

# The Reidsville Review

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ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

## THE EXTRA SESSION IS TO MARK AN EPOCH

AS SOON AS THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES PRESIDENT WILSON WILL ADDRESS JOINT SESSION OF HOUSE AND SENATE—PLANS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

## THE SUBMARINE A BIG PROBLEM

When Congress, answering the call of President Wilson, convenes in extra session Monday, it will mark one of the most momentous sessions in the entire history of our government. The question to be decided is whether war shall be declared on Germany, following the latter's actions in sinking American merchantmen and causing the death of American seamen.

As soon as the new congress is organized President Wilson will address a joint session of the house and senate. While it cannot be said with certainty just what course of action he will outline, it is understood in Washington that among the plans now under consideration by the government are the following:

First.—The mobilization of the entire naval forces, supplemented with adequate auxiliary facilities to assist in exterminating the submarine peril to neutral nations, with the full uses of allied bases on both sides of the Atlantic for necessary supplies.

Second.—The granting of permission to the warships of the allied nations at war with Germany to use American ports as supply bases while doing patrol duty and the removal of all restrictions such as the armament of merchantmen entering and clearing United States ports.

Third.—The unlimited provision of war equipment to the allied nations at war with Germany, with particular favor to be shown to the new Russian government.

Fourth.—The passage by congress of a universal military training and service bill, designed to provide an army of 500,000 men within six months.

### May Send Soldiers Abroad.

Fifth.—The mobilization of the national guard following the adoption of a resolution declaring the existence of a state of war so as to bring the land forces to an immediate strength of 300,000 men, this army to be used for domestic service until eventualities not now anticipated may compel the dispatching of it as part of an expeditionary force that the United States may feel compelled to send to foreign soil.

Sixth.—The requisitioning of German owned war and merchant ships now held in American continental and insular waters for war purposes, to be compensated for at the termination of hostilities between the United States and Germany unless they should be confiscated as a reprisal for the destruction of American vessels by Germany.

Seventh.—The mobilization of the merchant marine by the government for national uses, including the conveyance of cargoes to the allied nations.

Eighth.—The passage by congress of legislation extending the credit of the government for any purposes that it may find necessary in protecting its interests against German aggression.

Ninth.—The mobilization of the railways, industrial and all other forces that may be taken over by the government or operated under its direction to supply unlimited facilities for both the naval and military establishments of the government.

Tenth.—The mobilization of the

financial resources of the country so as to insure an adequate supply of money necessary to finance the war operations of the government.

Control of the next house is uncertain. Absenteeism, illness, death and the votes of five independent members are elements which promise to contribute to an unprecedented situation.

Immediate steps have been taken to prepare for the organization of the lower chamber. The organization of the house along bipartisan lines, at least for a temporary period, is not an improbability in view of the international crisis. Neither the legislators nor the country, it is believed, would countenance a prolonged deadlock over organization in the present circumstances.

On a strict party alignment the Democrats will have 214 votes and the Republicans an equal number on April 2. That is the lineup on paper. There are two vacancies which cannot be filled before April 2, and five members of the house are independent in their politics, although regarded as leaning to the one side or the other.

Republican leaders confidently claim three of the independents—Schall, Minnesota, Progressive; Fuller, Massachusetts, Independent, and Martin of Louisiana, Progressive-Protectionist—will vote with the G. O. P. This would give the Republicans 217 of the 433 votes. However, Democrats do not concede that Mr. Martin, a southerner and a Democrat, will vote against Speaker Clark. Both sides are laboring with Mr. Martin, and he himself is non-committal.

The Democrats are practically certain of the votes of Representative Randall, Prohibitionist, of California and Meyer London, Socialist, of New York. These two votes will increase the Democratic total of 216, one short of a majority, assuming that all members will be present on opening day.

But it is likely there will not be a full attendance of house members when the gavel falls on April 2. Representative Gordon Lee, Georgia, Democrat, is dangerously ill with pneumonia. It is doubted that he can report for duty so soon. If he votes he may have to be brought into the chamber on a stretcher. Representative Ebenezer Hill, Connecticut, Republican, is ill in Florida. There are no assurances that he will be able to return so soon. Representative Martin, Democrat, of Illinois, is ill in Hot Springs, Ark., but has telegraphed that he expects to answer to his name.

The situation augurs for a bipartisan organization. There is also discussion in congressional circles of a temporary form of organization, one that will permit the selection of a presiding officer and such committees as may be necessary to consider war measures. The spirit of patriotism rather than partisan advantage will be appealed to when congress meets, and it is not believed that either side would sponsor a long deadlock in the present crisis.

