

GERMANY WILL NOT

People Desire to Avoid Hostilities, but Only on Lines of Present Warfare.

RUTHLESSNESS TO GO ON

Submarine Commanders Told to Exercise Discretion as to American Ships, but This May Only Postpone Crisis.

COPENHAGEN, via London, Feb. 11.—Little hope of expectation prevails in Berlin that war with the United States is avoidable or that a modus vivendi reconciling the policies of the two governments can be found.

There now is a desire on the part of the authorities and a vast bulk of the people to avoid actual hostility in any way consistent with the general lines of the present submarine policy, but only in such a way. Accordingly, instructions were given, so the Associated Press has been reliably informed, to submarine commanders before they started on their February mission to take the safe side when neutral vessels, particularly American, were in question whenever possible. Enemy merchantmen, when recognized as such, were ordered to be sunk at sight, but neutral merchantmen were to be warned when such action, in their judgment, was consistent with the object of the campaign and the safety of their own ships.

Break Only Deferred. It was recalled, however, after the prompt and resolute stand taken by President Wilson, that these orders could only be palliative and only defer, not avoid, the inevitable breaking of the most rigid censorship has been applied in Germany.

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Information as to Germany's definite decision to start a sharpened submarine war and even the form it would take, namely, a blockade of specified regions (though the idea of a "prohibited zone" was later substituted for that of a "blockade" at the request of the naval authorities who expected possible formal objections to the blockade regions) was received by the Associated Press almost on the morrow of Ambassador von Bernstorff's departure from Berlin, there was no probability Germany would give way this time or abandon the ruthless campaign now started.

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A week later it was stated that a complete decision on the situation had not been reached. The campaign would not be launched until after further consultations with Germany's allies and the receipt of certain information from the German government and Count Tarnowski von Tarnow, respectively German and Austro-Hungarian ambassadors in London, on their conception of armed merchantmen and their liability to attack as warships.

Momentous Decision Quickly Made. The final decision on an out-and-out submarine campaign of a so-called ruthless type apparently was taken at the grand Austro-German conference at German headquarters on the German Emperor's birthday, though the Associated Press heard the statement that submarines departing several days earlier for stations on the submarine hunting grounds were provided with continent orders for this eventuality.

Maps Already Prepared. The decisions had been finally reached and the text of the note and the memoranda were ready, and even maps of the prohibited zone had been prepared for the use of the German newspapers.

The Ambassador and the American Government therefore, were faced with the announcement of a fact accomplished when, on the afternoon of January 31, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, promulgated in the Reichstag committee the news of the resolute submarine campaign which would begin immediately and read to the committee the text of the memorandum on the proposed zone, of course, to be told, but Secretary Zimmermann declared to the Associated Press the day before the news of President Wilson's rupture of relations came, with every outward evidence of conviction that if the United States would abstain from interference and give Germany a free hand, a few months would see the end of the conflict. Two or three months was his first phrase, which afterwards was extended to "perhaps six months."

Obelisk Illusions Shattered. Notwithstanding the plain terms of President Wilson's earlier communications, the officials evidently hoped against hope that the inauguration of an unrestricted submarine campaign might, perhaps, after all, not bring about a breach with the United States, for in the days between von Bethmann-Hollweg's announcement and the breaking of relations they were awaiting word from America with interest.

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which appeared in the press of the world before the embassy dispatches had started from Berlin and await the anticipated explosion.

This came in the shape of a rupture of relations earlier than the Americans had expected, which astonished and, perhaps, even dismayed the German official world, prepared though it was for a rupture of relations in the event of the definite warnings in the Sussex correspondence.

Had they been in possession of direct and authoritative information on the true status of affairs in America, officials declared repeatedly to the Associated Press correspondent, instructed to be guarded in their statements, and to alarmist press reports of extreme measures taken by the Washington administration, the German government would have been in a far different position—far less concerned about the necessity of protecting its own interests in a situation, which, as it turned out, had been incorrectly reported.

American Clears Up Situation. Much of the telegraphed press reports received, they declare, they had not permitted the German press to publish, fearing the effect upon public opinion, and the cabled advice received by an American correspondent, explaining and clearing up the situation and shown by him to the foreign office was conveyed to the German newspaper offices with celerity, showing what importance the officials attached to it.

