LANSING ABSOLVES JAPAN AND MEXICO

Secretary Confident Neither Country Would Be Party to Conspiracy.

NIPPON LOYAL TO ALLIES

Embassy Declares No Invitation From Germany Would Be Entertained—Friendship for America Is Reasserted.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Secretary Lansing, in an official statement today, made clear that the United States did not believe Japan had knowledge of the scheme or would take part in it. He also expressed the confidence of the Government that Mexico would take no part.

Secretary Lansing authorized this statement: "We do not believe that Japan has had any knowledge of this or that she would consider any proposition made by an enemy.

"We have confidence that Mexico would not be a party to any such agreement in view of the friendly relations existing between this Government and the de facto government of Mexico."

Official Presentation Not Certain.

The Secretary was at especial pains to exonerate both Japan and Mexico, and said this Government had no knowledge that the proposal had been conveyed through Mexico to Japan.

In view of the fact that the plan was not to be presented "until it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States," it was not certain, Secretary Lansing said, that the matter had been presented officially to General Carranza at all.

It is known definitely, officials said, that Zimmerman's instructions reached Count Von Bernstorff here in Washington, that he forwarded them to Mexico City and that they reached the German Minister there. At this point the trail of official certainty is lost to view.

Observers here believe that the breakdown of the scheme so far as Japan was concerned was signalized when the Mexican Government suddenly reversed its attitude and announced that it had no intention of cutting off the British supply of naval fuel oil, as had plainly been indicated in General Carranza's proposal to make peace in Europe by cutting off exports of food and munitions from neutrals.

Japanese Embassy Emphatic.

The Japanese Embassy today made the following comment:

"With regard to the alleged German attempt to induce Japan and Mexico to make war upon the United States, made public in the press this morning, the Japanese Embassy, while lacking information as to whether such an invitation ever reached Tokio, desires to state most emphatically that any invitation of this sort would under no circumstances be entertained by the Japanese government, which is in entire accord and close relations with the other powers, on account of formal agreements and our common cause, and, moreover, our good friendship with the United States, which is every day growing in sincerity and cordiality."

Ambassador Sato, of Japan, was informed of the possession of the text of Germany's proposal by this Government yesterday when he called at the State Department to see Counsellor Polk.

The evidences at hand are that if Mexico, as Germany suggested, communicated to Japan the proposal for an attack on the United States, it met with a reception in Tokio which was quite contrary to what Berlin had expected.

LANSING ABSOLVES MINISTER

Swiss Diplomat Not Implicated in German Propaganda.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Secretary Lansing, after a talk today with Dr. Paul Ritter, Swiss Minister here, absolved the Minister of all blame for certain charges of undue German propaganda in his position in charge of German interests. The Secretary said:

"I consider Dr. Ritter.s conduct perfectly proper and regret very much the attack made on him in the papers. It is a wrong impression of the feeling here."

Dr. Ritter had been charged in certain newspapers with having exceeded his authority as Minister entrusted with carrying on any negotiations between this country and Germany and of having used his position to further the German cause.

HOUSE VOTES FOR ARMS

(Continued From First Page.)

first!" had rung through the halls of both Houses and the response had been almost instantaneous.

In the Senate, members who have opposed the President in his manner of dealing with Germany on the ground that it was leading to war, were found fighting influences which the President's supporters declared were calculated to embarrass him.

Extra Session in Doubt.

The question of an extra session of Congress still is undetermined. President Wilson told inquirers today he did not expect to call one, although it developed that Democratic whips in the House were advising members and members-elect to be prepared to attend on March 6.

The announcement of the vote in the House, by which the President was authorized to arm merchant ships—403 ayes to 13 noes—was received with applause and cheering. When the roll was called only nine Republicans, three Democrats and the Socialist voted in the negative. They were: Republicans—Benedict of California, Carey of Wisconsin, Cooper of Wisconsin, Davis of Minnesota, Helgesen of North Dakota, Lindbergh of Minnesota, Nelson of Wisconsin, Stafford of Wisconsin, Wilson of Illinois.

Democrats — Decker of Missouri, Shackleford of Missouri, Sherwood of Ohio.

Socialist—London of New York.

Senate Bill to Be Substituted.

The measure was sent over to the Senate, where it is expected the Senate committee's bill approved by the President, and authorizing not only the arming of ships, but the employment of "other instrumentalities," will be substituted.

