

"I'LL PAY MY BILLS SO YOU CAN PAY YOURS" IS A VERY GOOD SLOGAN AT ANY TIME

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GERMANY IS FINANCING PEACE MOVE

American Officials Are Suspicious of Recent Actions

NEGOTIATIONS BELIEVED TO BE MERELY FOR DELAY

German Press Bureau Is Said to Be Relying Upon Overseas Agency to Influence American Public Opinion—Fact That Germany Attempted to Coerce Gerard Entirely Concealed—American Consuls Are Detained, Women Humiliated.

(By Carl W. Ackerman, U. P. Correspondent)

Paris, Feb. 15.—(United Press)—American officials in close touch with the Berlin situation said Germany was financing the peace propaganda and attempting to forestall President Wilson's next action until the submarines are ready to strike America in the event of war.

Officials view suspiciously Germany's attempt to start negotiations through the Swiss minister. It is believed to be merely an expedient to gain time while starting the peace agitation in the United States.

Ambassador Gerard is sending Washington an emphatic warning that the Overseas News Agency is being used to mould American opinion. The official press bureau colors the Berlin dispatches. I can state positively that the German censor repeatedly halted United Press and Associated Press messages, meanwhile sent through Overseas Agency information directly contrary to correspondents' dispatches.

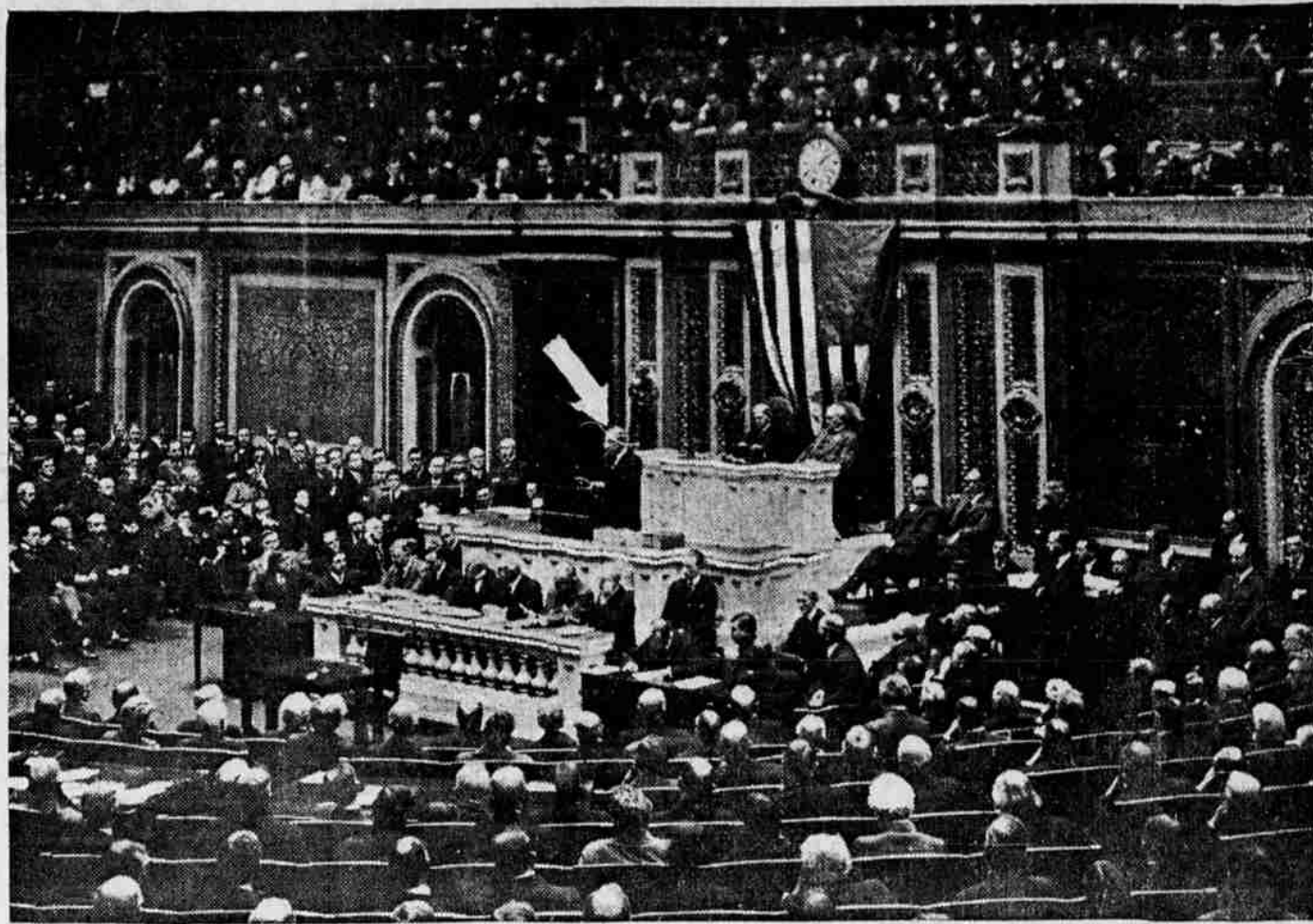
Censors concealed the fact that Germany attempted to force Ambassador Gerard to sign an agreement, guaranteeing German vessels safe conduct home from American ports in the event of war. Censorship concealed the real developments.