The Americans in Berlin and, so far as known, throughout Germany, have during the days of tension following the rupture of diplomatic relations been treated without hostility and even in most cases with marked courtesy. American residents in Germany, as before, free to move about the country and to follow their customary pursuits, subjected to no hostile acts or cause of concern beyond the delay of obtaining permission to depart from Germany. The issuance in the ordinary way of passports through the local police, has been suspended, however, and no American passport is good for passing the frontier unless specially stamped by the military authorities.

Delays Cause Apprehension. Though the official viewpoint is that permission to leave will be granted in due course, the delays in issuing the military authorizations have produced a feeling of apprehension among those Americans who desire to leave Germany now or in case of an actual breaking out of hostilities. The first act of the German authorities after receiving news of the rupture of relations and reports of the confiscation of ships and internment of American citizens was to order the frontier not to recognize the regular police visas upon American passports, but to require a military visa and to instruct the police to turn over all decisions to the military authorities.

Many Germans are expressing their sympathy for the action of the American Government to their American acquaintances, or even to strangers, but for the greater part the population seems inclined rather to go out of its way to treat the Americans in its midst with more than normal consideration.

Investigation Not Wanted. When the leak charges were made on the floor of the House, Democrats, by Representative Henry, of Texas, chairman of the rules committee, and a Republican member of the committee, were berated for having based his charges on mere rumor.

When Republicans came to the support of Mr. Wood and his colleagues, the investigation, Representative Henry attempted to head off an investigation. Other Democratic members of the committee were inclined to support the investigation, but they were overruled by the majority of the committee.

Undermer First Wanted. The rules committee considered around for a time, and finally decided it was necessary to call in a special attorney. The Chairman Henry saw his opportunity to avail himself of the services of that staunch friend of the Administration, Samuel Undermer, of Chicago, who was persons named by the committee, and Mr. Whipple, of Boston, was eventually engaged.

Most of the persons named by Thomas W. Lawson in his early testimony, have not been connected with the leak, but the proposal of Undermer's name to Lawson have been drawn in through the efforts of the Republicans on the committee and Mr. Whipple. It may develop that Mr. Lawson knew more than he has been credited with.

