

WILSON MAY ARM AMERICAN SHIPS

Course Is Practically Decided Upon.

BREAK WITH AUSTRIA NEAR

Cabinet Is Unusually Reticent After Long Session.

REVENUE BILLS DELAYED

La Follette Plans to Oppose Navy Appropriation Bill—Senate Republicans Will Not Stand in Way of Defense.

'BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN. WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—(Special).—Here are the important developments today in the warlike situation confronting the country:

1. The Cabinet considered for more than two hours today the foreign relations of the United States, the intimidation blockade inaugurated by Germany and the measures to be taken to protect American life and property at home and abroad. After the session the members were more than usually reticent.

2. The President has practically decided to give authority for the arming of American ships. The decision may be held up, should confirmation be received of reports that German submarines have received instructions not to sink vessels of American registry.

3. Information has been received to the effect that Austria-Hungary within 10 days will advise the United States that she proposes to adhere to the German submarine decree. This will lead to a rupture of relations with the Vienna government.

4. The President gave approval to the transmission to Congress of the universal training bill, which was made public today by Secretary of War Baker.

5. Senate Republicans, while prepared to give President Wilson any "reasonable authority" to handle the situation with Germany, have taken concerted action to compel the chief executive to call an extra session.

Wilson Wants No Extra Session.

6. The President desires to avoid an extra session of Congress, and to this end has called a special session of the Senate, at which he will press the ratification of the treaty with Colombia and also consult members with reference to any measures developments may require him to take against the central European powers.

President Wilson intends to go before Congress to ask for authority to use the land and naval forces of the Government in defense of American life and rights. He does not want to ask for this authority, however, unless satisfied that it will be granted ungrudgingly by the Senate.

There are certain pacifists in the House who are willing to support the President in his request; they and others contend that Congress alone has the power to declare war, and it is their duty to be on the job in Washington to hold back or guide the President, according to the views they hold.

Some of the pacifists go so far as to object to adequate preparedness. Senator La Follette, for example, intends to deliver a speech against the naval appropriations bill, which would give the President authority to arm American ships, particularly in the Senate, who object to the revenue bill and who believe that by postponement of action until an extra session a better measure from their viewpoint can be obtained, because the Republicans have as many representatives in the lower House as the Democrats and can have greater influence in shaping the measure.

Nevertheless, prominent Senate Republicans admit tonight that the bill probably will be passed, because they do not care to accept the responsibility of preventing the provision of sufficient money to put the country in a state of defense.

Seven Supply Bills Remain.

Only seven working days remain of this session, and there are seven appropriation bills that must be passed before the end of the fiscal year. Many of these bills, like that providing for the sweeping increases in the Navy, would in the ordinary course call for the extended debate. In the present circumstances any of these bills, regardless of their importance, can be made to pass in several days of the dwindling time still at the majority's disposal.

The Republican caucus today showed the Republican minority of the Senate more united than in a long time. About 30 Senators were present and their action was unanimous. Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, ranking Republican on the committee on foreign relations, presided. Mr. Lodge favors a strong course in regard to German encroachments on American rights, but today on the subject of a special session he found himself in complete accord with so pronounced a pacifist as Mr. La Follette, of Wisconsin.

The explanation is simple. Pacifist-like, Mr. La Follette wishes to keep Congress in session throughout the year.

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AGE BARRIER LET DOWN TO 800 MEN

WORKERS PREVIOUSLY BARRED EARN GOOD SALARIES.

Chicago Committee of Business Men Announces Success of Recent Movement.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—(Special).—Employment for more than 800 men who a year ago could not find work because of the age barrier has been obtained through the committee on unemployment, organized December 6, according to a report made today by Myer Ross, acting chairman of the committee.

Wages ranged from \$1 a day to \$125 a month.

Success of the work of the committee, which was formed by leading business men of Chicago under the chairmanship of Charles G. Dawes, has led to the formation of similar committees in other cities, with the result that hundreds of men who heretofore had been unable to find work are now employed, the report said. The committee was formed primarily to find employment for men past 45 years of age.

