

BERLIN ASKS AID OF JAPAN AND MEXICO

Offensive Alliance Against U. S. Sought.

DOCUMENT IS INTERCEPTED

Washington In Possession of Facts at Time Relations Were Broken.

PEACE WITH TOKIO ASKED

States Offered Carranza as Reward for Mediating With Japanese.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany, in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and counting its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States, if this country should not remain neutral.

Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her allies and join in the attack on the United States.

Three States Offered Mexico.

Mexico, for her reward, was to receive general financial support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona—lost provinces—and also the "victorious peace terms" many contemplated.

It was left to German Minister Eckhardt, in Mexico City, who by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann, at Berlin, January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to General Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot.

TEXT OF GERMAN ORDER FOR MOVE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Following is the text of the instructions forwarded by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann at Berlin to German Minister von Eckhardt, in Mexico City, a copy of which is in the hands of the American Government:

"Berlin, Jan. 19, 1917.—On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

"You are instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above in confidence as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan, suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

(Signed) ZIMMERMANN."

GERARD IS ON WAY; SHIP HAS NO CONVOY

All on Infanta Isabel Deeply Anxious.

SUBMARINE ATTACK FEARED

Ex-Ambassador Concerned for Others in Party.

40 AMERICANS ARE ABOARD

First 6 Hours of Trip Passed With No Untoward Incident—Danger Regarded as Slight After First 24 Hours.

BY CARL W. ACKERMAN.

(Correspondent of the New York Tribune. Copyrighted, 1917, by the Tribune Association. Published by arrangement.)

ABOARD S. S. INFANTA ISABEL (Via wireless to Finisterre), Feb. 28.—The Infanta Isabel is now six hours out from the Spanish coast. So far there has been no untoward incident. Former Ambassador James W. Gerard and his party are well.

There has been no excitement over the possibility of a submarine attack on the ship, but everybody is deeply anxious, even Mr. Gerard finding it impossible to conceal a certain vague feeling of foreboding.

Concern Not for Self.

It is not for himself that he is most anxious, but for the members of his party whom he had repeatedly warned against sailing in company with him. He cannot shake off the feeling that his ship might be made the particular target for attack by submarines.

This uneasiness has been increased by news of the torpedoing of the Laconia and shadowy hints of a speech by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, in which all respect for the Americans sailing on the high seas is reported to have been thrown overboard by the man who hitherto stood against Tirpitz and Reventlow for continued friendship with the United States. Mr. Gerard feels now that he and his party are no safer from attack than any one trailing the seas in this period of danger.

Infanta Isabel Not Conveyed.

The former Ambassador does feel, however, that if we escape without attack during the first 24 hours, there will be little danger of trouble with the submarines.

The Infanta Isabel is not being conveyed in any way, such as against the wishes of certain members of the party. The weather is moderate.

The embarkation was uneventful. The Infanta Isabel cleared from Corunna for Havana, which is expected to be reached by March 8 or 9.

Washington Sends No Word.

Up to the moment of sailing Mr. Gerard had received no word from Washington as to whether Germany would consider his passports valid up to the time he reached American soil.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gerard are here.

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PORTLAND FIRM TO BUILD 2 CUNARDERS

CONTRACTS FOR 10,000-TON STEAMERS AWARDED.

Columbia Shipbuilding Company Is Known to Have Been Figuring. Seattle Gets Job, Too.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28.—An announcement was made today that the Sun Shipbuilding Company at Chester, Pa., has received a contract from the Cunard line for two standard 10,000-ton cargo boats.

Other concerns, including the Bethlehem Steel Company and Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Or., concerns have received similar contracts.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 28.—The Bethlehem Steel Company at Sparrows Point announced today that it had received contracts for two cargo ships of 10,000 tons each from the Cunard Company.

Negotiations have been conducted with the Cunard line by J. R. Bowles, president of the Northwest Steel Company, and who is interested in the Columbia River Shipbuilding Corporation, maintaining a plant alongside of the Northwest yard, and also in the J. F. Duffie & Co., of Seattle. In all, it is said five vessels were offered, and it is known the Cunard line is negotiating as well for two steamers under construction at the Northwest yard for Norwegian owners.

It was said last night that Mr. Bowles had not communicated with his Portland colleagues as to the actual awarding of contracts, though it is fully expected information will be forwarded immediately. The Portland and Seattle plants, in which Mr. Bowles is concerned hold contracts for 880-ton ships, they being standardized types, and while Eastern contracts are for 10,000-ton carriers, those awarded on the Coast are probably the same size as those now being worked on for other owners.

