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GRAVE DANGER TO THE UNITED STATES IN NEW ISSUES OF EUROPEAN SITUATION.

MUST STAND BY PRESIDENT WAS NOT IN NEW WAR ZONE

Course He Hae Taken in International Situations.

Morristown, N. J. - The United States is threatened by a serious invasion of its rights as a neutral by the warring factions of Europe and in protecting its commerce with those Nations is face to face with a crisis, in the opinion of former President Wil-Ham Howard Taft.

In the solution of that crisis should it arise, no jinge spirit must be allowed to prevail, Mr. Taft advised; neither pride nor momentary passion should influence judgment.

"And when the President shall act," Mr. Taft declared, "we must stand by him to the end. In this determination we may be sure that all will join, no matter what their European origin. All will forget their differences in selfsacrificing loyalty to our common flag and our common country."

Mr. Taft's reference to the situation confronting the United States was made at the conclusion of an address before the Washington Association of New Jersey. Quoting a reservation in the treaty of Algeciras, proclaimed in 1907, and entered into by the United States and 11 European Nations, Mr. Taft said:

"Our interest in the present war, under the conditions that exist, should be limited as set forth in this reservation to wit.

"To preserving and increasing the commerce of the United States with the belligerents; to the protection as to life, liberty and properity of our citizens residing or traveling in their countries, and to the aiding by our friendly offices and efforts in bringing those countries to peace.'

"Our efforts for peace," he continued, "have been made as complete as

"In preserving the commerce of the United States with the belligerents, however, we are face to face with a crisis. The planting of mines in the open sea and the use of submarines to send neutral vessels to the bottom without inquiry as to their neutrality when found in a so-called war zone of the open sea, are all of them a variation from the rules of international law governing the action of belligerents towards neutral trade.

"When their violation results in the destruction of the lives of American citizens or of American property, a grave issue will arise as to what the duty of this Government is. The responsibility of the President and Congress in meeting the critical issue thus presented in maintaining our National rights and our National honor on the one hand, with due regard to the awful consequences to our 90,000,000 of people of engaging in this horrible world war, on the other, will be very great. It involves on their part a judgment in its consequences that we should earnestly pray that the necessity for it may be averted.

however, the occasion arises We can be confident that those in authority will be actuated by the highest patriotic motives and by the deepest concern for our National welfare. We must not allow our pride or momentary passion to influence our judgment. We must exercise the deliberation that the fateful consequences in the loss of our best blood and enormous waste of treasure would necessarily impose upon us. We must allow no jingo spirit to prevail. We must abide the judgment of those in whom we have entrusted the authorty and when the President shall act, We must stand by him to the end."

"The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign Nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop."

Both Houses of Congress Busy.

Washington.-Appropriations for national defense occupied the attention of both houses of congress. The senate discussed until late at night the army appropropriation bill carrying approximately \$103,000,000, while the house debated the fortifications bill.

While progress was being made on both these measures, the senate committee on naval affairs practically completed consideration of the naval appropriations measure and the senate paused for four minutes to pass the pension bill carrying \$164,000,000.

MR. TAFT FORSEES | AMERICAN STEAMER CRISIS IN AFFAIRS EVELYN BLOWN UP

CARRYING COTTON FOR BREMEN SHE STRIKES MINE IN THE NORTH SEA.

Fully Sustains President Wilson in the First Government Insured Vessel Lost.—Sensation Results From the News at Washington.

> Bremen.—The Amercian steamer Evelyn which sailed from New York January 29 with a cotton cargo for Bremen was sunk by a mine off Borkum Island in the North Sea.

> The vessel's captain and 27 of her crew were saved.

> The nationality of the mine which destroyed the Evelyn has not been established.

> The Evelyn is the first American vessel to meet with disaster as a result of a sea warfare of the European nations. She does not sink within the war zone included in the German admiralty's decree. Borkum Island lies directly off the German coast at the mouth of the Ems River and is German territory.

