

AMERICAN LINERS ARE LIKELY TO ARM

Enforced Idleness of Fleet Regarded as Threatening Prestige of Nation.

GUNS MAY BE SUPPLIED

German Proposal to Open Discussion Viewed as Effort to Bewilder Country, Befog Issue and Divide People.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—American shipowners who have been holding their vessels in port because of inability to obtain guns for defense against submarines probably will have their difficulties solved in a few days. Strong intimations were given in official quarters tonight that while the Government will not actually arm merchant craft or even formally advise arming, a way will be found to put weapons at the disposal of owners who desire to prepare for defense against illegal seizure.

The enforced idleness of the American merchant fleet is being viewed with growing disquiet, and the general view here is that not only the export trade but the Nation's standing before the world demands that American vessels continue to ply the high seas without regard to the German proclamation, which the Government has repudiated with the most severe means in its power short of war.

Proposal Meets No Response.
The German proposal, delivered to the State Department yesterday, that means be discussed of preventing the break in relations from resulting in war apparently has struck no responsive chord here. No official would indicate today whether a reply should have been given, but there was no disposition to deny that the proposal had been made or that the American Government regarded it as an effort on the part of Germany to befog the issue. It was made clear everywhere in Government circles there was nothing to discuss, unless Germany desired to stop abridging American rights and illegally menacing American life.

In connection with the German suggestion, special interest is attached to cable dispatches announcing that Emperor William had called a conference, presumably to discuss the submarine campaign and the position of neutrals. It was suggested that out of the conference something might come more tangible than the mere oral suggestion that Germany would like to discuss means of preventing the addition of another nation to her long list of enemies.

Effort to Befog Issue Suspected.
What has been done so far is construed as an attempt to place upon the United States the appearance of belatedness, to bewilder public opinion here and divide the country.

Whether any sort of answer beyond a mere acknowledgment to the Swiss Minister who presented the suggestion yesterday will be made is uncertain, as that matter rests entirely with President Wilson. Opinions differ, some believing it wiser to ignore the suggestion entirely. It is possible that a summary of the submarine campaign with a list of the sinking of ships without warning and the loss of lives would be submitted to the President, why the United States and other neutrals believe Germany's course outside the bounds of law.

The fact that only one vessel was destroyed in the war zone today, and that the number has been growing smaller daily has modified the views of those who thought the new campaign might completely isolate England.

Government Moves With Caution.
In the matter of permitting the arming of American ships, the Government will take every precaution, it is understood, not to go further officially than it has already gone in telling shipowners that they are justified in arming for self-protection if they think it necessary. Strong opposition has developed from the beginning of the armament discussion to any step which would seem to implicate the country absolutely in the actual machinery of armament. As much as possible it has been desired not to take any action which might put the United States in the position of precipitating hostilities.

Nevertheless, officials believe that so long as the Government has repudiated Germany's war zone and officially notified American shipowners of their right to arm for self-protection, the owners should be put in a position to exercise that right. The statement of P. A. S. Franklin, that he has vainly sought guns and gunners for the American liners has put the question squarely up to the Government.

VILLA CLAIMS RIDICULED

Funston Does Not Believe Bandit Has Force of 25,000 Men.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 11.—Hipolito Villa, brother of Francisco, who, according to New York advices, sent to John J. Hawes, Villa's representative, a statement that Francisco Villa now has a force of 25,000 men, declined tonight to admit he had forwarded the information. When the figures purporting to detail Villa forces him he said: "From information reaching me through various sources, I believe the figures are substantially correct."

When the assertion that Villa has 25,000 men was brought to the attention of General Funston, the latter said he considered the statement ridiculous.

KELSO MILL IS ENLARGED

Plant Equipped to Cut 100,000 Shingles in 10-Hour Run.

KELSO, Wash., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—The Gordon & Fenner Lumber Co., Inc., the old Page Lumber Company Mill building, in the north end of town, will resume operations after a prolonged shutdown, during which the capacity of the plant was doubled. The mill now is equipped with two hand machines, and will cut about 100,000 shingles each shift of 10 hours. A new drag saw was also added. The mill will employ about 12 men. In the near future work will be started upon the construction of a new dry kiln, doubling the kiln capacity.

COURT TERM IS SHORT

Only Three Criminal Cases on Docket at Newport.

