RECORDED AGAINST THE BIG REVENUE AUTHORIZATION.

DEBATE WAS ON HIGH PLANE

Former War Opponents Demanded Record Roll Call.—Amendments Confine Loans to Nations at War With Germany.

Washington.—With a total absence of partisanship the House, by a vote of 389 to 0, passed the Seven Billion-Dollar bill to finance the prosecution of the war against Germany, including a loan of \$3,000,000,000 to the Allies. Representative Meyer London, Socialist, of New York, who has conscientious scruples against war and appropriations for war, answered "present" when his name was called.

Owing to general pairs and absences only 389 votes were recorded for the bill, but both Democratic Leader Kitchin and Republican Leader Mann announced that all of their members would have voted affirmatively if they had been present. The formality of a roll call would have been dispensed with if several members who voted against the war resolution had not insisted upon having the opportunity of recording themselves in favor of providing money to carry on hostilities now that the nation is at war.

The bill authorizes \$5,000,000,000 in bonds, of which \$3,000,000,000 will be loaned to Entente countries, and the issuance of Treasury certificates for \$2,000,000,000 ultimately to be met by increased taxation. Passage of the measure never was in doubt during the two days it was under consideration in the House, and favorable action by an overwhelming vote is assured in the Senate, where it was taken up Monday. It probably will be signed by the President this week.

Chairman Simmons of the Senate Finance Committee took up the bill with his committee Monday, and since there is no opposition to it, expects to report it to the Senate at once. Leaders expect to keep it the unfinished business until passed. There will be no great opposition on the floor, although there may be some debate.

The bill was not materially amended in the House, except for the inclusion of language specifically directing that the loans to foreign Governments shall be made during, and not after, the war and that the securities bought by this Government with proceeds of the vast loan shall be the securities of nations fighting Germany.

Other amendments adopted would prohibit the sale of the United States bonds at less than par and permit the purchase of foreign bonds "at par."

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ASSEMBLE IN FEW DAYS.

United States Officials Plan For Coming of Commissioners.

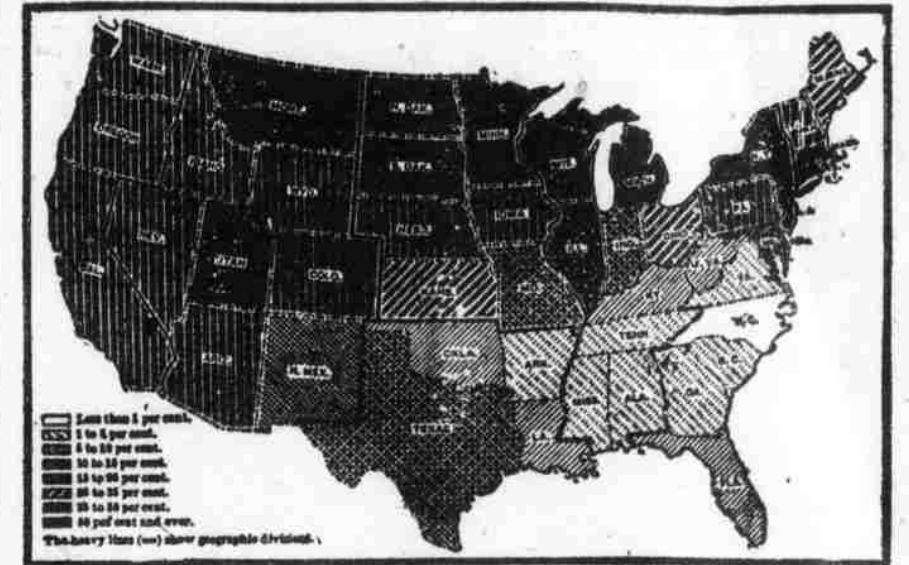
Washington.—With the assembly of the most momentous international conference ever held in this country only a few days distant, officials of several executive departments of the Government devoted themselves to making final preparations for greeting the distinguished men Great Britain and France are sending here to discuss war problems. State Department officials directly responsible for the details of the arrangements, conferred in an effort to have no mark of courtesy lacking.