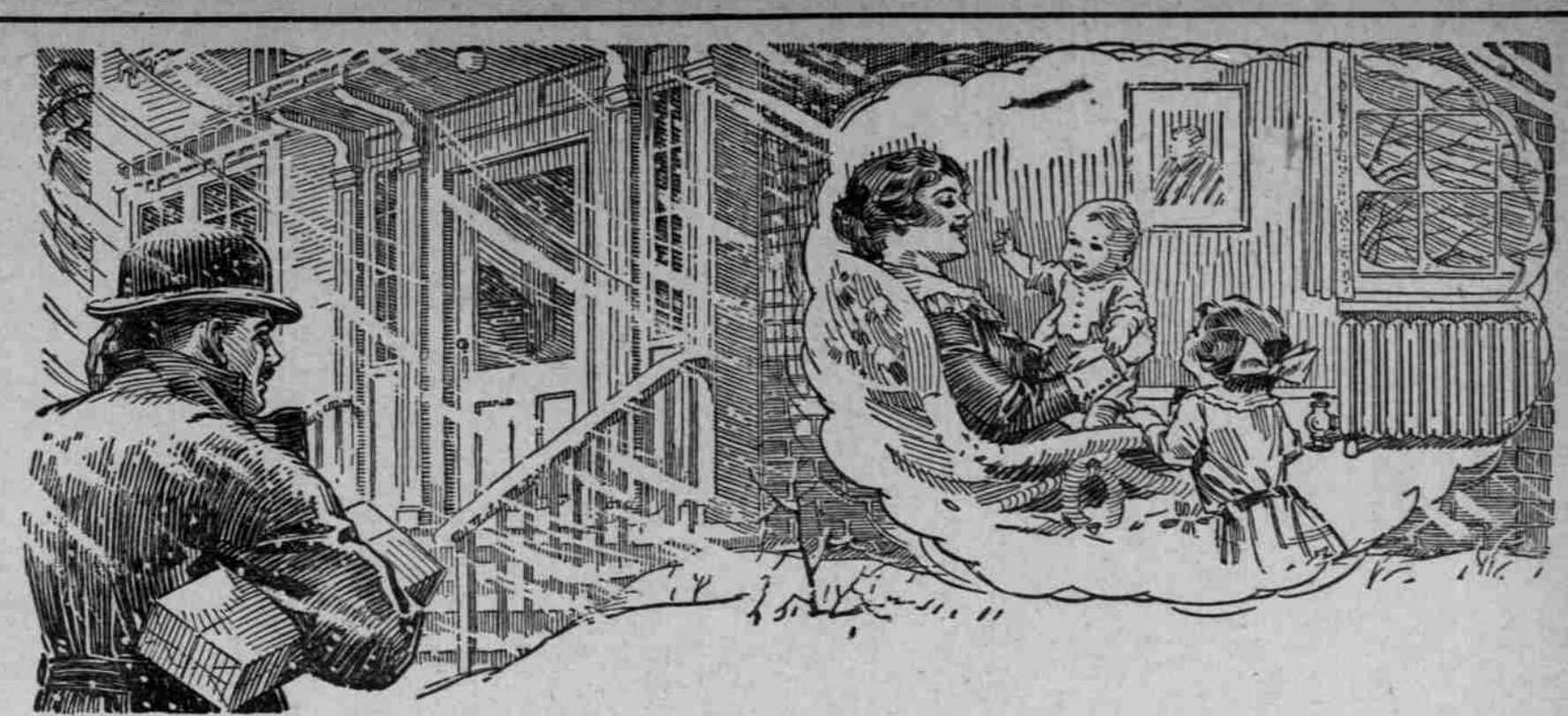
Lawson knew that Barney Baruch made a killing in the stock market at the time of the leak. He has been known to be on intimate terms with big men in the Administration, and also to have been the second largest contributor to the Wilson campaign fund of 1916. Baruch, to date, has not been coupled with the leak.

Clue Found in Chicago. It was not until the leak committee got into the records of the Hutton Co., of New York, that it found a "hot trail." The committee found that Hutton & Co. had the habit of destroying confidential telegrams. When the committee, through Clement, Curtis & Co., of Chicago, got hold of copies of Hutton telegrams, it traced the leak back to Connelly & Co., of Washington, and there, and in the press-room of the White House, the trail seemed to vanish.

From members of the Hutton firm in New York and from members of the Connelly firm in Washington the committee got the first, apparently contradictory testimony. It was the apparent effort of the Hutton firm to conceal something that fired the suspicion, and that suspicion was shown to be justified when the files of Clement, Curtis & Co. were produced. Also, while in New York, a few days later, the committee found the most important member (for its purposes) of the Hutton firm was a man named George A. Ellis, who while in New York, a few days later, appeared before the committee in Washington, and proved to be healthy. His recovery was remarkable—all but his memory.

Conflicting Testimony Follows. Then came the contradictory statements of F. A. Connelly. First, his firm had sent no messages on the peace leak; then he himself had sent them; then along came a newspaper man and took the fall responsibility for having sent the message which Connelly had testified he had sent, but which the newspaper with the United States had not even been seen by Connelly.

Just who and just what F. A. Connelly & Co. and Hutton & Co. and other witnesses are seeking to protect is the big question yet to be solved. The whole tenor of the late testimony is such as to show conclusively that someone high up is being shielded.



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MANILA POLITICS HIT

RETURNED EX-NAVY MAN SAYS CONTEMPT IS ANSWERED. COUNCILMAN SAYS ATTORNEYS ADVISE ATTENDANCE AFTER OUSTER. OREGON CITY, Or., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—After being cited to appear before Circuit Judge Campbell on February 13 and show cause why he should not be held for contempt because he attended a Council meeting Wednesday night after he had been ousted by the court, I. C. Bridges, Councilman, Saturday filed an affidavit in defense. Mr. Bridges says he agreed with his attorneys that he should not vote, although he should attend to see that the people of his ward were protected. The court held Mr. Bridges not a legal resident of the city. The case is on appeal.

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