NEWPORT, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Circuit Court for the February term

closed here after the shortest session for years. There was only one day devoted to jury trials, after which the petit jury was discharged.

Harlan Long pleaded guilty to a statutory offense, and was sentenced to from three to 20 years in the penitentiary. Walter Hodges, for a similar offense, got the same sentence. Carl Davis, over whom six indictments hung, pleaded guilty to a minor offense against the school law, and was fined \$50, and the other indictments were dismissed.

The most important civil case to come before the court was an injunction proceeding by the farmers living along Beaver Creek, against the membership of the Beaver Creek Club for the damming up of the creek at its mouth and causing their hay land to be overflowed. This club is composed of wealthy sportsmen from Portland and vicinity, holding 700 acres along the creek. In order to protect their beach lands from being washed away by the storm of winter they attempted to change the bed of the creek last fall.

SHIPPING BOARD ACTS

ARMY TRANSPORTS SOUGHT TO USE IN COASTWISE TRADE.

Transfer of All Available Vessels to Fill Gap Asked for at Earliest Possible Date.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The Federal Shipping Board has taken its first practical step toward rehabilitating American maritime commerce by asking President Wilson to turn over available Army transports for service in the coastwise trade between Atlantic and Pacific ports through the Panama Canal.

In a letter made public today Chairman Denman points out that nearly all of the American-built vessels which have been plying in this trade have been withdrawn for more profitable charters or sold to foreign flags, and asks that available vessels that can be spared from military uses be transferred to the Board at the earliest possible moment.

The Board seeks particularly to get certain obsolete foreign-built transports which the War Department has been authorized to sell. There are two such vessels, the Meade and Crook. The Crook, of 4800 tons, is being used in connection with the Alaskan railway, and the Meade, of 5400 tons, is idle at Newport News, and recently was advertised for sale.

A provision for the pending Army appropriation bill would authorize the use of the ships on coastwise trade, but this authorization would be unnecessary if they were turned over to the Shipping Board.

CHINA IS IN EARNEST

TEXT OF REPLY TO GERMANY IS GIVEN OUT AT PEKING.

If Protest Proves Ineffective Diplomatic Relations Will Be Severed.

Though Peace Is Desired.

PEKING, Feb. 9.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The note handed to the German Minister by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to Germany's declaration of the resumption of unrestricted warfare, follows:

"The new measures of submarine warfare inaugurated by Germany are impeding the lives and property of Chinese citizens even more than the measures previously taken, which have already cost China many lives and constitute a violation of international law. The toleration of their application would introduce into international law arbitrary principles incompatible with legitimate intercourse between neutrals and belligerents."

"China, therefore, protests energetically to Germany against the measures proclaimed on February 1 and sincerely hopes the rights of neutral states will be respected and the said measures will not be carried out. If, contrary to expectations, this protest be ineffective, China will be constrained, to its profound regret, to sever diplomatic relations. It is unnecessary to add that China's action is dictated by a desire for further peace and the maintenance of international law."

DEVICE DETECTS U-BOAT

DETAILS OF INVENTION BEING GUARDED CLOSELY.

Naval Consulting Board Will Not Even Announce If Secret Is Held by America or Entente Nations.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—A method for detecting the presence of submarines has been discovered, but the details and the question of whether the United States or one of the entente allies possess the secret are being carefully guarded. It was learned here at a special meeting of the Naval Consulting Board.

The meeting, which was behind closed doors, was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of the international situation and the part this country would play in the event of war, it was said.

There was talk of creating an Army consulting board with duties similar to those of the Naval Consulting Board. One of the first things to be done at the meeting here was to effect a permanent organization under the new law. Thomas A. Edison as president, Peter Cooper Hewitt, vice-president, W. L. Saunders, chairman of the board, and Thomas Robinson, secretary.

NEWBERG TO HAVE APPLES

Almost-Forgotten Orchards Will Come Into Bearing This Year.

NEWBERG, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—About 10 years ago a number of "commercial" apple orchards were set out in this vicinity covering, it is said, more than 2000 acres. An apple-growers' association was formed, and some interesting and instructive meetings were held, with addresses by experienced growers from other localities. Then the interest waned.

This year a large crop is expected from these orchards and a meeting of the growers is planned for Saturday in the Commercial Club rooms to discuss the situation. The operation of an apple-juice plant in Newberg, which began operations last fall, will take care of the "cider grade" of apples, but the handling of the first-class variety at a profit is to be discussed.