There is no precedent for temporary or bipartisan organization, but conditions today are different from what they have ever been before, and it would not be surprising to see the house organization proceeding on unusual lines.

No comprehensive plan has been evolved or even formally discussed, but the average observer is not blind to the possibility of a situation making for bipartisan organization, at least until vacancies are filled and the full house membership can be present.

In calling the special session for April 2 President Wilson makes it impossible to fill the vacancy in the Fifteenth New York district before the house convenes. This district, represented by the late Representative Michael F. Conry, will send a Democrat to the house on April 12. The Republican vacancy in the First New Hampshire district caused by the death of Representative Sulloway will not be filled until late in May.

The members of the house who went to the Isthmus of Panama for a vacation have time to get back before congress meets. Representative Towner of Iowa, Republican, suggested that the house be temporarily organized with



## Wilson's Peace or War Policy to Be Put to Test

President Wilson's policy in peace or war as enunciated in his inaugural address on March 5 last was as follows:

"These are the things we shall stand for, whether in war or peace:

"That all nations are equally interested in the peace of the world and in the political stability of free peoples and equally responsible for their maintenance.

"That the essential principle of peace is the actual equality of nations in all matters of right or privilege.

"That peace cannot securely or justly rest upon an armed balance of power.

"That governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed and that no other powers should be sup-

ported by the common thought, purpose or power of the family of nations.

"That the sea should be equally free and safe for the use of all peoples under rules set up by common agreement and consent and that, so far as practicable, they should be accessible to all upon equal terms.

"That national armaments should be limited to the necessities of national order and domestic safety.

"That the community of interest and of power upon which peace must henceforth depend imposes upon each nation the duty of seeing to it that all influences proceeding from its own citizens meant to encourage or assist revolution in other states should be sternly and effectually suppressed and prevented."

Speaker Clark in the chair and that the life of some of the old committees be extended for a thirty or sixty day period pending the passage of emergency measures. After that time, suggests Mr. Towner, the house may proceed to a permanent organization and contest along party lines.

The proposal of W. P. G. Harding, governor of the Federal Reserve Board, that the government bring into play its immense credit resources to aid the allies in crushing Germany has laid the basis for a general discussion in Washington of financial mobilization as a war move.

It is held by those who find merit in the suggestion that it would simplify the financial problem and place the United States in an advantageous position with respect to the entente allies when peace terms are signed and commercial relations restored.

The plan as now contemplated provides virtually that the United States take over the credit facilities of the country and act in direct relation with the foreign governments which are now seeking loans. Money will be necessary for the United States to prepare for and carry on war, and if the government through the issuance of bonds went to the public for a loan it would be as a competitor of the allied governments.

According to Mr. Harding's proposal, as it has been developed, the United States government could issue 3 per cent bonds to the extent of \$1,500,000,000. A third of this amount could be

used for war preparations, and the remainder could be loaned to the allied governments according to their needs at a rate of 5 per cent. In return the foreign governments might give their bonds payable in ten or twenty years.

This extension of credit would be of great aid to the governments now struggling with the burden of war loans. At the same time, assuming that they would be able to liquidate their obligations when the war is over, it would not impose any sacrifice on the United States.

In this connection, however, the idea has been advanced in some quarters that with the immense financial burdens they are now carrying these countries, particularly Great Britain, might prefer to reimburse this government after the war by the sale to it of some of their possessions near our shores. The Bermudas and the Bahamas and even Jamaica have been mentioned.

In no other way, it is held by supporters of the plan for giving such financial assistance, could this government make its influence so quickly felt. It is to be expected also that for this aid to the allies consideration would be given the interest of the United States in the peace settlement and also in the commercial adjustment that will follow the war.

Her Father—Do you think you can make my daughter happy, sir? Suitor—Why, I have already, haven't I? I've asked her to marry me.—Boston Transcript.

## ORGANIZING WOMEN FOR WAR TO HELP THE COUNTRY

What service is most likely to be required of women should our country become involved in war?

This question is being put to the National League For Woman's Service by scores of organizations of women and by thousands of individuals. Until the government has outlined what its policy is to be in the event of war with Germany it would be impossible for any private organization to determine what service the country will require either of its men or of its women, says Grace Parker, national commandant of the National League For Woman's Service.

Until such time as a woman's bureau may be established under our own government the National League For Woman's Service is attempting to secure, so far as it may be possible for a private organization to do so, information regarding organizations of women in this country, the object for which each organization is established, its membership, the service which its members are prepared to render in case of emergency and to place this information at the disposal of the government should it be desired. A registry of volunteers who are prepared for definite service and are ready to give full time or part time in case of emergency is also being made through the state and local offices of the National League For Woman's Service.