"The committee has succeeded in breaking down the greatest obstacle in the path of securing employment for these men, the age barrier, which has been established, not only in Chicago, but in other cities, barring men past 45, and, in some cases, 50, from employment," the report read. "The employers of Chicago in the large industries realize now the injustice of this condition, and the committee is glad to report that in almost every case where a large employer has been visited and the matter explained to him the barriers have been let down."

SEIZURE BILL APPROVED

Passage of Measure to Doubtful Shipping, However, Commanded.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—After a week's consideration, the Senate commerce committee today approved the measure to confer on the President power to commandeer merchant shipping in emergencies, and Chairman Fletcher reported the measure with a request that it be passed this session. At least two Republican Senators on the committee are known to be opposed to many features of the measure, however, and, in view of the legislative situation, chances of its passage are doubtful.

The committee decided not to put into the bill an authorization under which the board could buy ships of a belligerent nation when approved by the President. It changes the restriction on the board's power to buy ships less than 75 per cent efficient to make it apply to ships of 50 per cent efficiency.

SALARIES ARE IN DISPUTE

House Objects to Changes as Made by Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—When the annual legislative, executive and judicial bills as agreed to in conference were brought into the House today, the vigorous objection was made to the Senate changes in salaries for Government employees, and the measure finally was recommitted to the conference committee.

The Senate provision accepted in conference would give a 15 per cent increase to employees getting up to \$480 annually and a 10 per cent increase to those drawing between \$480 and \$1000. The House insisted on its own provision for 10 per cent increase in salaries up to \$1200 annually and 5 per cent from that up to \$1800.

SNOW BLOCKADE CLEARED

Short Line to Hold Hundreds of Men to Fight Next Storm.

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 23.—After the last of the main line train blockades had been cleared today at Lynden, Utah, and points on the Oregon Short Line in Southern Idaho, railroad officials announced today the next move would be the retaining of the present force of several hundred men and rotary plows to keep the tracks clear of snow until the present storm which has swept through the state during the past few days stops.

According to the local weather bureau another storm is due tonight.

SCHUMANN-HEINK IS HURT

Opera Singer's Ribs Broken When Streetcar Hits Auto.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 23.—Madame Schumann-Heink, opera singer, suffered fractures of two ribs and a sprained wrist, and probably was injured internally here tonight, when an automobile in which she was returning to her hotel from a concert was struck by a streetcar.

Physicians said, after an examination, that she probably would have to cancel all engagements for at least three weeks.

VOCATIONAL BILL SIGNED

Boys' School Makes Pens to Be Used by President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—With four different pens made especially for the occasion at a boys' vocational school at Buffalo, N. Y., President Wilson this afternoon signed and made law the Smith-Hughes vocational training bill.

STRICT ECONOMY URGED ON BRITONS

Steps Taken to Combat U-Boat Menace.

IMPORTS TO BE CURTAILED

Lloyd George Says Country Must Make Sacrifice.

TONNAGE ALREADY SHORT

Production to Be Speeded Up by Guaranteed Prices, Higher Wages and Compulsory Cultivation. Ore Problem Is Serious.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, today presented to the House of Commons, in a speech lasting an hour and a half, his programme for coping with the serious situation arising from the shortage of shipping space, depletion of food stocks and the German submarine menace.

The Premier advocated the increase of home food production and the curtailment of non-vital imports. To this end he outlined a plan for speeding up the farmer by guaranteeing good prices for commodities over a period of years. This he supplemented by the announcement that the land owner would be forced to cultivate his land.

Farm Wages Increased.

The speeding up of the farm laborer was provided for by the Premier by guaranteeing him a minimum wage of 25 shillings per week instead of the present 14 to 15 shillings.

By curtailment of imports, Mr. Lloyd George said he expected to reduce the demands on cargo space by several million tons. Foodstuffs, of which 18,000,000 tons were imported last year, will be cut nearly 1,000,000 tons by stopping off certain luxuries. Paper users who already have been considerably curtailed, must henceforth get along with only half the supply they are now receiving, thus saving 600,000 tons. Certain savings also will be effected in the import of ore, which now amounts to 3,000,000 tons annually and in lumber, which at present is 4,000,000 tons.