Martime records give the complement of the Evelyn at 25 men so that it is probable that all on board the vessel was rescued.

The Evelyn was a single screw, steel steamship and was commanded by Captain Smith. She belonged to Harriss, Irby & Vose of New York.

She was 252 feet long and 1,185 tons net. She was built in Southampton England in 1883.

Washington.—The United States government was advised officially of the destruction of the first American vessel on the high seas since the outbreak of the European war.

After a conference with President Wilson, Secretary Bryan cabled Ambassador Page at London and Ambassador Gerard at Berlin to make an exhaustive inquiry as to the facts, and, if the crew was landed in either of their respective jurisdictions, to furnish every care and convenience to Captain Smith and his men.

Although the extent of the sea was never defined exactly, the Borkum Islands are considered far distant from the danger areas of submarines. The waters of the viciniy may prevail upon Great Britain "to are mined for defensive purposee and return to the principles of internation-Germany always has piloted incoming at law recognized prior to the outships through.

FIVE BRITISH VESSELS SUNK.

Big Raid by German Cruiser Off Coast of South Africa.

London-The British steamers Highland Brae, Hemisphere and Potaro and the sailing ships Sumatra and Wilfred have been sunk in the Atlantic presumably by the German cruiser Karlsruhe. Crews and passengers were landed at Buenos Aires by the German steamer Holger.

The sinking of these five vessels and in addition, the British steamer Viscount Humphreys was reported from Buenos Aires February 18. The Buenos Aires dispatch, however, said that the German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm and not the Karlsruhe, sank them. This version probably is correct, as it was given by men-on board the Holger.

Twilight Sleep Operation. Raleigh, N. C.—The condition of Speaker Emmet R. Wooten, of the House of Representatives, injured in an automobile accident recently continued to grow worse. Late in the day an operation was performed on a ruptured kidney. His physicians stated former place, where they are said to he was resting better, though his con- have been checked by the Russians. dition is considered very grave. The surgeons used the "twilight sleep" in the operation.

John Barclay Moon Dead. Richmond, Va.-John Barclay Moon, chairman of the Virginia Debt Commission, for 20 years counsel for the University of Virginia, and widely known as an attorney, died suddenly at his home in Albemarle county.

Canal Tolls Reduced 20 Per Cent. Panama-Under instructions of Secretary Garrison changes are being prepared in the regulations for computation of Panama Canal tolls which, It is estimated, will decrease revenues from the classes of freight affected aproximately 20 per cent. It was discovered that the fixing of tolls under the Panama Canal rules at \$1.20 a ton was illegal, the rate being greater than that sanctioned by law. This arose from the differences between a ton as defined by the Canal rules and | health several months and was strick- according to the monthly report of from Germany's sea war zone proclaa registered United States ton.

FAIR OPENS



DOES NOT FEAR HUNGER GREAT CONVENTION OVER

NAVAL WAR ZONE METHODS ARE LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY CONVEN-NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL PRESERVATION.

If United States Will Furnish Them and Refuse Allies Then All Will Be Well.

Berlin, via London.—Germany's reply to the protest of the United States against designation of a naval war men's Missionary Convention of the zone about the British Isles is couch- Southern Presbyterian Church East firmly maintains the position of Ger- date and place of next meeting with many as already announced.

The note, which has been transmitted to Washington through the many's action was made necessary by ville, on "That Which is Committed Great Britain's policy of attempting to Us"; W. E. Doughty, educational to cut off the food supply of the German civil population by a method never recognized in international law.

England's course in ordering merchantmen to fly neutral flags, equipping them with artillery and ordering them to destroy submarines, Germany contends, renders nugatory the right zones of war proclaimed by Germany of search and gives Germany the right to attack English shipping.