These volunteers are then organized into emergency detachments of not less than ten or over thirty members similar to the voluntary aid detachments in England. Each detachment is in charge of a duly authorized commandant. The detachments then meet at least once a week, often if possible, for regular work to develop their efficiency along the line of service for which they have volunteered.

### Organized in Divisions.

The emergency program of the National League For Woman's Service provides for the organization of detachments under the following divisions, based upon the requirements which have been made upon the women in England in England's crisis:

First division, social and welfare.

(a) Prepared to co-operate in establishing and supervising social clubs for men and women in the locality of military training camps, similar to the over 300 such clubs which have been established in England.

(b) In communities where munitions plants or other large industries are located, to co-operate in providing proper housing facilities.

(c) To provide canteens in connection with large industrial plants, where hot lunches would be served at a minimum cost.

(d) To co-operate in establishing railway station canteens en route to and from military training camps.

(e) To perform welfare work for industrial workers, based upon the conditions in the community.

Second Division, Commissariat.—Detachments under this division are prepared to act as purchasing agents and cooks for industrial and railway station canteens and to co-operate with the Red Cross wherever their services may be needed for hospital cooking.

Third Division, Motor Driving.—Detachments under this division are prepared to establish communication service by motor, either for the army or for civilian interests, in case telegraph, telephone or railway communications should be broken. Members of these detachments are required to pass a rigid test as to skill in driving as well as to knowledge of the mechanism of the car.

Fourth Division, General Service.—Under this division members of detachments are prepared to volunteer for administrative work and office service, including stenography, recording, filing, telegraphy and wireless.

An egg bag of crocheted cotton is useful to boil the eggs in, saves difficulty in getting them out of the water and also saves breakage.

## CZARISM'S BIG BLOW FROM THE CHURCH

HERETOFORE PRIESTHOOD HAS BEEN IN THE HANDS OF REACTIONARIES BUT NOW THOUGHT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE ON SIDE OF REVOLUTIONISTS.

## INFLUENCE OF ORTHODOX BODY

Next to the overthrow of the czar, the removal of the emperor's chair from the synod's first session is the most dramatic event that could happen in Russia, for it means a revolution in the chief bulwark of czarism, the Orthodox church of Russia.

The synod is the highest authority in that church. The influence of the church on the Russian peasant masses is enormous, for the moujik is still deeply religious. His attitude to the czar was largely a religious attitude. The new government's control of the synod is therefore of vital import to its success.

In case of a reaction, for instance, it would be the church that would serve as a mighty tool in the hands of the reactionaries for the accomplishment of their purposes. As a matter of fact, one of the most powerful elements of the overthrown Germanophile government was Pfitrim, the Petrograd metropolitan. Next to Rasputin, he was the most influential member of the dark forces in the court of Nicholas II. Together with Sturmer and Protopopoff he plotted against the allies.

It is consequently of great significance that the chief dignitaries of the church should side with the popular cause. The first session of the synod took place under the presidency of the Kiev metropolitan. The latter has been one of the most enlightened and broad minded members of the Orthodox church. He would undoubtedly know how to fulfill the wishes of the new government in such a manner as to strengthen the new political order with the superstitious peasantry.

### Plebiscite to Be Troublesome.

The plebiscite by which the Russian people will determine their future form of government is likely to prove a source of trouble. While the more civilized elements of the nation are certain to vote for a republican form of government, the attitude of the peasants is likely to be quite different. And there is no better instrument for influencing the moujik than the Orthodox church. This was the aim of the committee of safety when it appointed Lvoff, a remote relative of the premier, to the post of procurator of the synod. The procurator is a cabinet member. He is to be the agent through which the new government will get in touch with the church authorities, and through him all the activities of the synod will be communicated to the government.

The swiftness with which the church has been recognized and is being reorganized by the new ministry shows how alert the latter is to eliminate all the possible obstacles in the way of the new Russia. It would seem that the new regime is rapidly gaining in stability. While the dangers confronting it are numerous as yet, it is evident that the men in charge of the new order realize these dangers fully and are taking without delay the right measures for their removal.

### Colebridge—The Last Phase.

Professor Blackie in his autobiographical sketch entitled "Notes of a Life" tells of a visit he paid to Colebridge, then living at Highgate, of whom he remembers only two things—(1) that he was an old, infirm, down-bent man; (2) that he told me he had thrown overboard all speculative philosophy, finding perfect satisfaction in the first chapter of the gospel of John.

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