Shortage of Tonnage Admitted.

Mr. Lloyd George said that for some time there has been a shortage of tonnage required for the general needs of the nation and even a slight shortage in the tonnage for military purposes. The nation should realize absolutely what the conditions were.

"If we take drastic measures," he continued, "we can cope with the submarine, but if the nation is not prepared to accept drastic measures for dealing with the menace, disaster is before us."

"The government is hopeful of finding means of dealing with the submarine, but we should be guilty of folly if we rested tranquilly upon the expectation of the realization of that hope. We have to deal ruthlessly and promptly with the tonnage problem by measures which impose great sacrifices upon the country."

There are three sets of measures: "First—By the navy, as described by Sir Edward Carson; second, the building of merchant ships; third, dispensing with the tonnage."

13 KILLED; 100 HURT BY TORNADOES

SEVERAL SOUTHERN STATES ARE SWEEPED.

Most Serious Loss of Life Occurs in Alabama; Georgia and Mississippi Are Struck.

ATLANTA, Feb. 23.—Thirteen persons are known to have lost their lives and more than 100 have been reported injured in a series of tornadoes that swept portions of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi today.

The most serious loss of life was in Middle Alabama.

Seven persons were killed in the Hollins-Midway-Stewartville section of Alabama and at Whitesett, Ala., four negroes were killed in the destruction of their cabins.

Much timber was blown down and many residences were damaged. Two negroes were killed at Lithonia, Ga., where at least 60 small dwellings were demolished. Six children were injured in a storm at Georgetown, Miss. Small tornadoes also struck near Wetumpka, Ala., and Hartsboro, Ala., causing minor property damage.

The tornado was about a mile wide and was moving east. Practically every house in Hollins was damaged and in some cases residences were completely demolished.

All wires east of Hollins are down and there is no communication with that thickly settled section. It is feared the loss of life may be greater than now reported.

Trotter, aided by his dog, killed one and wounded the other. Thinking he had killed the latter, he approached it, only to be attacked.

He finally succeeded in killing it with his clubbed rifle after being badly lacerated in the struggle.

COUGARS KILLED IN BARN

Farmer Comes on Two White Hunting Eggs, and One Attacks Him.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 23.—While hunting eggs in his barn near McKenzie bridge, 45 miles east of here, Walden Trotter today discovered two huge cougars who had sought shelter from a severe snow storm. Two cows stood in the barn unharmed by the beasts.

Trotter, aided by his dog, killed one and wounded the other. Thinking he had killed the latter, he approached it, only to be attacked.

He finally succeeded in killing it with his clubbed rifle after being badly lacerated in the struggle.

WOMEN MUST STAY HOME

Canadians Taken Off Steamer That Put in at Halifax.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 23.—Twenty-five Canadian women and children, who arrived last night on a steamship from the United States for Europe, were taken off today by government authorities under a regulation which provides that women and children may not sail from a British port for England at present. Three American women were permitted to continue the voyage.

The name of the steamer was deleted by the censor at Halifax.

PLOT CHARGED IN HOLLAND

Explosives Found in Hotel Occupied by British Consul.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 23, via London, Feb. 24.—The Nieuws Van Den Dag says that a plot against the British Consulate at Groningen, 58 miles northeast of Amsterdam, has been discovered.

A box of explosives to which fuses were attached, the paper adds, was found in the hotel where the consuls are housed. The newspaper reports that five arrests have been made.

MILITARY TRAINING PLAN IS OFFERED

Administration to Ask Wide Discussion.

OPINION IS NOT EXPRESSED

Trained Force of 4,000,000 Men Would Be Supplied.

FIRST ARMY IS 1,500,000

Intensive Year of Instruction of Youth of 19 Contemplated, With Liability to Call to Colors Until Age of 32.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Army general staff universal service bill was transmitted to the Senate military committee today by Secretary Baker without a definite expression by the Administration either on the general subject or the specific proposal.

