

THREE AMERICAN SHIPS SUNK AND STATE OF WAR EXISTS WITH GERMANY

City of Memphis sunk by gun fire, Vigilancia and Illinois by German torpedoes—One Vessel had stars and stripes painted on her side—Practically certain to become involved.

Washington, March 18.—With the announcement of the ruthless destruction of three un-armed American merchant ships by submarines, it was unofficially admitted here tonight that virtually a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Technically the United States remains in a position of armed neutrality. Whether this shall be changed before April 16, the date fixed for a special session of Congress, the war making branch of the Government, President has not decided.

One step the President is contemplating is a call for an immediate session of Congress to hear an address asking for authority to adopt aggressive measures against the submarine menace.

Already American ships are being armed to defend themselves. The next move must be to send warships with orders to seek out submarines and clear the trans-Atlantic lanes.

Some of the highest officials of the Government hold that the Executive has power to declare that state of war exists and to proceed with aggressive protective steps pending the assembling of Congress. There is no indication, however, that the President will follow that course.

Of the three ships destroyed, two were unloaded and homeward bound, and all were American-built, American-owned and officered and manned largely by American citizens. Meager dispatches indicate that all were sunk with complete disregard for the safety of those on board, and that many of the crew may have been lost.

Nation Face to Face With Definite War Policy

Today's developments brought the Government face to face with the problem of formulating a definite policy for the Nation in case the United States actually enters the war. This possibility was mentioned by the President in his inaugural address March 5.

All of the conditions outlined by the President in his message announcing the diplomatic break with Germany as leading to a state of armed neutrality have now been fulfilled. The "overt act" described by him then has actually come if in fact it had not been committed when the President went before Congress. Since then he has established a state of armed neutrality without the specific authority of Congress.

President was out automobiling when the first Associated Press dispatches telling of the disasters came in quick succession. Through Secretary Tumulty he was given all available facts immediately on his return.

Several hours later official reports came from Consul Frost of Queenstown and Consul General Skinner at London, telling of the sinking of the City of Memphis, the Vigilancia and the Illinois. These dispatches confirmed press reports but added few details.

International lawyers and constitutional experts here showed no hesitancy tonight in saying that President Wilson has full authority to interpret as an act of war, and announce that this country considers that an actual state of war exists by reason of Germany's flagrant assault on American shipping.

Such action would be subject to the approval of Congress. Despite the unwarmed sinking of big passenger liners like the California and the Laconia, the jeopardizing of Americans on nearly a score of other vessels, and the sinking of three other American ships, the Housatonic, the Lyman M. Law, and the Algonquin since the unrestricted warfare began, some officials, inspired by the President's announced reluctance to oblige that Germany would carry through her threat, have clung desperately to the hope that some slight respect for international law might still be shown.

German sea warfare may fairly be stated, however, to have surpassed even the most pessimistic forecasts here. That she actually means to send every vessel to the bottom that dares to venture within her forbidden zones is now accepted as a fact. Neutral passenger, Belgian relief, appear to be all in the same category.

Practically Certain to Become Involved
With the practical certainty that this country will be involved in hostilities with Germany, even if only for the keeping open of the sea lanes to Europe, officials are scanning the war news with the closest scrutiny. An advance on the west front in Mesopotamia is now studied with the keen eagerness born of a realization that it may have a direct effect on America's future history.

The kaleidoscopic developments of the last few weeks' history has been followed most keenly. The apparent crumbling of Turkish power in Mesopotamia and Persia as shown in the capture of Van today by the Russians, following the fall of Bagdad to the British, the unexpected sweeping forth of both British and French in a wide swath on the west front, the pro-war revolution in Russia, threats of internal trouble in Germany and China's severance of relations have served to convince many observers that the beginning of the end is near.

The German retreat in France is not yet accepted as more than strategic, however. The Russian revolution, too, is admitted to hold possibilities of counter-revolution which will greatly cripple the military efficiency and in some quarters it is held confidently that Germany still has strength for another great offensive.