Those familiar with official etiquette abroad say that the sending to this country of men like British Foreign Secretary Balfour, French Minister of Justice and former Premier Rene Viviani and General Joffre is almost without precedent. Not only does the trip here require much more very valuable time than the various European war conferences, but it submits the high officials to real dangers from mines and submarines, experienced in crossing to the continent. It is known that the present trip was taken only with the deepest foreboding quickened by memories of the loss of Lord Kitchener.

Committee of Welcome.

The preliminary committee of welcome, consisting of Third Assistant Secretary Long, representing the State Department; Rear Admiral Frank P. Fletcher and Commander D. F. Sellers, representing the Navy and Col. Robert E. L. Michie, Lieut. Col. Spencer Cosby and Capt. John G. Quekemyer, representing the Army, is ready to leave for the port of arrival at a moment's notice. The committee will welcome the commissioners. A formal reception will greet them here, in which the highest officials of the Government

MAP SHOWING THE FOREIGN STOCK IN THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



(By foreign stock is meant foreign born and children of a foreign-born father or mother.)

The states in black have more people who are either immigrants or the sons and daughters of immigrant parents than they have of native stock. The immigrants of the United States and their children would populate to its present density all the United States west of the Mississippi with Alabama and Mississippi added.

ENTENTE LEADERS AT CAPITAL IS FIRM FOR CONSCRIPTION

ARE HERE TO CONFER ON AMERICA'S PART IN SEA WARFARE.

Protecting Seaboard From Northern Canada to Canal Zone to Be First Duty of American Warships.—Withdraw British and French Ships.

Washington.—With high British and French Naval officers in conference here with American Naval officials, definite steps have been taken toward participation of the American Navy in the war against Germany.

Patrol of the entire Atlantic seaboard, reaching southward to the Panama Canal zone and possibly northward to include Canada, will be the first duty of American warships. With that goes the necessity of guarding against the probable extension of the German submarine campaign to include approaches to major American ports.

British and French ships now on this patrol duty will be withdrawn as soon as the American forces have their lines established. The American squadrons will operate from British and French bases in the South Atlantic wherever necessary.

This was learned in connection with the announcement that Vice Admiral M. E. Browning, of the British Navy, and Rear Admiral R. A. Grasset, of the French Navy, are in Washington conferring with Secretary Daniels, Admiral Benson, Chief of Naval Operations, and other officers of the American Navy. The conferences have to do with the part the American fleet will play in the war either immediately or later, when its strength in light patrol craft and trained men has been increased.

It has been expected that Germany would formally announce a submarine blockade of Boston, New York, the mouth of the Delaware, the mouth of the Chesapeake, Charleston and Savannah. These are the arteries through which flow the main traffic in foodstuffs and war supplies for Europe.

ARMY AND GUARD IS NOW OPEN FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Doors Are Opened For Enlistment For Period of War.

Washington.—All men who enlist in the regular Army or the National Guard in the present emergency were assured in an announcement by Secretary Baker that they would be kept in service only for the period of the war. The action followed a conference between the Secretary and President Wilson.

In effect, this places on a war-time volunteer basis all of the men enlisted since the state of war was declared. It makes available a total of 517,868 places in the enlisted grades of the two services to men who wish to serve for the war only.

Mr. Baker laid stress on the fact that this action was contemplated when the Administration bill was framed, and was in no way to be construed as a compromise plan. The Secretary pointed out that the net result of the application of the war enlistment plan would be to leave the Nation without an army of any sort, regular or National Guard, if the war lasted beyond the enlistment terms of new men now in those services.

"I stand firmly and unalterably in support of that bill," Secretary Baker said, "without modification of its least detail."

GOETHALS IS TO BE BUILDER OF SHIPS

WILL SUPERVISE SHIP BUILDING PROGRAM OF AMERICAN NAVY.

MORE SHIPS MEAN VICTORY

Lloyd-Gorge's Prophecy Discussed by Cabinet.—Congress Will Be Asked To Substantially Increase Appropriation.

