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UNITED STATES MAKES STAND IN THE EUROPEAN WAR DEFINITE

Pres. Wilson and Sec. Bryan Make Definite Statement of Policy of Country

ANSWERS CRITICISMS OF GERMAN CITIZENS

Replies to Different Charges of Unfairness — Rights and Duties Defended

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26.—The United States government issued today a lengthy defense of its interpretation of the rights and duties of a neutral in the European war.

The document, 5000 words long, prepared by President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and Counselor Robert Lansing of the State Department after several days of consultation, was made public in the form of a letter from the Secretary of State to Senator Stone of Missouri, chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations.

While the letter is a reply to an inquiry from Senator Stone for information as a result of complaints made in the press and in letters from various parts of the country charging the Washington government with unfairness to Germany and Austria, it also is intended as a pronouncement of policy on some questions of neutrality previously unexplained.

After answering 19 separate and specific charges and calling attention to the fact that the United States has promptly taken to task Great Britain as well as Germany and every government which in any way has infringed upon the rights of this country, the letter concludes with the following declaration on the much discussed question of exportation of war munitions:

"If any American citizens, partisans of Germany and Austria-Hungary, feel that this administration is acting in a way injurious to the cause of these countries, this feeling results from the fact that on the high seas the German and Austro-Hungarian naval power is thus far inferior to the British. It is the business of a belligerent operating on the high seas, not the duty of a neutral, to prevent contraband from reaching an enemy. Those in this country who sympathize with Germany and Austria-Hungary, appear to assume that some obligation rests upon this Government, in the performance of its neutral duty, to prevent all trade in contraband, and thus to equalize the difference due to the relative naval strength of the belligerents. No such obligation exists; it would be an unneutral act, an act of partiality on the part of this Government, to adopt such a policy, if the executive had the power to do so.

"If Germany and Austria-Hungary cannot import contraband from this country, it is not, because of this fact, the due of the United States to close its markets to the Allies. The markets of this country are open, on equal terms, to all the world, to every nation, belligerent or neutral."

New Offenses Told. During the course of the letter's discussion of the various charges made, the following facts hitherto undisclosed, were revealed for the first time:

"That the Canadian Government recently asked the United States for permission to ship 'war equipment' across Alaska to the sea and the request was refused.

"That the United States has sent a vigorous protest to France because some German passengers on an American ship plying between two ports in Colombia, were forced by a boarding crew from a French cruiser to sign a promise not to participate in the war. This procedure was declared in the American note to be an unwarranted exercise of jurisdiction over American vessels in which this government will not acquiesce."

"That sharp representations also were made to another of the allied governments because search was conducted on the high seas on an American ship for Austrian and German passengers. The name of the offending government was not revealed.

"That December 15 last, the German Ambassador, by direction of his government, delivered a memorial to the United States Government stating that 'under the general principles of international law, no excep-

tion can be taken to neutral states letting war material go to Germany's enemies from or through neutral country."

That representations were made both to Japan and Great Britain against the continued presence of their warships off American ports and that the protests were in each case heeded.

That since the announcement of the Washington Government's disapproval of war loans, none have been made by foreign governments in this country. A distinction is drawn officially for the first time between loans floated by popular subscription and large credit transactions for the purchase of war supplies, the State Department revealing that it has no objection to the latter.

In a general way the letter sets forth that rules of neutrality have been promulgated by the American government without discrimination and have been applied with equal fairness to all concerned. It cites instances of violation by Germany and Great Britain and asserts that protests have been unhesitatingly entered regardless of the country offending.

Summary of Complaints. Complaints as summarized by Senator Stone are answered in the letter point by point, substantially as follows:

1.—"Freedom of communication by submarine cables versus censored communication by wireless."—It is set forth first that a wireless station on a neutral coast cannot be interrupted by a belligerent, but the latter has an unrestricted right to cut a cable on the high seas. German cutting of the British cable near Fanning Island is cited to balance Great Britain's interception of the cable between Germany and the United States. The point is made that wireless messages can be sent direct to warships at sea which can prey upon public or private vessels and make neutral territory virtually a base of naval operations, "to permit which would be essentially unneutral."

2.—"Censorship of mails and in some cases repeated destruction of American letters on neutral vessels."—Germany and Great Britain, pursuing their rights as belligerents, have both censored private letters falling into the hands. No evidence has ever been presented to the State Department that mail on board Dutch steamers has been destroyed, as repeatedly charged. Only few cases have come to the attention of the department where mail from neutral countries has not been finally delivered.