Experience in thousands of homes has proved that the MAJESTIC is the one range that gives real satisfaction and cuts down the cost of living. An expert from the MAJESTIC factory will be at our store during the week commencing March 26 and will show you why the MAJESTIC is the only range for you. J. D. Lineberger's Sons.

When you buy a range that has proved itself to be the best your money has been well invested. The MAJESTIC DEMONSTRATION will during the week commencing March 26. Show you why the MAJESTIC is the best, and why it actually saves you money. J. D. Lineberger's Sons.

The offer of an \$8.00 set of kitchen ware FREE to every purchaser of a MAJESTIC during demonstration week is genuine. It is an out and out gift to every purchaser of a MAJESTIC range and the price of this range with a reputation remains the same. See this demonstration during the week commencing March 26 at our store. J. D. Lineberger's Sons.

Your cooking made easy by using the Majestic. The Majestic is most economic on the full, perfect baker and oven, in fact has all the improvements to be found in a first class range. It will pay you to see the Majestic line next week while the factory expert demonstrates is here. J. D. Lineberger's Sons.

MRS. ABERNETHY DEAD

Noble Mother of Nine Bright Children and Wife of Mr. Thomas H. Abernethy Dies Unexpectedly.

Mrs. Ella Abernethy, wife of Mr. Thomas H. Abernethy died at her home on West Marion street late Friday night following an illness of only a few days, members of the family not knowing that her condition was critical until ten hours before her demise. Mrs. Abernethy was born at Denver, Lincoln county, Dec. 25th, 1855, the daughter of J. S. Mundy, a staunch citizen of that section. On Dec. 25th 1833 she was married to Mr. Thomas H. Abernethy who survives with nine bright and prosperous children; Mrs. Birdie (Grover) Kimball of Charlotte, Mr. Chess Abernethy of Vadalia, Ga., Bessie (Robert) Bell of Biltmore, Mr. Charlie Abernethy of Palatka, Fla., Thomas Jackson and Lamar Abernethy of Gastonia, Lou Etta, Paul and Ben Abernethy of Shelby. Mrs. Abernethy was a devoted mother and wife, a thoroughly consecrated Christian who took a great pride in her home, was always anxious and tender as a mother and loyal to the Methodist church of which she was a member. The Abernethys were building a handsome home on West Marion street and she looked forward to living in it with pleasant expectation, when the white angel of death suddenly called her to the Mansion above.

All of the children who live away from here and are doing well, reached Shelby for the funeral which was postponed until the arrival of the 5:15 Seaboard Sunday afternoon in order that Charlie might get here from Florida. Rev. C. A. Wood preached the funeral and a large crowd of devoted friends attended to pay their respects and extend sympathy to the bereaved family. In addition to the family the following sisters and brothers survive, Mrs. T. H. Proctor and Mrs. Vic Sigmon of Denver, Lincoln county, Mrs. H. C. Barclay of Gastonia, Mrs. Fannie Shelton of Stanley, Mrs. Sunnie Deaton and Mr. J. F. Mundy of Russellville, Ark., and J. M. Mundy of Big Springs, Texas.

MRS. WEATHERS DEAD

Former Shelby Lady and Mother of Mrs. Major Hopper, Died in Texas.

Mrs. Major Hopper received a telegram yesterday announcing the death in San Antonio, Texas of her mother, Mrs. Josephine Weathers, wife of Mr. D. S. Weathers, both of whom formerly lived in Cleveland county where they have a host of friends and many relatives to whom the news will be a source of deepest regret. Mrs. Weathers had been ill for some time, suffering with paralysis. She was about 62 years of age and before marriage, was Miss Josephine Sweezy of Rutherford county. She was a most devoted wife and mother, kind hearted and true, a thoroughly consecrated Christian with a zeal for Christian service.

For many years she and Mr. Weathers lived near Zion church, later moving to Shelby where Mr. Weathers was engaged in business. A number of years ago they moved to Texas where their son Corraze lives. Surviving are her husband, the following children, Corraze Weathers of Texas, Mrs. Major Hopper of Shelby, Mrs. Pink Revere of Laurinburg and Miss Lona Bird who was recently married in Texas.

The funeral will be in San Antonio today.