All proposed amendments to the measure except those added in committee were rejected by the House under an avalanche of votes. Never since questions arising out of the European war began to agitate the House almost three years ago has there been such a display of patriotic non-partisanship as was witnessed today in the chambers.

Most of Pacifists Won Over.

Democrats and Republicans, even most of the members who heretofore have aligned themselves with the extreme pacifist group, joined in fighting for the bill. Representative Bailey, of Pennsylvania, generally recognized as reflecting the views of William Jennings Bryan, voted in the affirmative and announced his intention in advance.

Led by Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, and Campbell, of Kansas, both Republicans, opponents of the measure, made a determined fight. However, they were not united on any one specific object. Representative Cooper based his position on the contention that the bill would authorize discrimination against Germany, in that it would permit the arming of ships carrying munitions to the allies, and that by arming such ships the United States would commit an act of war. Representative Campbell contended that passage of the bill would be equivalent to surrender by Congress of its rights to make war.

Pacifists Cut Small Figure.

A little group of avowed pacifists opposed unalterably the use of arms for any reason, but played only a small part in the fight. The House leaders, expecting the Senate to pass its bill as a substitute, say they can put through the Senate bill if it comes to them.

The House bill, besides eliminating the phrase "other instrumentalities," also carries a committee amendment which would prohibit insurance of munition-carrying ships under the war-risk fund to which the President is authorized to transfer a part of the $100,000,000 derived from the bond issue provided for in the bill. Such vessels are not being insured by the Government now, but the amendment is considered undesirable by the Administration.

The final vote was preceded by a rollcall on a motion of Representative Cooper to send the bill back to the foreign affairs committee, which was beaten, 295 to 124.

Flood Stirs Enthusiasm.

At the outset of the House debate, Chairman Flood aroused intense enthusiasm on both sides. Every reference to America's willingness to protect the rights of citizens wherever they had a right to travel was met with a volley of applause.

He cited that authority for the President to act as suggested in the bill had been granted to other executives in 1794, 1798, 1805, 1815, 1839 and 1856, and incidentally attacked the pacifists protesting against the bill.

"By this act," said Representative Flood, "we may not be able to avert war. If we should become involved in war, however, the passage of this bill would be one of the minor causes of that direful result. It may be necessary only to arm ships, but if we must do more the fault is not ours. Give the President this power asked and the question of war will be with Germany. There is no doubt of the right of Americans to travel. If this cannot be done peacefully, then we will do it with arms."

Mann Supports Bill.

Applause even greater than that which greeted Representative Flood's opening statement met Republican Leader Mann's rousing speech in favor of the bill. Few men on either side of the chamber failed to respond by handclapping or cheers.

"It is well known," Representative Mann said, "that I have done and will do everything in my power to keep this country out of the European war and the peace settlement that is certain to follow its end. But I do not see how it is possible for a patriotic Nation to refuse to give the President at the time of this crisis power which he asks and which is provided for in the pending bill."

Democratic Leader Kitchin, one of the so-called pacifist group, announced amid great applause that he would vote for the bill.

"I shall vote for this bill, but not without hesitation and misgiving," said Kitchin. "The Nation confronts the greatest crisis. It faces the supreme responsibility to itself and to the world. Already the European catastrophe threatens the faith of mankind in Christianity, in civilization. The widening of that catastrophe by a great, powerful Nation like ours would seem to challenge the rights of Christianity to exist."

Ex-Confederate Urges Patriotism.

Representative Stedmore, of North Carolina, a Confederate Veteran and one of the oldest Representatives, answered them with an appeal to patriotism.

"This House ought to send a message to all nations," he declared, "that it will protect its rights, the lives of its people and the American flag in its pristine splendor wherever it may float over land or sea."

The "rebel yell" resounded through the chamber as he concluded.

Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, ranking Republican member of the foreign affairs committee, argued against the bill and declared that arming ammunition ships going to a belligerent country would be an act of war. He unsuccessfully urged an amendment to prevent such ships from arming.

"Suppose we were struggling," he said, "against a coalition trying to destroy this Government—and there is not a monarchy on earth that loves us. What would we think if we were trying to defend the Republic from destruction and some nation from over on the other side of the water, a neutral nation, should, with much profession of desire to be at peace, in the statute authorized by the Czar or the Emperor or the King, load a ship with ammunition, with naval gunners, and send that across the sea convoyed by their ships and with ammunition consigned to our Oriental enemy and landed in Mexico or elsewhere?"

Mr. Clear's Condition Serious.