Search on High Seas. 3.—"Searching of American vessels for German and Austrian subjects on the high seas and in territorial waters of a belligerent."—Neutral vessels voluntarily entering territorial waters or ports of a belligerent become subject to municipal laws. Only two cases in which American vessels have been searched on the high seas by belligerent warships for German and Austrian subjects were reported and both have been followed by vigorous representations to the offending governments. Much confusion has arisen, the letter asserts, over the charge that the United States abandoned the principles for which this country went to war in 1812. The impressment of American seamen by the British navy in times of peace, it is asserted, "involves a different principle" from the search for reservists in time of war, though the latter has not been permitted without protest.

No Hague Rules. 4.—"Submission without protest to British violations of the rules regarding absolute and conditional contraband as laid down in The Hague conventions, the declaration of London and international law."—There is no general agreement between nations as to articles to be regarded as contraband, the rights of neutrals and belligerents being opposed and no tribunal existing "to which questions of difference may be submitted."

5.—"Acquiescence without protest to the inclusion of copper and other articles in the British lists of absolute contraband."—It is here stated that every seizure of American copper has been followed by a prompt protest and that the inclusion of "un-

(Continued on Page Two.)

Wheat and Other Grains Sell at Highest Prices Today

GERMANS TO SEIZE HOME GRAIN SUPPLY

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

BERLIN, Jan. 26. (By Wireless).—The Federal council has put into effect sweeping regulations for the conservation of food supplies. All stocks of corn, wheat and flour were ordered seized February first. All business transactions in these commodities were forbidden January 26. All municipalities are charged with the duty of setting aside suitable supplies of preserved meat. Owners of corn are ordered to report their stocks immediately, whereupon confiscation at a fixed price will follow. A government distribution office for the regulation of consumption will be established.

ROCKEFELLER TO MEET "MOTHER"

Young Magnate Finally Invites Noted Colorado Strike Leader to Tell All.

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., today invited Mother Jones, the aged strike leader in the Colorado coal fields, to visit him and place before him all information as to the strike situation there. The invitation was accepted.

The invitation was extended by Rockefeller as he entered the room of the city hall where the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations is conducting an investigation into philanthropic foundations and causes of industrial unrest.

As he walked to the witness stand, he saw "Mother" Jones among the spectators, stepped to her side and shook hands. "I wish you would come to see me and give me any information you have on the Colorado situation," he said. "Mother" Jones was visibly surprised. "That's very nice of you," she said. "I always said that you could know but very little of the conditions of the workers in Colorado and you should hear something else besides what these hirelings tell you."

OREGON AID FOR BELGIUM SHIPPED

Relief Steamer Cranley Leaves Portland With Food and Clothing Today

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

SEATTLE, Jan. 26.—The British steamer Washington, chartered by the American commission for the relief in Belgium, sailed direct for Rotterdam today with a cargo of food valued at \$512,000, which will be distributed among the Belgian war sufferers. Nearly every town in Washington contributed and contributions were also received from Idaho, Montana and Alaska. The Rockefeller foundation assisted.

SHIP SUPPLIES TO NEEDED IN BELGIUM

British Steamer Washington Sails From Seattle With \$512,000 Cargo

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—Loaded with 3500 tons of food and clothing valued at \$43,219.26 the Belgian relief steamer Cranley sailed from Portland. She will complete her cargo at Astoria and San Francisco, her destination being Rotterdam. The Cranley was damaged in Penang harbor when the cruiser Emden made a raid and sank a Russian cruiser and a French torpedo boat on October 28.

Corn, Oats, Rye and Barley Jump to Record Quotations in Chicago Today

1915 WHEAT CROP ALREADY CONTRACTED

Being Sold for Export Before It Has Sprouted—July Wheat up Five Cents

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—All grains, wheat, corn, rye, oats and barley, sold today at the highest price in many years at this season. It is reported that the 1915 crop of wheat, which is not yet out of the ground, is already being sold for export. July wheat jumped nearly five cents.

COQUILLE RIVER BOAT WAR CLASH

United States Steamboat Inspectors Act and Hearing in Justice Court

(Special to the Times.)

COQUILLE, Or., Jan. 26.—The Coquille river boat war will probably be brought to a show down within a few days, as the matter will be threshed out in Justice Stanley's court and at a hearing before the U. S. Steamboat inspectors.