Tax Notice

I am now making out my list of uncollected taxes. Any one wishing to save cost will please call and pay at once or your property will be advertised for sale April 1st.

H. W. JETTON,
City Tax Collector.

GARDEN TOOLS

—Buy the kind we sell and you'll not regret it. We have made a most careful selection, and are sure we can give you the best satisfaction in price and service. We handle all kinds—J. D. Lineberger's Sons.

New Law Firm

Forest City Free Press:
Messrs. R. R. Blanton and Guderger W. Edwards of this city have formed a partnership for the practice of law, with offices on second floor of the bank building.

'MOST COMPLETE IN THE VALLEY'

Visit our Majestic Range Demonstration next week and you'll find the most complete stock of ranges, Hardware, etc., in the Valley. J. D. Lineberger's Sons.

"Courtesy is the eye which overlooks your friend's broken gateway, but sees the rose which blossoms in his garden."

SOCIETY NEWS

Mrs. Blanton Entertains Sewing Club

On last Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Ceph Blanton entertained the members of the Tongues and Needles club. The room in which these club ladies assembled was most artistically decorated in lovely spring blossoms and an enjoyable time was spent in dainty needle work and social intercourse. At the close of the afternoon's pleasure a delicious ice course, coffee and cheese balls were served.

At this meeting two new members were voted into the club, Mesdames Will Arey and Frank Hoey.

Delightful Affair in Honor Of Visitor

A most delightful party of the season was that given on last Thursday afternoon by Mrs. C. R. Hoey in honor of Mrs. Chas. Churchill of Augusta, Ga.

The handsome Hoey home was aglow with flowers—yellow jonquils and golden bells, the beautiful harbingers of spring.

Assisting in receiving were the hostess' sisters, Mesdames J. A. Anthony, J. J. McMurry, C. M. Lattimore, H. W. Jetton and S. E. Hoey.

Seven tables of rook was enjoyed through the afternoon, after which an elegant and elaborate salad course with accessories was served.

Mrs. Lattimore Club Hostess

Mrs. E. B. Lattimore was graciously at home to the members of the Thursday afternoon club and a number of invited guests on Thursday afternoon of last week.

The hostess had chosen violets for her decorative scheme, a dainty basket of violets forming a center piece for each of the four tables at which the club's adopted game, progressive rook was played. The place cards were also attractive violet affairs.

When cards were laid aside, a tempting collation of cream, angel food cake, stuffed dates, coffee and cheese balls was served.

The hostess was assisted in entertaining by her sisters, Mesdames W. B. Nix and Tom Battimore.

Chicora Club With Mrs. McBrayer

On Friday afternoon the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Chicora club convened at the home of Mrs. Lander McBrayer on North LaFayette street.

The room in which the club assembled was made attractive and inviting by a wealth of lovely spring blossoms and it was held that an interesting program on South America was given as follows:

On the Orinoco and the Llanos—Mrs. W. B. Nix.

Venezuela and its Capital—Mrs. L. A. Gettys.

In the Guianas—Mrs. George Blanton.

A Trip up the Rio de la Plata—Mrs. Paul Webb.

During the social the hostess assisted by her sister, Mrs. S. A. McMurry, and attractive young daughter, Miss Dorothy, served a delicious ice course and candies. Beside the club members those enjoying the social session were: Mesdames A. W. McMurry, Mrs. John Suttle, Mrs. Willis, and Miss Amos Willis.

Shelby's First Fashion Show

On last Wednesday evening from 8 to 10 o'clock at Miss Edith Cranor's Style Emporium was held the first Fashion Show ever pulled off in our city.

Misses Selma Webb and Ora Eskridge received at the door and soon the shop was filled with interested spectators. The setting for this affair was beautiful and effective in its flower garden ensemble, and a pretty stage for the living models. These were six of Shelby's fairest maids and matrons, namely: Misses Ruth Mundy, Mary Harris, Beth Andrews, Iris Boyles, Mesdames Fred Morgan and Frank Hoey—to say nothing of the two winsome little lassies, Miss Virginia Roberts, aged 2 1-2 years who was first to appear before the audience drawing a beautiful little float, representing a Kewpie marriage, followed by Miss Edna Earl Williams, aged 6, who so attractively featured the dainty little French bonnets for children.