The Secretary said it was not thought that Congress could give so intricate a problem consideration in the closing days of this session, but suggested that wide publicity be given the staff plan, "to the end that both Congress and the War Department can, in any subsequent consideration given to the subject, have the benefit of an enlightened, thoughtful public opinion upon the needs and wishes of the country."

Baker Is Non-Committal.

"As yet," the letter of transmittal continues, "I am not prepared to say officially for the War Department that the need of the country can reasonably be said to be for so great an establishment, nor can we yet, without further study and deliberation, be confident that the means suggested are the most appropriate to the need which it shall be determined wise to foresee."

In round numbers the staff plan would supply a trained force of 4,000,000 men, with one year of intensive military instruction. It is estimated by the War College that approximately 500,000 boys in their 13th year would be available for training annually.

Three Reserves Provided.

They would, under the plan, be liable to call to the colors until 32 years of age, passing after the first 11 months of their training to the first reserve for the next four years and one month, then into the second reserve, and finally into the unorganized reserve until they reached the age of 45.

The purpose of the bill is to constitute the first reserve as a fully organized and equipped fighting force with a strength of 1,500,000, ready to respond instantly to a call to arms. The second reserve of equal size, but only partially equipped, would require some time to take the field. Eventually there would be 1,000,000 additional trained men ready to fill the gaps at the front.

Regular Army Increased.

In addition to these forces there would be a regular Army composed of men choosing military life as a profession, of 24,000 officers and 285,886 enlisted men. Of these, 87,000 would form the overseas forces and 29,000 the frontier forces, the remainder composing the permanent training personnel, which could take care of the instruction.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

SPUD ACCEPTED AT MOVIE FOR TICKET

"TAKE 'EM ALL" MANAGER INSTRUCTS CASHIER.

Potatoes Good for Taxicab Fare, Cigars and Tobacco, but Not for Chicago Streetcar Ride.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—(Special).—The potato was established as legal tender in Chicago today.

Yes, sir, that same family potato which you've been totting around to cure you of the rheumatism will get you almost anything money can buy from a movie show ticket to a trolley ride. The well-groomed, sturdy and vigorous-looking spud is the equivalent of 8 cents.

The potato was used today in gaining admission into a Madison-street moving-picture theater. The girl in the box office eyed the proffered tuber with interest.

"One ticket, please," Miss Gundy was addressed.

Out came the ticket—in went the spud. The manager, informed a few minutes later, appeared gleeful over the transaction.

"Take 'em all," he said; "the more the merrier. We'll have fried potatoes tonight, salad and a couple of straight ones baked."

From the movie show the potato financier went to a taxicab. He paid three potatoes for a two-blocks ride to the Blackstone Hotel.

A conductor on Madison street refused a tuber. He refused two potatoes. Three and four were offered him. He refused.

"Get out of my car," he cried.

A cigar store was next visited. Cigars and chewing tobacco were obtained in return for two potatoes.

CHARTER EDICT MODIFIED

American Ship in South America May Take Foreign Cargoes.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—To permit American merchant ships now in South American waters to bring cargoes on their return to the United States, the Federal shipping board today exempted them from President Wilson's proclamation forbidding American owners to charter ships to foreigners.

Many American ships in Southern waters, it was explained, would have to return empty unless chartered by foreigners. The board's ruling specifies that the ships if chartered to foreigners must stay in the Western hemisphere.

The President's proclamation gave the board authority to make exception in chartering vessels. Today's order is operative until April 1, when it is expected all vessels that left American ports without return charters will have cleared for home.

SNOW PREVENTS LOGGING

Smith Mills at Marshfield Are Forced to Suspend.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special).—Practically all the logging camps in the county are closed on account of snow. The fall here last night, at sea level, was from three to five inches, while the depth is two and three feet in the higher altitudes.

Both the Smith mills are closed on account of shortage of logs. Indications are that more snow will fall tonight.

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DRASTIC POWER FOR PRESIDENT FOUGHT

Republicans May Compel Extra Session.