B. K. Clear, public accountant, of 1000 Stephens street, who was injured in an automobile and streetcar collision last Saturday morning, is still in a precarious condition at Good Samaritan Hospital. At no time since the accident has he completely regained consciousness and grave fears are entertained of his recovery.

Rummage sale this month on house-furnishing goods at Calef Bros., which will be sold on easy installment terms. East Third and East Morrison.—Adv.

SENATORS ASK FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Inquiry Is Made of President Without Formality of Record Vote.

DEBATE IS PROTRACTED

Opinion Expressed by Some That Armed Neutrality Bill Should Not Be Passed Until After Full Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Without a record vote, the Senate tonight adopted a resolution requesting the President to furnish "whatever information he has concerning the 'Zimmermann note,' which in his opinion is not incompatible with the public interest." The resolution was Senator Hoke Smith's substitute for one offered by Senator Lodge and an amendment by Senator Stone.

There was no separate vote on Senator Lodge's resolution, which would have inquired as to the authenticity of the Zimmermann note, or the Stone amendment asking whether information about the German move came from an European belligerent.

Senate Holds Long Debate.

The Senate's action came after a long debate, during which some Senators voiced the opinion that the Administration's armed neutrality bill should not be passed until further information had been supplied regarding the Zimmermann note.

The Smith resolution reads:

"Resolved, That the President be requested to furnish to the Senate whatever information he ha concerning the note published in the press of this date purporting to have been sent January 19, 1917, by the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the German Ambassador to Mexico which in his opinion is not incompatible with the public interest."

Stone Suspects Ulterior Motive.

"Reading the newspaper accounts of the sources of the information they had," said Senator Stone, in opening the debate on his resolution, "the inference is inevitable from the Zimmermann letter was obtained from the executive officials of this Government. It was published for some purpose. I cannot and will not undertake to say what that purpose was further than to express the opinion that it was given publication to affect public opinion or official opinion, or both, in the United States.

"The publicity of this alleged letter," said the Missouri Senator, "was made for some purpose. I do not know with any such certainty that would warrant me in asserting from what source the newspapers obtained the document. If the document be authentic, it is a necessary sequence that the information was not given to the American press by the German government or anyone connected with it. It must have been given out by someone else.

"A publication of this nature is calculated—intended—to excite the public opinion of the country and develops a tendency toward international belligerency on our part. I do not ask the President to inform the Senate and the world as to the agencies he employed and had a right and duty to employ to ascertain what is going on in the world.

"What I ask the Senate to incorporate in the resolution is a request for specific information that in the very nature of the case was not obtained by the Government of the United States through agencies employed by it. As a neutral power this Government would certainly hesitate to be in such close touch with any belligerent power as would justify sending a special agent to seek such information."

"Why not?" was asked.

"Because," Senator Stone answered, "I hope—I truly hope—because of the attitude of absolute and impartial neutrality of this Nation, there ought not to be close or confidential relations between this Government and any warring government."

Senator Hitchcock, speaking for the committee, declared that to ask the President's opinion and then cross-examine him as the Stone amendment proposed, would be an affront.

He also read from the President's last address to Congress expressing his desire to keep out of the European conflict to show that he was averse to any step that will lead the country unnecessarily to war.

"If it is true that this note came from one of the belligerents, should not that fact be called to the attention of the country?" asked Senator Hardwick.

Authenticity Alone Enough.

"No," Senator Hitchcock answered. "I simply think we ought to ask the President for a definite statement of his opinion regarding its authenticity."

"But the material fact to us and this country is whether some one who is interested in getting us into war has given the note to us," insisted Senator Hardwick.

"Not at this stage," replied Senator Hitchcock. "If we were to decide for peace or war it might be, but we are not."

Senator Williams urged "cool and dispassionate" consideration.

"If the Zimmermann letter is authentic," he said, "it must have come from the German Embassy in some of those devious ways governments have of obtaining information. The question here is: Is that letter authentic? The instrumentality whereby the United States got possession of the letter does not bear in the remotest degree on its authenticity or its existence."

Senator Williams said he was opposed to the Stone amendment with the rest of the committee. Senator Lodge, author of the resolution, said he did not care to discuss the motives of newspapers, or enter into the question of peace or war, but he thought if the story of the Zimmermann note was untrue, "it ought to be stamped as untrue at once."