Facts regarding the active anti-American propaganda were also withheld. Anti-American speeches were made in the Reichstag by prominent German leaders, who financed anti-American, anti-Gerard agitators. German statesmen fiercely assailed President Wilson.

German press departments are now centering their efforts in convincing Americans of war horrors on the theory that Americans are cowards and do not dare to fight.

Germany is detaining the American consuls. None has reached the border. They stripped, bathed and searched the wives of three prominent American officials.

PRESIDENT WILSON ADDRESSING CONGRESS AND ANNOUNCING BREAK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMANY



WHITLOCK FORCED TO LOWER FLAG

State Department Advised Of Details By Gerard

OFFICIALS LOSING HOPE THAT WAR CAN BE AVERTED

Germany Seems to Be Abandoning All Caution and Treatment of American Minister to Belgium Has Made Situation the Gravest Since Relations Were Broken—Germany Has Not Replied to Government's Inquiry About Yarrowdale Prisoners.

(By Robert J. Bender, U. P. Correspondent)

Washington, Feb. 15.—Ambassador Gerard officially advised the state department that the Germans forced American Minister Whitlock to lower the flag from the Brussels Embassy on account of Whitlock's communications to Washington that Germany had detained all German relief workers in Belgium.

The state department also received official information that Germany attempted to force Ambassador Gerard to ratify the Prussian American treaty, under penalty of holding American newspapers as hostages.

Officials are fast losing hope that actual war can be averted. Germany has abandoned all caution. The treatment of Whitlock made the situation the gravest since relations were broken. The government will probably demand an explanation through the Swiss minister.

Germany has not replied to the administration's Yarrowdale inquiries about the Yarrowdale prisoners.

The break with Austria is believed to be near.

Government's preparations are being rushed. The National defense council meets daily.

It is secretly planned to guard the railroads and to mobilize munitions.

A remarkable secret intelligence system has been perfected.

form of program was good. The refreshments in charge of Miss Flora Koch were in the form of ice cream and heart shaped cookies.

Boys Win West Point Not Annapolis Places

In error The Observer last night printed a Washington dispatch of the same date to the effect that Ellis V. Williamson and Clayton N. Ingle, of La Grande, had won first and second place, respectively, in the competitive examinations held by the civil service commission on February 1 for Congressmen Sinnott, for appointment as a cadet at Annapolis. The boys took West Point examinations and the nominations will be for the army, instead of the navy school.

COWBOYS START ON RESCUE RAID

Hachita, Feb. 15.—(United Press)—Fifty cowboys departed today to rescue three Americans the bandits are holding following a border raid. The cowboys intend to enter Mexico. A report is that the Mexicans killed two Americans on the Lange ranch near the New Mexico border.

Sinking of Ship is To be Investigated

Rome, Feb. 15.—(United Press)—American Consul Walter Treadwell is enroute to Cagliari to investigate the circumstances regarding the sinking of the American schooner Lyman Law. He wants to ascertain whether the submarine was German or Austrian.

Prohibition Bill Favorably Reported

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—(United Press)—The Webb bill providing a national prohibition amendment to the federal constitution was favorably reported by the house judiciary committee. Committee Chairman Quinn asked congress to submit the issue to a popular vote.

High Officials Are Accused of Fraud

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 15.—(United Press)—Seven high city officials and former officials, including Chief of Police Perott were arrested today and charged with perpetrating election frauds. All are Democrats.

British Aeroplanes Bombard Bruges

London, Feb. 15.—(United Press)—It is announced that British aeroplanes bombarded Bruges harbor shipping. One machine did not return.

Gymnasium Classes Changed.

The regular senior gymnasium class will be held Friday evening at 8 o'clock. All members of the classes are requested to be on time. All classes on Saturday have been postponed on account of the Christian Endeavor banquet.

Christian Endeavor Convention Opens in La Grande Tomorrow

Christian Endeavorers of Eastern Oregon will begin to arrive in the city tonight for the three days' convention which starts here tomorrow. The delegates and the men and women who are to address them will be housed with private families and arrangements for their pleasure as well as their attendance at the convention sessions have been made.

Tomorrow's program is as follows: Friday Morning 10-12—Registration.

Friday Afternoon 1:30-2:15—Devotional, Miss L. S. Dyer.