> The reply closes with the expression of hope that the United States break of the war" and in particular obtain observance of the Declaration of London. If this were done, the note explains, Germany would recognize in this, says the reply an invaluable service toward a more humane conduct of the war and would act in accordance with the new situation thus created.

FLEE BEFORE GERMANS.

Populous Towns in Eastern War Zone Emptied of People.

the towns of Kovno and Grodno ap- in a few minutes bought five boats pears designed to cut the railroad for \$287,000 and borrowed \$300,000 communications to Warsaw, rather with which to pay for them, but had than to an effort to take the Russian a Bible class of fifty students that he fortified positions in that territory.

Along the line from Plock to Nie- ber. men, about 200 miles in length, there has been intermittent fighting. From all the towns in this district, the most populous of the empire, the civil population is fleeing, thronging the highways and railroads.

The German advance guards are reported to have proceedd from Augustowo towards the railroad between Grodno and Bialystok and to have reached within 12 miles of the The Germans also are reported to

be attempting to break through between Kovno and Grodno, taking advantage of the frozen Augustowo marshes and Niemen River, and facing the possibility of an early thaw which might leave them at the mercy of the Russians.

The line to the north of Warsaw of Blonck, Nowo-Gorgiewsk and Serock, is well defended.

In the south between the German column advancing towards Mesolaborchborch and the force moving on Wyshkow, there are virtually no troops of either side. Around Mesto be successfully holding their positions and at several points to have to the Associated Press.

Frank James is Dead. Excelsior Springs, Mo. - Frank

James, of the notorious James gang, died on his farm near here. James, en with apoplexy.

TION ENDS GREAT THREE DAYS' BIENNIAL SESSION.

Near Four Thousand Delegates Make peak and her forehold are filled with dina, N. Y., have been awarded the Charlotte Meeting Greatest In History of Sessions.

Charlotte.-Closing its three days' biennial session in this city, the Layed in the most friendly terms, but of the Mississippi left the matter of the executive committee. Features of the final session were addresses by Rev. Dr. Egbert W. Smtih, executive American Embassy, explains that Ger- secretary of foreign missions, Nashsecretary laymen's movement, New York, Intercession, the Highest Form of Service"; J. Campbell White, general secretary of the laymen's movement, New York, "Leaving Your Mark on the World."

The chief thing remarked upon by delegates and officials has been the size of the convention, which, although the Southern Presbyterian church has been divided into West and East of the Mississippi sections, has been attended by over 3,500 delegates, making it double the size of any previous convention.

The afternoon session was given over to a conference on stewardship and an address by George Innes of Philadelphia on "How Can a Man Best Send His Money on Ahead," this being a discussion of the practical side of financing the work of evengelization. J. Campbell White led the stewardship discussions.

The feature of the morning session was the address on "Efficiency George C. Shane of Philadelphia, in which the speaker contrasted practical methods of business with Petrograd, via London.—The Ger-those of church work, giving as an man advance from East Prussia upon instance a Philadelphia financier who could not increase by a single mem-

SHIP BILL STRIKES SNAG.

Progressives And Seven Democratic Insurgents Bolt.

Washington-Administration democrats got another setback in their fight for President Wilson's ship bill when they suddenly learned that the Argentine May Warn Ships to Leave. bill as it passed the house will not command the support of Senators Kenyon, Norris or LaFollette, progressive German steamer Holger and the auxrepublicans on whom they counted, iliary cruiser Ardonna to leave this democrat insurgents.

The plan to move to concur with the house amendments was wrecked by the discovery that the leaders could not muster enough votes. Administeration leaders made no attempt to conceal their embarrassment, and planned to send the bill to conference with the hope of putting on some amendments to command support.

Talaat Bey Expresses Himself. Constantinople, via London-"Turkey declared war without being urged by Germany or impelled by any other olaborch the Russians are reported influences save those of the empire," said Talaat Bey today in a staement

> Cotton Exports Increase. the census bureau.