"The President of the United States," he said, "is the one person who can give us a decisive answer on that question. I think we should not inquire into the source of his information. I am not willing to add a request in any form which the President would be obliged to refuse, and thereby create a false impression. I wish to treat the President exactly as if he were of my own party. When we may be on the very eve of war we should all stand together. I can see but one duty—to stand behind the President, and, when we ask him this question, accept his answer."

Senator O'Gorman inquired what action the Senate would be required to take if the President said the note is authentic, and whether the Senate was "to take action solely and alone upon the opinion of the Executive?" The President's opinion, he added, would carry great weight, but the Senate should not close its eyes to the fact that for months there had been a propaganda in this country seeking to embroil the United States in the war.

"If it should be disclosed that this alleged letter came into our hands," he said, "through the active agency of a belligerent enemy, we may well suspect its authenticity. Suppose it should be disclosed that agents of the British government handed it down to officials of our Government, it would not be the first time that one belligerent resorted to forgery to line up support against her enemy."

Senator Suspects Forgery.

Senator Smith added that it was his belief that the Zimmermann note was a "forgery and a sham," based on the fact that the German government has not recognized Carranza's administration."

Senator Fall, Republican, bitterly denounced the Democrats for their attitude toward the resolution, declaring that Democratic Senators by suggesting that the letter was given out to influence public opinion were "accusing the President of the veriest trickery and impossible practices.

A substitute for the Lodge resolution and its supposed amendments then was offered by Senator Smith (Dem.), of Georgia. Prepared in collaboration with several Senators, it would request the President "to furnish to the Senate whatever information he has concerning the 'Zimmerman note,' which, in his opinion,. is not incompatible with the public interest."

Never since the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, Senator Fall declared, had he heard such "insinuations" against a President from his own party.

"You are saying to the President in this resolution," he went on, "that you want him to declare whether this note is authentic, and in your speeches here you are saying you will not believe him when he says it is authentic if it comes from a belligerent government."

Advising Senators Not Trusted.

Senator Fall declared that if the President had felt he could trust those in the Senate, who had been his advisers, he probably would have sent this information direct to the appropriate committee. In view of the attitude of certain Democratic Senators, he added, he did not wonder that the President had decided to appeal to public opinion through the press.

Senator Fall continued:

"It is right in a democracy that the people should be informed of machinations against their peace. Give the people information and they will make you here act as you should act. I am grateful to whoever gave this information to the public."

In a heated speech Senator Saulsbury, Democrat, the President pro tem. of the Senate, indorsed Senator Fall's sentiments.

"I think his criticisms are in large measure deserved as to some of the speeches made here," said Senator Saulsbury. "There is just one man who may be able to keep this country out of war, and that is the President. I have sat here and heard criticisms made upon him, aspersions cast upon him, until I wonder if Senators really represent true Americanism and are imbued with the average patriotism an American ought to have.

"I believe the men claiming a patent on peace are doing more to bring on war than those whom they criticise. There is no use of any more namby-pambyism in keeping this country out of war."

Stone Pleads for Amendment.

A vote was about to be taken when Chairman Stone took the floor again to advocate his amendment.

"The President," he said, "did not introduce this resolution—it was introduced by the Senator from Massachusetts.

"It may be that some Senators who have become suddenly indignant may think the Senator from Massachusetts represents President Wilson and speaks for him, but if so, the knowledge would be surprising to many of us here. The President has not indicated that he desired the resolution to be adopted."

Denying that the personality or prestige of the President is involved, Senator Stone asserted that Senator Lodge introduced his resolution out of "patriotic curiosity."

"And now it is intimated that I am at fault," he continued, "for seeking to add a request to that of the Senator from Massachusetts, who is so anxious to support the President when it pleases him, and always so quick to oppose him when it pleases him."

Turning to Senator Saulsbury, Senator Stone said: "Senators must be exceedingly sensitive. There must be some nerves running through their bones that start a brain storm on very slight provocation.

Stone Defends His Sincerity.

"I shall use such power as I have to prevent this country entering the war until I feel that its vital interests and honor are assailed and that there is no honorable escape.

"I am not saying anything that assails the President. Without mentioning Senators by name, I think I have stood as closely to the President and as firmly supported him as these gentlemen whose nervous organisms are so delicate and whose olfactories enable them to detect an odor or smell of possible danger that doesn't exist.

"I have been frank with the President. When I talk to him I talk as I would to another Senator. I do not go to the White House like some other people and immediately proclaim my admiration and approval of whatever the President suggests. The President knows this. We talk together man to man and I flatter myself he holds me

(Concluded on Page 4, Column 4.)

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