2:15-4:15—Let's Go program; fifteen, three-minute speeches by delegates—Let's Go—Safety First; Let's Go—Consult the Engineer; Let's Go—Study Traffic Regulations; Let's Go—Fares please; Let's Go—With a Headlight; Let's Go—Oil Up; Let's Go—Fill the Tank; Let's Go—Ballast the Roadbed; Let's Go—Up Grades; Let's Go—Use Sand Dunes; Let's Go—Trot Toot; Let's Go—On Schedule Time; Let's Go—Side Door Pullman; Let's Go—Remove Excess Baggage; Let's Go—Half Fare.

3:15-5:00—Conference period on Christian Endeavor problems; L. R. Carrick will preside and will be assisted by Mr. Charman and Miss Orr.

Friday Evening 7:45-8:45—Glad You Came program; 1, song service; 2, address of welcome by Mr. King; 3, address by

representative of the city; 4, response by L. R. Carrick. 8:45-10:00—Keynote service: 1, music, male quartet; 2, "Christ Exalted," keynote address by Daniel Poling, associate president World's Christian Endeavor Union.

10:00-10:30—Evening watch, led by Miss Dyer.

Dry Law to Be Extended.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—(United Press)—The senate amended the postoffice bill, inserting a clause making bone dry all partially prohibition states, wherein liquor is imported in small quantities for personal use under existing law.

Highway Code Debate.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 15.—(United Press)—The senate is debating the house bill providing for a new highway code. A sharp contest arose over the salaries to be paid the three highway commissioners. At the joint session George H. Kelly was elected commissioner of the Port of Portland by 60 to 25.

Gardner Denounces Bryan.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—(United Press)—Representative Gardner asked the government to arm merchantmen. He denounced Bryan's peace propaganda. He scathingly attacked Germany's "unheard of barbarity and frightfulness toward non-combatants."

Shepherd Tells Inside History Of How He Got War News Beats

How Famous United Press Correspondent Got the Story of the Bulgars Capture of Monastir and Their Raid Upon American Red Cross Station and Their Tearing Down the American Flag.

THE STORY OF A STORY BY U. P. CORRESPONDENT

The following story of a story by William G. Shepherd is printed on the theory that many of our readers would be interested to know something of how this correspondent, known to them through our columns in a purely impersonal way, got hold of stuff he cabled from Europe. It is an intimate and human recital that carries you over the sea and sets you down among the fighting men.—Editor.

(By United Press)—Do you remember the story William G. Shepherd cabled to The Observer through the United Press from Salonica, telling how the oncoming Bulgars

lost the Red Cross station at Monastir and trampled the Stars and Stripes underfoot.

And haven't you sometimes wondered how Shepherd got that story and so many others before any opposition correspondent or newspaper knew about them?

Shepherd tells the detailed history of that story and a lot of other interesting things about his experiences on the European battlefields in Everybody's magazine for February, and here it is:

There are times when it is impossible for a correspondent to see his story; when to see it would mean to lose it. A young man of the vague nationality of the Levant came into my room one winter day in Salonica, wild-eyed and covered with mud and the marks of Macedonian travel.

"The Bulgars have got Monastir,"

(Continued From Page Four)

CITY COMMISSION REFUSES CLAIM OF J. SCHILLING

COMMISSIONER BROWNTON BELIEVES CITY IS RELEASED FROM DAMAGES.

SECOND STREET MAN MAY TIE UP VIADUCT

Colonel Ivanhoe, for Schilling, Last Night Told by Brownton That He Believed Attitude of Commissioners McKennon and Palmer Was the Correct One—Ivanhoe Practically Said Schilling Would Sue.

Attorney F. S. Ivanhoe's intimated threat of a suit on behalf of John Schilling, Second street property owner who claims damages from the proposed erection of the Second street viaduct, was accepted last night by the city commission. Commissioners McKennon and Palmer told Colonel Ivanhoe last week that they were of the opinion that an instrument signed by Schilling and delivered to the city released the city from any claim for damages to Schilling's property from an improvement to Second street. Commissioner Brownton at that time asked for more time to investigate the matter.

Last night he told Colonel Ivanhoe that he was of the same opinion as his colleagues.

The city manager's report, submitted last night, is as follows:

(Continued On Page 5.)

French Liner Arrives.

New York, Feb. 15.—(United Press)—The French liner Chicago arrived from Bordeaux. The officers saw no submarines. The liner Rochambeau reached Bordeaux.

Y. M. C. A. Valentine Party Was Enjoyed

A score or more over the 300 mark was the attendance at the Valentine party in the Y. M. C. A. building last night. The event was in charge of the teachers of the public school under the leadership of Miss Hulda Anderson. The program was especially enjoyed and the committee is indebted to the following persons who contributed to it: Mrs. T. J. Scroggin, Charles Harding, Miss Leila Deborah Smith, Mrs. Cornelia Barker Carse, the high school orchestra, the Hi-Y quintet, Robert Eakin and Mrs. J. G. King. The entertainment committee was in charge of Miss Foster. The crowd took to the various forms of entertainment in good spirit and the response by the groups in a special