Washington.—Means of quickly putting additional vessels into the transatlantic trade and thus fulfilling the prophecy of Premier Lloyd-Gorge, of Great Britain, that more ships meant victory for the Entente Allies, was the principal subject before the meeting of President Wilson's cabinet.

Major General Goethals who built the Panama Canal, will supervise the merchant ship building program, it was announced. A bill will be introduced in both houses of Congress substantially increasing the \$50,000,000 appropriation now available for the shipping board, and giving the board additional authority that the building of wooden ships and the acquisition of other vessels may be expedited.

Legislation also probably will be proposed by the administration giving the shipping board power to formally take over the German merchantmen in American ports now in the custody of the treasury department. While it is conceded that the president would have the right to take this step it is understood that a specific act of Congress will be preferred.

First among the German ships to be put into active service will be two of the fleet of 23 lying in Philippine harbors. The insular bureau of the war department has secured permission from the treasury department to hasten repairs on the machinery of the two vessels least damaged by the crews and it is expected that within two or three weeks the ships will be loading Manila hemp to be rushed to the United States to prevent a failure of the supply of binding twine for the farmers for the crop of this season.

While the exact sum to be requested of Congress for the uses of the shipping board in building up the American merchant marine has not been disclosed, it has been estimated that \$225,000,000 will be necessary.

COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD PRODUCING POWER

One of the Means of Meeting the Problems of the War.

Washington.—Intensive development of the food producing power of the United States on a scale never before contemplated was discussed by President Wilson and Secretary of Agriculture Houston as the means of meeting the vital problems of the war.

Secretary Houston returned to Louisville, where he conferred with representatives of the great grain states. He laid before them the plans under which the Federal Government, working in co-operation with state and local agencies, will make its utmost endeavors to stimulate production and economical use of food.

Plans to include a request for legislation by Congress giving government power to regulate food prices if necessary and to establish large distributing agencies. Secretary Houston will begin conferring with congressional leaders to secure terms of the needed bills.

To continue the government's policy of economy in the use of food, President Wilson probably will issue a proclamation to the Nation, calling attention to the situation and the effect of the war on the food supply. Secretary Houston, who was accompanied by Representative H. H. Hays, of Tennessee, and J. R. Palmer, representing the Tennessee Farming Association.

AMERICAN REAR ADMIRAL SAYS NOW

Washington.—Rear Admiral S. S. Sims, president of the College at Newport, has been asked to act as an intermediary between British admiralty officers and the navy department in the working out of problems involved in participation by the American navy in the ranks of the Entente Powers. His mission was admitted at the navy department after news of his safe voyage had been received.

ENDORSEMENT OF COURSE TAKEN BY UNITED STATES

BY SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES GRATIFYING TO WASHINGTON.

Equador, Venezuela and Colombia, Not Yet Heard From, Expected to Define Attitude.

Washington.—Prompt endorsements from South America of the action of the United States in taking Germany's challenge to war are the source of great gratification to officials of the administration. There remained but three countries, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia, which had not defined their positions, and it was believed that before the end of this week they, too, would respond.

With the exception of Costa Rica, none of the Central American group had declared its attitude, but no concern over where their sympathy will be placed has been felt at the state department.

So far Cuba is the only war spot in Latin-America, but the positions assumed by Panama and Costa Rica place them practically in the list of warring nations, and almost no doubt remains that Brazil will be at war within a few days. The only governments that have not been frank in their endorsement of the step taken by the United States are Chile and Peru, the former confining itself to a formal declaration of neutrality and the latter to "deploring" the fact that the United States had been unable to adjust her difficulty with Germany without recourse to war.

Way They Line Up.

Following is the way the other Latin-American nations, whose positions are defined, were lined up:

Cuba.—Declared war against Germany.

Panama.—Declared her readiness to assist in any way possible in the protection of the Panama Canal.

Costa Rica.—Offered her ports and other territorial waters to the United States for war needs of the American navy.

Brazil.—Relations broken with Germany.

Bolivia.—Relations broken with Germany.

Uruguay.—Endorsed the action of the United States and characterized Germany's challenge as "an insult."