SOLDIERS IN QUARANTINE

Pneumonia, Measles and Mumps Spread in Border Camps.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 28.—Because of the spread of pneumonia, measles and mumps among the soldiers of this district, quarantines have been placed upon all camps by order of General Bell. The Army medical authorities advised the measure, which is intended to keep the men as much as possible in the open air.

Only soldiers on military business will be permitted to come into El Paso, which can move freely among the camps. The percentage of illness, however, is not high, the medical officers state.

HORSE SHIP IS ASHORE

Steamer Leylan Is Total Loss on British Coast

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 28.—Reports received here today by Furness, Withy & Co. Ltd., the agents, said the British steamer Leylan, engaged in the horse transport trade between this port and Avonmouth, England, went ashore on the British coast February 24 and will be a total loss.

The vessel was returning here after discharging horses at Avonmouth and the message said that her crew, including a number of American muleteers, had been rescued.

ARMED NEUTRALITY ACTION IS BLOCKED

La Follette Filibuster, Single Handed, Wins.

VOTE DELAYED UNTIL FRIDAY

Revenue Bill Carries in Senate, 47 to 37.

PARTY LINES FOLLOWED

Measure to Raise \$350,000,000 by Special Taxes Passed Only After Bitter Fight—Special Session Seems Likely.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The Administration revenue bill, designed to raise \$350,000,000 through special taxes and bond issues, was passed by the Senate last night by a strict party vote, 47 to 37.

Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, sought unanimous consent to dispense with parliamentary formalities in order to get formally before the Senate the armed neutrality measure reported by the committee, which would authorize the President to arm American ships and employ "other instrumentalities" to protect American life and rights on the sea.

La Follette Alone Objects.

Prompt objection came from Senator La Follette, who insisted on consuming time reading the journal of previous days over the vigorous objection of Senators Fall and Poindexter, Republicans.

Finally the Wisconsin Senator was induced to withdraw his objection on condition that there should be no attempt to pass the bill before Friday. When Democratic leaders agreed to this, the committee presented the bill with a favorable report and Senator Stone asked that it lay over until Friday.

Adjournment Finally Taken.

Then the Senate adjourned until 10 o'clock this (Thursday) morning, the majority abandoning plans for taking up the naval appropriation bill.

There was no indication what would be the attitude of Senator La Follette when the bill comes before the Senate for action. The Democrats are taking it for granted that he will oppose it, but hope he will not undertake to force an extra session by a persistent filibuster.

House May Act Today.

The Democrats had no intention of trying to force the armed neutrality bill to a vote tonight, as it is desired that the House pass it first because of the bond issue provision it contains. The House is expected to act under a special rule late today.

Immediately after the vote on the revenue bill which followed the defeat of scores of amendments offered in quick succession by Republicans, Senator Stone moved to adjourn until 12:40.

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CAR SHORTAGE IS NOW GETTING LESS

SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINE IS CLEARING UP ORDERS.

Worst Stage Seems to Be Passing. 1322 Empty Cars Sent in by This Road in Ten Days.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—The backbone of the car shortage on the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon seems to be broken. This is particularly true as to cars routed over the lines of the Southern Pacific, but a shortage still exists as to cars routed east via Portland.

Reports received today by Edward Ostrander, secretary of the Public Service Commission, show a drop from a shortage of 1023 freight cars yesterday to 748 cars today. This is the lowest shortage of cars shown since the acute situation began several months ago. According to the reports filed there is every indication that the big bulk of the shortage as far as interstate shipments and movements south into California are concerned on their company's lines has eased up and will be done away with.

Within the last 10 days the report shows that the Southern Pacific has brought 1322 empties into the state for use on its lines, and this great influx of cars available for use has largely cleaned up the orders.

Reports received at the commission also show that the Southern Pacific Company, after constructing nearly 3000 freight cars, has recently put rush orders into its own and other shops for nearly 2000 additional cars, and it is probable more construction orders will follow.

BERLIN OFFERS STEAMERS

Germany Would Replace Seven Dutch Merchantmen Sunk.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, via London, Feb. 28.—The German government has offered to replace the seven Dutch merchantmen which were torpedoed off the English coast last week with German freighters until the end of the war on condition that Holland purchase them afterward.

