

WILSON ANNOUNCES NEUTRALITY POLICY

Embargo as Contraband Shipments Declared No Part of Duty of United States.

VIGOROUS PROTESTS MADE

United States Said to Have Upheld Rights When Infringed Regulations Have Been Enforced Against All Alike.

(Continued From First Page.)
would be an unequal act, an act of partiality on the part of the Government, to adopt such a policy, if the Executive had the power to do so.
"If Germany and Austria-Hungary cannot import contraband from this

PRINCIPAL POINTS OF ADMINISTRATION'S INTERPRETATION OF DUTY OF UNITED STATES AS NEUTRAL IN EUROPEAN WAR.

No obligation held to exist to prevent contraband from reaching enemy. This duty regarded as falling wholly on belligerent. To prevent such shipments, on the contrary, it is held would be an unequal act.
Free use of cables permitted while wireless is censored because belligerents can cut cables and cannot interrupt wireless; also because use of wireless, on neutral coast to communicate with warships at sea virtually makes neutral territory base of belligerent operations.
Both sides have censored private letters, and in so doing acted within rights under international law.
Allies did not exceed rights in searching American vessels in belligerent waters for enemy subjects. Only two cases of search on high seas have been protested vigorously. Impression of seamen by another nation in times of peace, such as led to the War of 1812, declared to "involve different principle."
No general agreement exists as to what constitutes contraband and no tribunal exists to which differences may be submitted.
Copper seizures always protested, but United States embarrassed by own declaration in past placing in contraband list "all articles from which manufacture," including copper.
United States not convinced petroleum and rubber are improperly included as contraband.
Proof is asked of charges that dumdum bullets have been shipped to Great Britain from United States, though no legal ground exists for preventing traffic.
Great Britain has disregarded American citizenship papers and passports in a few instances, but same has been true of all other belligerents.
Government's loan policy treats all belligerents alike. Loans by popular subscription declared to involve danger of arousing partisanship, in contrast to purely credit transactions for purchase of war supplies in which money remains at home.
General charge of arrest of native-born Americans on neutral vessels and in British ports declared unsubstantiated.
INCIDENTS OFFICIALLY REVEALED FOR FIRST TIME.
Right denied to Canada to ship "war material" across Alaska to sea. Protest made to France for interfering with German passengers on American vessel off Colombia.
Search of American ship on high seas for Germans and Austrians protested.
Representations made to Japan and Great Britain against presence of their warships off American ports.

country, it is not, because of this fact, the duty of the United States to close its markets to the allies. The markets of this country are open on equal terms to all the world, to every nation, belligerent or neutral.

Facts Revealed for First Time.
In the course of the letter's discussion of the various charges made, the following facts, hitherto undisclosed, were revealed for the first time:
That the Canadian government recently asked the United States for permission to ship "war equipment" across Alaska to the sea and the request was refused.
That the United States has sent a vigorous protest to France because some German passengers on an American ship sailing between two ports in Colombia were forced by a boarding crew from a French cruiser to sign a promise not to participate in the war.
That procedure was declared in the American note to be an "unwarranted exercise of jurisdiction over American vessels in which this Government will not acquiesce."
That sharp representations also were made to another of the allied governments because search was conducted on the high seas on an American ship for Austrian and German passengers. The name of the offending government was not revealed.

Right Conceded by Germany.
That December 15, last, the German Ambassador, by direction of his government, delivered a memorial to the United States Government, declaring that "under the general principles of international law no exception can be taken to neutral states letting war material go to Germany's enemies from or through neutral country."
That representations were made both to Japan and Great Britain against the continued presence of their warships off American ports and that the protests were in each case heeded.
That since the announcement of the Washington Government's disapproval of war loans none has been made by foreign governments in this country. A distinction is drawn officially for the first time between loans floated by popular subscription and loans raised by credit transactions for the purchase of war supplies, the State Department revealing that it has no objection to the latter.

In a general way, the letter sets forth that rules of neutrality have been promulgated by the American Government without discrimination and have been applied with equal fairness to all concerned. It cites instances of violations by Germany and Great Britain and asserts that protests have been unhesitatingly made, regardless of the country offending.

Wireless and Cable Differentiated.
Complaints as summarized by Senator Stone are answered in the letter point by point, substantially as follows:
"Freedom of communication by submarine cables versus censored communication by wireless." It is set forth first that a wireless station on a neutral coast cannot be interrupted by a belligerent, but that the latter has an unrestricted right to cut a cable on the high seas. Germany's cutting of the British cable near Fanning Island is cited to balance Great Britain's interception of the cable between Germany and the United States. The point is made that wireless messages can be sent direct to warships at sea, which can prey upon public or private vessels and make neutral territory virtually a base of naval operations, to permit which would be essentially unequal."
"Censorship of mails and in some cases repeated destruction of American letters on neutral vessels." Germany and Great Britain, pursuing their rights as belligerents, both have censored private letters falling into their hands.
No evidence has ever been presented to the State Department that Dutch steamers have been destroyed, as repeatedly charged. Only

few cases have come to the attention of the Department where mail from neutral countries has not been finally delivered.

Vessels Subject to Local Laws.