GERMANS TORPEDO FRENCH STEAMER

ONE BOAT STRUCK MINE IN ENGLISH CHANNEL AND AN-OTHER WAS TORPEDOED.

ACTIVE IN NEW WAR ZONE

President Wilson and Cabinet Discuss Dangers to American Vessels Caused by New War Zone.

Washington.-President Wilson and his cabinet discussed at length dangers to American vessels and commerce growing out of the reiterated determination of the German government to wage a submarnie and mine warfare on enemy's vessels and disclaiming responsibility for what may happened to neutral vessels venturing into the new sea war zones. Struck By Mine.

Dover.—The Norwegian tank steam ship Belridge, which sailed from New Orleans January 28 and Newport News February 5 for Amsterdam struck a mine off Dover. She was beached near here.

It was first reported she was only slightly damaged by the explosion, but United States Engineer in charge of later it was learned there had been the Wilmington district, has announcfear of her going down. Her fore- ed that to D. L. Taylor & Co., of Mewater and her forelock is awash.

The pilot on board and 18 men of her crew have been landed.

French Steamer Torpedoed. Dieppe, France, via Paris.—A German submarine torpedoed without warning the French steamer Dinorah from Havre for Dunkirk, at a point 16 miles off Dieppe.

The Dinorah did not sing but was towed into Dieppe. No mention is made of the loss of any of her crew.

A plate on the port side of the steamer below the warterline was stoved in by the torpedo. She manword of the occurrence was taken into Dieppe by fishing boats and assistance for the Dinorah was promptly sent out. Her cargo will be discharged

The presence of a German submaine off Cape Ailly was reported four days ago. The daily steam traffic service between Dieppe and England has been suspended.

WILSON OPENS EXPOSITION.

President Touched Button and Set. Monster Event in Motion.

San Francisco.—An electric spark of enormous potential, jumping across the continent, opened the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at noon, Pacific coast time. In the white house at Washington, President Wilson pressed a button and the serials of the great government radio station at Arlington in response sent a vibration to a commercial station on San Francisco bay. From there the message was relayed by wire to a receiving instrument on the exposition grounds.

As soon as the signal was received. the wheels began to turn, and the fountains to play; the gates swung open, and a procession of citizens, with the mayor at their head, marched into the grounds.

At the same time, President Charles C. Moore of the exposition, informed President Wilson over, a telephone line that the wireless flash had been received and the exposition had opened. In return President Wilson sent his greetings and good wishes. Brief ceremonies of dedication and acceptance followed.

Buenos Ayres.-The Argentine Govnor the support of any of the seven port within 24 hours or be disarmed and interned, it was announced. The Holger arrived here with crews of several merchant ships sunk by the German cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm.

> Medal for Sir John French. Paris.-The Government decided to confer the military medal on Field Marshal Sir John French commanderin-chief of British forces in the field.

No Mail Lost. Washington. - Although United

States mail is going directly or indirectly to every country in the world. so far not on bag has been lost through the activities of European war fleets. In fact, postoffice department officials said, no American mail has gone down with a merchantman Washington-Cotton exports were destroyed by a warship within the beyond normal proportions during Jan- past hundred years. Postmaster Genuary. The quantity was more than eral Burleson said he expected no inwho was 74 years old, had been in ill- 300,000 bales greater than last year, terference with mail service to result mation.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Movements Due and Their Local Effects For the Cotton State, Feb. 28 to March 7, 1915.

Carothers Observatory Forecast Sunday, February 28.—The week will open with a Cool Wave in the Eastern Belt as previously forecast and with warmer weather prevailing in Western Belt.

Monday, March 1; Tuesday, March 2; Wednesday, March 3. Cool Wave is due to overspread the South Monday and Tuesday, it is believed without precipitation, and it will bring 10 degrees cooler weather, with light frosts in Eastern Belt nearly to

the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. Thursday, March 4, to Sunday, March 7.—Rain setting in in Western Belt Thursday will overspread the South Friday and Saturday in advance of the cool wave. This movement will cover the South Saturday and Sunday, with moderately cooler weather, minima ranging around 50 degrees, with clearing.