Bishop Sumner in Ashland.

ASHLAND, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—The visit of Bishop Sumner, of the diocese of Oregon, to Trinity Church, of this city, was made the occasion of a reception in his honor at the parish house on Saturday evening. At the Sunday morning service he confirmed a class of seven.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

BERLIN'S ATTITUDE BASED ON RUMORS

Hints of Detention of Hostages Due to Alarmist Dispatches From America.

POSITION SOON ABANDONED

Gerard Refuses to Be Party to Exercise of Pressure—Graceful Withdrawal Follows Receipt of Reassuring News.

COPENHAGEN, via London, Feb. 10.—The German government's attitude in endeavoring to induce Ambassador Gerard to sign a protocol reaffirming the old-time treaties with the United States regarding mutual protection of nationals in case of hostilities, and the hints of possible detention of American newspaper men as hostages, was undoubtedly influenced by alarmist dispatches from the United States regarding the treatment of German citizens and property there, the Associated Press correspondent, who left Berlin Saturday morning and now has reached Copenhagen, is able to state.

Berlin Recedes Gracefully.
As soon as reassuring advices were received from the United States, and as soon, too, as the German government saw that the attempt to negotiate a protocol reaffirming the treaty of 1793, with additions and expansions, had failed, it gracefully receded from its position, and nothing further was heard of newspaper men as hostages.

The protocol which Count Montgelas, head of the American department of the German Foreign Office, submitted to Ambassador Gerard on the part of Foreign Secretary Zimmermann, contained, besides a formal renunciation of the treaty, provisions of 1793 and 1828 regarding mutual treatment of nationals caught in a belligerent country in the case of war, several important additions and expansions.

Business Contracts Protected.
It provided that merchants should be allowed to continue their business and to retain their residences, and that the war should not be a pretext for the violation of the validity of contracts. It also provided that the rights of certain German patents in the manufacture of munitions and explosives.

Quite as trenchant was the provision of an instrument which Ambassador Gerard was asked to sign specifying explicitly that not only enemy property as such should be exempt from seizure or restrictions in its use beyond those applying to all property, but that enemy ships in ports of the opponent should not be seized during the war, nor forced to leave ports unless to sail under safe conduct and guarantee the exemption from seizure by the allied belligerents for a home port. Provision also was made for a safe conduct when it was necessary to move ships from one port to another in the same country.

Internment of Citizens Forbidden.
The protocol forbade explicitly an internment or restrictions upon the liberty or movement of enemy nationals within the limits of the opponent country and for confirmation of certain articles of The Hague convention, particularly as to treatment of the personnel of enemy merchant ships captured or caught within an opponent country.

Ambassador Gerard's refusal to sign the treaty after he had ceased to perform his Ambassadorial functions or to telegraph for instructions unless permitted to use code led Count Montgelas to hint that a refusal to sign the protocol might materially affect the status of Americans in Germany and the privilege of departure, mentioned specifically, of the American correspondents whom Ambassador Gerard desired to take out with him, and whose fate was apparently thought to carry particular weight in American public opinion.

Gerard Takes Firm Stand.

This intimation of the possibility of detaining Americans, even under the status of a rupture of diplomatic relations, not war, and the use of newspaper representatives as supposedly important pieces upon the diplomatic chessboard, caused Mr. Gerard to declare roundly that he could not be a party to any such pressure, and that he must persist in his earlier expressed standpoint regarding these negotiations.

From that point nothing further was heard of the protocol or of the possibility of detaining Americans. As soon as authoritative information was received in direct dispatches of the reports of confiscation of ships and the internment of sailors were incorrect, and that no obstacles were being placed in the way of Count Bernstorff's departure under a safe conduct, arrangements for the issuance of passports to the Ambassador and his suite began to proceed with marked acceleration, and the Foreign Office officials, who hitherto would speak only in vague indefiniteness of the probable date for the departure of the Ambassadorial train, now ventured on more and more definite commitments regarding the immediately pending completion of arrangements.

GERARD IN SWITZERLAND

(Continued From First Page.)

part, and he expressed himself optimistically with regard to further developments in the German-American situation. At the station, Count Montgelas, head of the American section of the Foreign Office, and Herr von Prittwitz, personal representative of Foreign Secretary Zimmermann, appeared to bid Mr. Gerard farewell. The diplomatic corps represented by Baron Bernabé, the Spanish Ambassador, who is to take over the interests of the United States; Dr. Theotoky, the Greek Minister; Baron Govers, the Dutch Minister; and the diplomats of the South American republics.