"Searching of American vessels for German and Austrian subjects on the high seas and in territorial waters of a belligerent. Neutral vessels voluntarily entering territorial waters or ports of a belligerent become subject to municipal laws. Only two cases in which American vessels have been searched on the high seas by belligerent warships for German and Austrian subjects have been reported and both have been followed by vigorous representations to the offending governments. Much confusion has arisen, the letter asserts, over the charge that the United States has abandoned the principles for which this country went to war in 1812. The impressment of American seamen by the British navy in times of peace, it is asserted, "involves different principle" from the search for reservists in times of war, though the latter has not been permitted without protest.
"No distinction without protest to British violations of the rules regarding absolute and conditional contraband, as laid down in The Hague convention, the Declaration of London and international law." There is no general agreement between nations as to articles to be regarded as contraband, and the United States has belligerents being opposed and no tribunal existing "to which questions of difference may be submitted."
Every Copper Seizure Protested.
"Acquiescence without protest to the impressment of seamen and other articles in the British lists of absolute contraband." It is here declared that

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Today will be the Last Day of Receiver's Sale at Worrell's Sample Cloak and Suit House. Prices are cut still lower, in fact we might almost say that your price will be ours. It is the truth and the whole truth that the women of Portland have never seen such low prices on good clothing as will prevail on this closing day. Let nothing keep you from this store today.

It was decided at 10 o'clock Saturday night to close doors Monday night (today), or we would have announced it in advance.

There still remains time to procure your Spring wardrobe. Come—for you will have to pay from double to ten times as much for this class of merchandise after today in other places.

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ment." The general charge, the letter asserts, has been unsupported by evidence, but where irregularities have occurred prompt demand for release has been made.
"Indifference to confinement of non-combatants in detention camps in England and France." All the belligerents have made complaint, but investigation has proved that "conditions are as good as possible." The United States has consented at the special request of the German government to send Mr. Jackson, former American Minister at Bucharest and now attached to the American Embassy at Berlin, to make a special investigation of detention camps in England.

Territorial Violations Never Proved.
"Failure to prevent transshipment of British troops and war material across the territory of the United States." No truth of this has ever been furnished and a request of the Canadian government to send war material through Alaska was promptly denied.
"Treatment and final internment of German steamship Geier and the collier Lockwood." The belligerents relative to coalmining in Panama Canal Zone." Although the regulations were not proclaimed until November 13, no belligerent warships are known to have violated the regulations at the zone, and the action was taken "without the slightest reference to favoritism to the belligerents."
"Failure to protest against the modification of the declaration of London by the British government." The notification of this government that it could not accept piecemeal adoption of the declaration of London is recalled by the statement, also that the modifications by the belligerents in that code of naval warfare "are of no concern to the United States," except as they adversely affect the rights of American citizens as defined by international law. In so far as these rights have been infringed, the Department has made every effort to obtain redress for the losses sustained.

Chinese Hosts at Banquet.
LA GRANDE, Or., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Local Chinese last night celebrated the opening of a new fraternal organization in this city by a banquet at which local bankers, city officials, prominent attorneys and business men were guests. The banquet was unique in the annals of similar events in this city, since the guests were treated to delicious Oriental dishes as well as to Occidental dishes prepared by expert Chinese chefs.

Soldier, 14, Is Wounded.
LONDON, Jan. 6.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The youngest member of the British army at the front, Private James Strutt, is back in England recovering from a shrapnel wound in the leg. Strutt, who is 14 years old, is a son of a corporal who lost his life in the South African war. The boy went to France with the expeditionary force in August.

Charity Association Forms.
PULLMAN, Wash., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—An organization of the business men of Pullman, the ministers and the faculty of the State College has been formed under the name of the Social Welfare League, and its purpose is to provide for needy children and help families.

BRIGHTS DISEASE AND DIABETES
(30-Day Notice)
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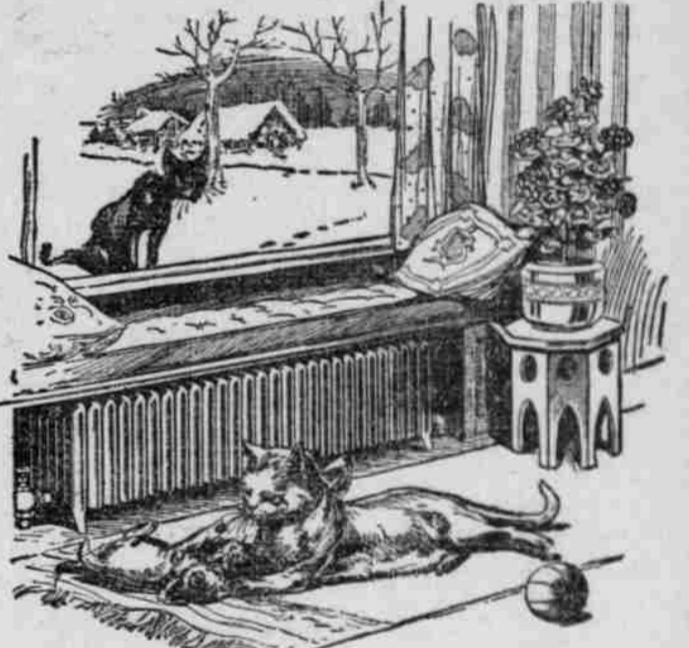
bles who, for various reasons, are unable to provide themselves with the necessities of life.
Unattila to Have Libraries.
PENDLETON, Or., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—A public library building is to be erected in Pendleton within the year at a cost of \$25,000. The Carnegie Library Board is to furnish the money, the city has donated the site for the building and the county is to guarantee an annual maintenance fund of \$2500. A branch costing \$7500 is to be erected in Milton and it is

planned to have branch buildings erected in each of the larger towns of the county.
Molalla to Have Electric Lights.
MOLALLA, Or., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Molalla is to have electric lights and

power in a short time. The Portland Railway, Light & Power Company has installed its main high tension line which comes from Casadero and supplies Salem and southern points. The city council meeting next Tuesday night to pass on the franchise, which has been submitted.

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