On display were the very latest creations in sport suits, parasols, hats and bags to match, and a wonderful collection of coat suits, afternoon and evening frocks with all the lovely accessories that go to make up a chic toilet.

Miss Moore Hostess at Beautiful Luncheon

One of the most charming initial hospitalities of the Spring was that of Wednesday when Miss Foy Moore entertained at a violet luncheon at her elegant home on West Marion St.

as a pretty compliment to Miss Amos Willis of Kentucky a social favorite in Shelby, who is here with her mother on a visit to her sister, Mrs. A. W. McMurry.

This hostess had invited her guests, for an hour or two of sewing, before the luncheon hour, this being a "neighborhood affair."

Places were laid for 24—the place cards being dainty hand-painted violet affairs—the violet motif being carried out in lovely detail in five elegant courses, charmingly presided over by Miss Moore.

The invited guests were: Misses Selma Webb, Ora Eskridge, Mesdames Will Roberts, P. L. Hennessa, B. T. Falls, Tom Eskridge, J. D. Lineberger, Jap Suttle, Oscar Palmer, A. R. Eskridge, Colin Hull, John Suttle, S. A. McMurry, George Blanton, James Moore, J. T. Gardner, A. W. McMurry and mother, Mrs. Willis, and Mrs. Sherrod and daughter, Miss Lydia Sherrod of Caroleen.

PRIZES OFFERED

To School Children Who Will do the Best Work in the Clean-Up Campaign—\$5 to Boy Who Keeps Cleanest Street.

Special to The Star:

Many newspapers, commercial clubs, women's clubs or local committees offer prizes to encourage interest and work on the part of the boys and girls.

The idea of the prizes is this:

Everybody is going to take some part in making SHELBY CLEAN and BRIGHT this spring. The work is going to come to a climax this week, when everything that hasn't been done previously will be started with a definite program. The city needs the careful thought and interest of its boys and girls in order to make clean conditions and to make Shelby the prettiest town in the State. The committee, composed of Miss Selma C. Webb, Mrs. C. R. Hoey and Mrs. J. L. Hennessa, want to hear from the boys and girls in the Shelby Public School who think they have done worth-while work to make the town clean.

So at the end of the "CLEAN UP and PAINT UP" campaign the chairman of the Children's Co-operation Committee wants to get letters from the boys and girls or from the parents telling what they have done, to help along "CLEAN UP and PAINT UP."

For the best work done prizes will be given as follows:

Shelby National Bank, first prize, \$2.50 in gold.

Civic League, second prize \$2.00.

T. W. Hamrick, third prize, \$1.00.

Please address all letters to Selma C. Webb, chairman of Children Co-operation Committee.

The Civic League offers \$5.00 in gold to the boy who keeps the cleanest street during the next three months.

The following boys will have charge of the streets named below:

South Washington, Hope Ligon.

North Washington, Benjamin Kendall.

East Warren, Wade Hoey.

West Warren, Aaron Quinn.

North Morgan, Paul Webb, Jr.

Graham, Harold Hamrick.

DeKalb, Robert Hord.

South LaFayette, Otis Pendleton.

North LaFayette, Frank Kendall.

Hudson, Joseph Carroll.

Lee, Virgil Ellis.

Sumter, Max Washburn.

Suttle, Fred Babington.

McBrayer—George Abernethy.

Grover, Tom Eskridge.

W. Marion, Truman Moore.

E. Marion, Charles Hoey.

A Marriage

'Squire Gilead Green of No. 7 township performed a ceremony in his usual impressive manner last Wednesday at his home when he united Mr. Perry McSwain of No. 7 and Miss Elvie Reynolds of No. 4 township. Mr. McSwain is the son of Mr. David McSwain while the bride is an orphan who has been making her home with her sister, Mrs. Ab Champion in the Oak Grove community.