The military authorities and the Foreign Office assigned special officers to accompany the train to the Swiss frontier, where it is due to arrive at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. On the way to the frontier the train will pick up a score or more Americans attached to Consular offices in Southern Germany.

The disposition of the Ambassadorial train after its arrival in Zurich rests with the Swiss government, which is awaiting instructions from France. It is considered likely, however, the American party will stay in Berns for a few days.

Berlin Reports Air Raids.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 11.—An official statement issued today says: "Our naval airplanes Thursday night

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EDISON 70 YEARS OLD

2000 EMPLOYEES FELICITATE INVENTOR AT BANQUET.

Scientist Says: He "Feels Fine" and Is Working Hard for Uncle Sam. President Sends Note.

ORANGE, N. J., Feb. 11.—Thomas A. Edison, who was 70 years old today, was the guest of honor at a banquet given in his honor in his workshop last night by more than 2000 employees and business associates. Letters of congratulation and good will were read from President Wilson and many others of note from all parts of the world.

Mr. Edison went from his laboratory direct to the banquet. A birthday cake 10½ feet in circumference and 40 inches high was placed in front of Mr. Edison. It was aglow with 70 electric candles. In the center of it was a figure of Liberty holding an electric torch.

Mr. Edison made a brief speech in which he thanked his "fellow workers" for their loyalty and their remembrance of his birthday. He added: "I feel fine and I am working hard just now for my Uncle Sam."

A letter from President Wilson, addressed to the chairman of the committee of Porters of Foreign Born, said: "I wish with all my heart that I might be present to take part in celebrating Mr. Edison's 70th birthday. It would be a real pleasure to be able to say in public with what deep and genuine admiration I have followed his remarkable career of achievement. I was an undergraduate at the university when his first invention captured the imagination of the world, and ever since then I have retained the sense of magic which what he did then created in my mind. He seems always to have been in the special confidence of nature herself. His career already has made an indelible impression on the history of applied science, and I hope that he has many more years yet before him in which to make his record still more remarkable."

Berlin Reports Air Raids.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 11.—An official statement issued today says: "Our naval airplanes Thursday night

successfully dropped 88 bombs on the aerodrome at St. Pol, near Dunkirk, and on Coxide (east of Dunkirk). Several hits of the aerodrome were observed. All of the airplanes returned undamaged."

MAN HAS GOLD LOCATER

San Jose Inventor Offers to Find Buried Treasure at Centralia.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—A letter was received here yesterday from Charles D. Smith, of San Jose, Cal., who says he has invented an instrument, working like a compass, that will locate the half-gallon of buried gold coin mentioned in a will made out by W. F. Bryan in 1885, and recently found.

Smith, who gives the San Jose Mayor and Treasurer as references, says he will come here with his invention for a round trip ticket and one-quarter of the treasure.

Vera Maguran Wins Honor.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—As a result of an elimination contest Friday afternoon, participated in by 21 seventh and eighth grade pupils, Vera Maguran, a seventh grade pupil at the Edison School, will represent Centralia in the Lewis County contest to be held next Friday. Her average in the oral and written contest was 97.6. Ruby Bowen and Lucille Clark, two eighth grade pupils, tied for second place with 97.0.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

Bill to Be Hastened

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO SPREAD EMERGENCY AMENDMENTS.

Ship Draft and Aircraft Features Approved, But Bond Issue for Quick Delivery Is Not.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—At a request from Secretary Daniels the House rules committee Saturday recessed its determination not to report a special rule to expedite emergency amendments to the annual naval bill providing authority to the commander shipyards and munitions plants and appropriating \$1,000,000 for purchase of the basic patents of aircraft.

The committee had a long conference with the Secretary, who pointed out the necessity for prompt action on the proposals. Under the rule later agreed to the amendments will be brought in immediately but authorization to draft the personnel of the commandeered plants into the naval establishment is eliminated altogether with some other details which would have authorized sweeping change of policy as to hours of labor and other matters.

The committee adhered to its former decision not to provide for expediting the Administration amendment for \$150,000,000 bond issue to cover cost of quick delivery of ships and war supplies. It is understood that the method of securing this legislation will

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