VIGOROUS FILIBUSTER MADE

Democrats in Charge of Revenue Bill Helpless.

SENATOR OUTLINES PLAN

Administration Forces Contemplated All-Night Sessions in Effort to Tire Opponents and May Begin Today.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Republicans of the Senate began a filibuster today that threw into the air all plans for the remaining eight working days of the session, threatening essential pending legislation and foreshadowing opposition to any request President Wilson may make for authority to deal with the international crisis after Congress adjourns. They did not challenge charges on the floor that they were deliberately seeking to force the President to call an extra session.

Although the Democrats believed the fight is aimed chiefly at the Administration's emergency revenue bill, it drew prompt and hearty support from those opposing any grant of additional power to the executive which might result in aggressive action to protect American rights in the war zone.

Republicans Begin Filibuster.

The trouble began when the majority rejected an amendment modifying the excess profits tax provision of the revenue measure. There was a conference, presided over by Senator Lodge and participated in by leaders of both wings of the Republican party, including Senators Penrose, Smoot, Weeks and Brandegee, of the regulars, at La Follette, Flanders and Norris, of the Progressive group.

Returning to the floor, the Republicans began taking up time, speaking one after another for hours on perfunctory amendments, while the exasperated Democrats in charge of the revenue bill listened helplessly. No progress was made during the day or at a session lasting far into the night.

Democratic leaders are considering forcing all-night sessions in an effort to tire out the filibusters, and they may begin tomorrow. It is realized that the Republicans, by persistent obstructive tactics, can prevent the enactment of the revenue bill and the necessary appropriation measures, and thus make an extra session imperative.

Drastic Power Opposed.

It was learned later that some of those present insisted that the President sought too much power in handling the strained international situation; that he should be compelled to call an extra session through enforced failure of legislation, and that any request for special authority should be fought to the end of the present session.

On the floor Senator Simmons openly declared the Republicans were seeking to defeat important bills in order to force a special session and said he did not doubt they could do it. Besides the revenue bill, necessary to meet an expected Treasury deficit, the Army and Navy appropriation bills are among the measures which also would fall should the filibuster prove effective.

President Wilson's proclamation today for the usual special session of the Senate, beginning March 5, apparently had no effect in weakening the Republican attack, but some Administration Senators tonight were inclined to think it might serve to placate the Republicans and clear the way for legislative action in a day or two.

POSTOFFICE HELP SCARCE

Butte Laborers Get \$4.50 Daily So Clerks Go Begging.

BUTTE, Mont., Feb. 23.—The United States Postoffice cannot get sufficient help to operate the local post office. A civil service examination set for tomorrow has been postponed because there were no applicants. There is no eligible list and there has not been any for months.

The Government pays from \$66.33 to \$100 a month for clerks and carriers here, whereas common laborers receive \$4.50 a day. Nobody wants the Government jobs.

BELGIAN PLANT DAMAGED

Several Buildings of Famous Iron-works Burned by Incendiary.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Feb. 23.—Several buildings of the famous Cockerill works at Seraing, five miles southwest of Liege, Belgium, have been destroyed through an incendiary fire, the newspaper Les Nouvelles says.

The loss to the plant, which comprises iron works and machine shops, making it one of the largest in Europe, will be \$500,000, it is estimated.

Passenger Traffic Cut Down.

PARIS, Feb. 23.—To reduce railway passenger traffic service, Transport Minister Harriot has suppressed all circular tickets, family tickets, excursion tickets and special tickets for seaside resorts.

NEWLY INVENTED PERISCOPE EXPECTED TO SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES OF SOLDIERS IN THE TRENCHES.

—Underwood Photo.

DUTCH SOLDIER FIRING RIFLE USING THE "ERADUS" PERISCOPE.

This device was designed by J. H. Eradus, a Dutch inventor, and is named in his honor. It is attached to the butt of the rifle and enables the soldier in the trench to aim and fire accurately without danger of death from the enemy's bullets. It is in use in the Dutch army and should revolutionize sniping along the battle fronts.