The long controversy was brought to a focus Saturday when the Dora rammed the Charm in the river. The crew of each boat claims that the other was to blame. Following the collision, there was a wordy war, and some one is alleged to have thrown a gas pipe through the window of a rival boat and also heaved a can of oil against the Dora.

Sheriff Johnson's attention was called to it and realizing that the passengers were being endangered by the bad blood between the rival boat companies, called up the U. S. inspectors and told them of the collision and subsequent battle. They requested him to notify Capt. Pantor and Capt. Willard to immediately forward written reports concerning it and intimated that further hearing and investigation would soon follow.

Yesterday Capt. Pantor appeared in Coquille and announced that he was going to swear out charges in Justice Stanley's court and have Capt. Willard bound over to keep the peace. Sheriff Johnson, who was about to leave for Marshfield, notified him that Constable Hark Dunham could serve the papers when they were issued.

EMERGENCY BILL SIGNED BY WILSON

President Approves First Appropriation Measure by the Present Congress.

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26.—President Wilson signed the emergency deficiency bill, carrying approximately \$5,000,000, the first of the general appropriation bills of the present session of Congress to come before him.

HOUSTON BANK ROBBER IS SLAIN

Bandit Escapes With \$5000 After Locking Clerks in Vault—Shot Later

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

HOUSTON, Tex., Jan. 26.—A boy robber entered the Guarantee State Bank and after he had driven the bank officials into the vault at the point of a revolver, locked them up and fled with \$5000. He was pursued and killed before he had run a dozen blocks.

PALACE MARKETS SELLS THE BEST MEATS. Phone 406-J.

GERMANS SAY ENGLAND LOST THREE SHIPS

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

BERLIN, (By Wireless), Jan. 26.—Additional details of the sinking of the British battle cruiser in the naval battle in the North Sea, west of Heligoland, which is claimed by the Germans, is given in the statement today as follows: "According to well informed German sources, this cruiser suffered heavily from the fire of our cannon and was then sunk by a German airship which followed the battle closely. Two English torpedo boats were also sunk. The airship also observed serious damage to other English ships."

TWO SHIPS SINK ON EASTERN COAST

Washingtonian and Elizabeth Palmer Lost in Collision—Only One Drowned

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The steamship Washingtonian, a freighter, and the big schooner Elizabeth Palmer, collided today off the coast of Delaware near Cape Henlopen. The wireless said the Washingtonian had sunk and the schooner was sinking. The crews of both vessels, with the exception of one man, were saved.

The old Dominion liner Hamilton stopped off Fenwick Island lighthouse to rescue the crews. The Washingtonian was built in 1914 for trade between New York, Pacific Ports and Honolulu by way of the Panama Canal and registered 1046 tons.

GERMAN CRUISER HIT BY TORPEDO

Unknown Submarine Said to Have Damaged Protected-Craft Near Reugen

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

MALOME, Sweden, Jan. 26.—It is persistently reported here that the German protected cruiser Gazelle was torpedoed yesterday by a submarine of unknown nationality near the Baltic island of Reugen. The Gazelle was able to return to the port of Sassnitz.

CHANGE IN SHIP BILL IS REJECTED

Republican Amendment Barring Purchase From Belligerents Turned Down

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—The Republican amendments to the shipping bill to prohibit the purchase of ships now belonging to European belligerents was rejected today by the Senate Commerce Committee by a strict party vote and the bill, as revised by the Democratic caucus, was reported again to the Senate.

QUAKES IN PANAMA

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

PANAMA, Jan. 26.—Three sharp earthquake shocks have shaken Panama in the last three days. The third occurred today. The shocks did no damage, but the inhabitants were considerably frightened.

WHEAT, \$2.65 CWT. HAINES.

GERMANS REPORT GAINS AGAINST ALLIES ALONG WESTERN FRONT

RUSSIANS ADMIT HARD PROBLEM

Announce Czar's Caucasian Force is Meeting With Determined Resistance

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

PETROGRAD, Jan. 26.—The general staff of the army of the Caucasus issued the following: "Our offensive in the region of Trans-Choruk continues despite an obstinate defensive on the part of the Turks. In the region of Oidi, some isolated fighting occurred with the Turkish detachments. Along the other sections of the front the usual cannonading continues."