Play at Mooresboro

At the request of many who saw the plays given some weeks ago at Mooresboro under the auspices of the Fidelis class, they will be repeated Saturday night March 24th in the high school auditorium. The names of the plays are "Rascal Pat" and "Too Much of a Good Thing."

WHAT CONSTITUTES A HAY-SEED IN SHELBY?
Answer: Walking on the court square grass in one thing. Keep your liver right with Kendall's Liver Openers and walk on the pavement, as it was put down for that purpose. Kendall's Drug Store.

BOARD OF TRADE NOW AT WORK

OFFICERS ELECTED—111 MEMBERS SECURED UP TO YESTERDAY WITH NEARLY \$1,500 ANNUALLY SUBSCRIBED.

The Shelby Board of Trade is now ready for work. An office will be opened this week in the Judge Webb building over the postoffice where a stenographer will be employed, literature distributed and the work of the Board of Trade carried on with system and zeal. Yesterday morning Mr. J. D. Lineberger, chairman of the membership committee announced that the Board has enrolled membership of 111 men from all walks of life with nearly \$1,500 subscribed for the maintenance of the office and the carrying on of the work of the Board.

A meeting of the Board was held in the Court House Thursday night on call of the Board of Directors who recommended the following officers to serve for a term of one year: Mr. O. Max Gardner, president; S. S. Royster, vice-president; Mr. Geo. Blanton, treasurer and Prof. I. C. Griffin executive secretary.

All officers were selected with great care and the members of the Board of Trade duly endorsed the above selection, each of whom pledged his best efforts to the upbuilding of Shelby and Cleveland county through the Board of Trade.

Mr. Gardner made a ringing speech on the need of just such an organization that had been formed and was happy to see the final realization of the club. A number of other leading business men made short speeches, Mr. Griffin, the new secretary outlining some work which he wanted the club to undertake at once and asking permission to print stationery, join the National Chamber of Commerce, secure advertising rates from a number of trade publications, and put the committee on agriculture to work at once.

Upon recommendation of the Board of Directors three new members were added: Messrs. J. T. Gardner, W. J. Arey and Charlie Laughridge which increases the number from 12 to 15. It was further decided to make five a quorum upon any meeting of the directors.

President Gardner upon confirmation of the Board of Directors will in a few days announce the appointment of three or more men to each of the ten committees.

In the meantime the membership campaign will continue and new members are being secured every day.

UNION SERVICE

At First Baptist as a Welcome to the New Pastor, Mr. White.

A beautiful spirit of co-operation in the realization of a single purpose, was manifested last Sunday night when all of the churches of Shelby united with the First Baptist church in a welcome service to the new pastor, Rev. Lee Mc. B. White. The church was filled with people and the Sunday school room had to be opened to accommodate the crowds. Special music was rendered and Rev. John W. Suttle was master of services, calling on the following gentlemen who made appropriate speeches of welcome: Q. M. Mull on behalf of the Baptist church, Rev. Thomas Bateman on behalf of the Presbyterians, Rev. C. A. Wood on behalf of the Methodists, Rev. A. C. Irvin on behalf of the Baptist ministers of the county, Rev. John W. Suttle on behalf of the Kings Mountain Association, O. M. Gardner on behalf of the young people of Shelby and Clyde R. Hoey on behalf of the people of Shelby generally. At the close Mr. White responded in a most happy manner.

WHEN YOUR DOCTOR

Gives you a prescription it is yours, and you have a right to say what drug store shall fill it, and I want to say right here that when you trust us in your prescription filling that your doctor don't have to stand by and see that it is filled correctly and no substitutes are used. We put every ingredient in just as your doctor says, and your prescription is filled only by a registered DRUGGIST. People that take medicine should get wise. You know, Kendall's Drug Store.

Disclaimer's Contest

The disclaimer's contest in which students from the rural public schools of Cleveland and Rutherford will take part, will be held at Boiling Springs High School Friday night, March 23rd in the school auditorium. The winner will receive a Boiling Springs scholarship and medal. Public invited.

Unloaded yesterday one car load of Grants. Expecting car load Maxwells tomorrow. Call or write for demonstration and literature. Jenkins and Spangler.