CAPE LOOKOUT CONTRACT LET

Harbor of Refuge Largest Government Project Ever Undertaken in

Wilmington.-Maj. H. W. Stickle. contract for building the first section of the biggest government project ever attempted in North Carolina, the same being the breakwater which is to form the harbor of refuge at Cape Lookout. There is \$1,260,000 now available for this work, and it is mutually agreed between Taylor & Co. and the government that the firm will be awarded the contract for the entire project, as the appropriations are made by the government, the whole amounting to \$3,170,000.

The contractor must begin the work within six months. It is probable that aged to keep affoat by hard pumping, he will begin within three months. The agreement makes it mandatory that at least 27,000 tons of rock be placed each month. Using this as a basis it is estimated that the work will be finished—that part of it included in the present contract—within two years from the time the work is begun. The contractor, it is understood, expects to place the rock at the rate of 50,000 tons monthly, which would bring the time of completion to slightly more than one year from the beginning of the work.

The rock will be obtained from a quarry near Havre de Grace. Md., and water transportation will be had direct from the quarry to the scene of operations. The inland waterway will be used to great advantage. Thirty barges, towed by six tugs, will be used by the contractor in transporting the material.

Concord Lady Wins Prize. Concord,-It will be interesting to North Carolina women of fashion to know that a Southern woman, Miss Nannie Alexander of Concord, has been awarded the second prize and also a certificate of award in a New York contest for original design in ribbon trimmed hats, this being a national contest of American designing in order that America may soon rival European markets in this art.

The value of North Carolina hogs has increased \$3,463,000 during the last five years.

MARKET REPORTS.

Cotton, Cotton Seed and Meal Prices in the Markets of North Carolina For the Past Week.

As reported to the Division of Markets, North Carolina Agricultural Exernment is considering warning the periment Station and Department of Agriculture, Raleigh

	of	of c	seed ton.	for ad.	
own	Price		sh r s	en see	
10	E₹	Pric	Car	Briv	
North Ea	stern N	orth C	arolina		
armville	80	42-431/2	30.00		
acksonville	7%C	40c	28.00		
armville acksonville elford	7½-8 c	35-40c	30.00	2000	
loyock	7 -71/2C	45c			
loyock anceboro	7%-8 c	- 40c	31.00	2000	
Vashington	8 -81/8C	30+35c	30.00		
South Ea	astern N	orth Ca	arolina		
ayetteville	.5%-814	40-45c	30.00	2000	
Cinston7	34-8 C	45-48c	32.00	2000	
Laxton	.7% -7%	35-45c	30.00	2000	
North Ce	entral N	orth Ca	rolina	1 1 1 1	
attleboro	7c	42-45c	32.00	2000	
Sattleboro	-81/2C	42-43c	28.00	1800	
ouisburg		40c			
Raleigh 8	14-8 5-16	964-24 C	30.00	2000	
iggsbee"	8 -814c	35c	30.00	2000	
cotl'd Neck	17	43-45c		2000	
mithfield	8c	40-45c	. 30.00		
cotl'd Neck mithfield Vilson	7% c	45c	30.00	2000	
South Ce	entral N	orth Ca	rolina		i
harlotte	71/2-8 C	39c		2000	
leveland		35-42c	28.00	2000	
lings Mtn	8 -814c	39-42c	28.00		
fonroe	8 -81/sc	40-45c	30.00	2000	
fooresville	8c	35-40c	29.00	1800	
Newton	8c	40-45c	30.00	1900	
orwood	8c	40c	30.00	1500	
fooresville Vewton Orwood helby	734-8 c	39c	30.00	2000	
tatesville	74-814c	86-420	31.00	1840	