Russia is Determined. The Russian Foreign Minister announced Russia would continue the war as long as a single soldier of the enemy remained on Russian soil. Russia is pouring reinforcements into Bukovina where she apparently has met with reverses at the hands of the Austrians.

Vienna assumes Roumania will now hesitate to join Russia and the danger of an invasion of Transylvania is over.

RUSSIAN BASE AT KIELCE CAPTURED

Germans and Austrians Seize Important Railroad Center in Russian Poland

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

BERLIN, Jan. 26.—A dispatch from Craew, Galicia, says the Austro-German forces occupied Kielce, Russian Poland. It is a Russian base and the most important railroad junction northeast of Craew.

ENGLAND DENIES GERMAN CHARGES

Claims Great Britain's Note About Sending Troops to Belgium Was Conditional

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

LONDON, Jan. 26.—The official press bureau issued the following: "The foreign office, replying officially to the interview with Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg, German Imperial Chancellor, denies the existence of documents that the Germans have said they found in Brussels, but insists there were purely informal in case the British needed to defend Belgian neutrality. The Belgian marginal note upon the record explains that the entry of the British into Belgium would only take place after the violation of neutrality by Germany."

The German Chancellor's statement was published in this country January 25. He said: "England ought really to cease harping on the theme of Belgian neutrality. We found in the archives of the Belgian Foreign Office documents which showed England in 1911 determined to throw troops into Belgium without the assent of the Belgian government if war had then broken out. In other words, to do exactly the same thing, for which, with all the pathos of virtuous indignation, it now reproaches Germany."

REDONDO SAILS SOUTH

Vessel Leaves at Early Hour for San Francisco and San Pedro

At 6 o'clock this morning the Redondo left down the Bay for San Francisco and San Pedro carrying a cargo of lumber and 14 passengers.

Those who left here were: Lew Keyzer, Mrs. M. E. Gray, Mrs. W. P. Gray, Fred Doherty, P. Sabaratz, C. Batty, Antonia Laino, Jerry Leslie, A. Carson, A. Anderson, Fred Nelme, F. O. Norman, J. Emery, Mrs. J. Emery.

Announce British Forces Near Labasse Badly Defeated by Severe Attack

KAISER ON OFFENSIVE ALL ALONG THE LINE

Russians Admit Some Successes by Teutonic Allies in Southern Poland

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

50 GERMANS SAVED. EDINBURGH, Jan. 26.—Fifty survivors of the German armored cruiser Bluecher, sunk in the North Sea Sunday in an engagement with the British, were landed from two British torpedo boat destroyers today at Leith.

The Red Cross contingent was at the dock with an ambulance to receive the 23 wounded. One of the Germans died on the way to the port. The unwounded Germans looked fit and not downcast.

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

LONDON, Jan. 26.—The German armies of the west have suddenly taken the offensive, dealing violent attacks simultaneously at several points. Berlin today claimed important victories over the British along the Labasse Canal, just south of the Belgian border. The positions of the British, extending over about two-thirds of a mile, including two strong points of support, are said to have been taken by storm and held in the face of counter attacks.

Paris, however, does not concede the victory to the Germans. It admits they made progress temporarily but asserts they were subsequently repulsed.

Both communications report progress for the Germans near Craonne, where the trenches of the Allies were taken and retained in part.

Elsewhere, according to Paris, the Germans were repulsed with the possible exception of Alance. The Germans bombarded Senhrm, six miles southwest of Thanne, which may indicate German advances.

Berlin reports that the Russian attacks in East Prussia were repulsed and there is no important fighting in Central Poland. The latter statement is in contrast with Petrograd reports of severe battles west of Warsaw.

In Southern Poland heavy fighting is under way and Petrograd admits some success for the Teutonic allies.

LAY MORE MINES IN BOTHNIA GULF

German Fleet Sighted Today Strewing Them Along Coast—Shipping Stopped

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

LONDON, Jan. 26.—The German armored cruiser Frederick Carl and a numerous group of torpedo boats were seen today off the Aland Islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia, steering south. They later passed Gotland close to shore. It is believed they have been active in laying mines. All shipping in the gulf has been stopped.

ADD LAY MORE MINES. The foregoing dispatch, if correct, disproves the story from Petrograd a month ago that the Frederick Carl was sunk in the Baltic Sea.

NO STEEL DIVIDEND

[By Associated Press to Cross Bay Times.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The United States Steel Corporation today suspended its dividend on the common stock.