One newspaper reports the report that the steamers Brabant, Eendland and Zaandijk are still afloat has not been confirmed.

The steamships Brandburg, Eendland and Zaandijk were three of the fleet of seven Dutch merchant ships torpedoed by German submarines February 22. The Gaasterland, Jacatra and Noorderdijk were known definitely to have been sunk, while a fourth, the Menado, was reported to have been towed into Falmouth.

JOHN M. HAINES BETTER

Hope Is Now Entertained for Recovery of ex-Governor.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 28.—Ex-Governor John M. Haines, of Idaho, who was thought by his physician Monday to be at the point of death, has rallied.

Hope now is entertained for his recovery.

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- Michigan Republicans Lead.
- The veering of opinion in the Capitol in favor of the armed neutrality bill was apparent throughout the day. The first concrete indication came at a meeting of the Michigan Republican delegation in Congress, called by Senator William Alden Smith. The delegation agreed to support the bill desired by the President, not to oppose defense measures or to try to force an extra session, and to stand squarely behind the President in the emergency.
- "Wait until members of Congress hear from the country," declared Majority Leader Kern to several of his colleagues, "and I think we shall see a rallying of members of both houses."
- A few minutes before he heard of the action of the Michigan delegation one Republican insisted that an extra session of Congress would be held. When informed of the attitude of the Michigan Republicans he expressed surprise and added:
- "Perhaps that may be catching."
- Senate Awaits House Action.
- Senate leaders determined today not to attempt to reach a vote on the bill until the House bill has been passed.
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WILSON'S REQUEST IS GAINING SUPPORT

Opposition to Protection Plan Melting.

ACTION IN 24 HOURS FORECAST

La Follette Indicates He Will Conduct Filibuster Alone.

HOUSE GETS FLOOD BILL

Pacifists' Communications to Congressmen Followed by Telegrams From Constituents Demanding Vigorous Action.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Opposition in Congress to granting authority to President Wilson to protect American rights and lives on sea began melting today and the Administration leaders confidently predicted action within another 24 hours.

There were indications that many of the Republicans of the Senate, who, though favoring the steps proposed, insist that Congress should be called to an extra session, would vote for the measure requested by the President when the roll was called.

La Follette to Filibuster.

The chief if not the only reason for uncertainty was found in the attitude of Senator La Follette, who has given indications of preparing for a single-handed filibuster in the closing hours of the session.

Details of the destruction of the Cunard liner Laconia, published in the morning papers, and telling of the suffering and death of an American mother and daughter among the passengers, had its effect during the day. Members of the House and Senate whose communications had come largely from pacifists began receiving telegrams from their constituents calling for vigorous action by the Government.

Flood Bill Reported.

The House foreign affairs committee early in the day reported out the Flood bill, authorizing the President to arm American ships, with amendments eliminating the provision for the use of "other instrumentalities" and adding a prohibition against the insurance of munition ships by the Government War Risk Bureau. A special rule to expedite passage of the measure was introduced by Chairman Flood, of the foreign affairs committee, who said he probably will press it tomorrow. It would provide for a vote not later than 4 o'clock P. M.

The Administration plan is to have the Senate substitute reported by the committee and based upon a memorandum prepared by the President. In the form of a conference report the leaders anticipate no difficulty in having the House pass the substitute promptly.

Bryan Gives Indorsement.

Ex-Secretary Bryan appeared at the Capitol tonight while the House was debating the District of Columbia prohibition bill. It developed, however, that he had not come to support the efforts of the pacifist group and in a general way indorsed President Wilson's address to Congress.

Another aggravating incident was added to the situation today by the receipt of a word from Germany that four American Consuls were being held in Germany because a German Consul, on his way from the United States to Ecuador, had been delayed in Cuba. A statement of the facts and a request for immediate release of the Americans was called tonight.

Announcement was made at the State Department that instructions had been sent to Ambassador Elihu at Constantinople to report definitely and immediately whether Turkey would guarantee, not only for herself, but for her allies, the safety of the American cruiser Des Moines and the naval collier Caesar in taking relief supplies into Syria and bringing out the 1000 or so imprisoned Americans there. Ambassador Elihu, having sent a rather ambiguous promise from the Turkish authorities, was told to say that unless definite and specific guarantees were received from Turkey binding all the central powers, the two vessels would not be allowed to proceed.



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