

CONGRESS DECLARES STATE OF WAR!

FINAL RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN HOUSE

Lower Body Confirms Action of Senate 373 to 50.

Washington, D. C.—The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany, already passed by the senate, passed the house shortly after 3 o'clock Friday morning by a vote of 373 to 50. It formally accepts the state of belligerency forced by Germany's aggressions and authorizes and directs the President to employ the military and naval forces and the resources of the nation to bring war against Germany to a successful termination.

Without rollcalls the house rejected all amendments, including proposals to prohibit the sending of any troops overseas without congressional authority.

Adoption of the resolution followed 17 hours of debate. There was no attempt to filibuster, but the pacifist group, under the leadership of Democratic Leader Kitchin, prolonged the discussion with impassioned speeches. Mr. Kitchin declaring conscience would not permit him to support the President's recommendation that a state of war be declared.

Miss Rankin, of Montana, the only woman member of congress, sat through the first rollcall with bowed head, failing to answer to her name, twice called by the clerk.

On second rollcall she rose and said in a sobbing voice: "I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war."

For a moment then she remained standing, supporting herself against a desk, and as cries of "vote, vote," came from several parts of the house, she sank back into her seat without voting audibly. She was recorded in the negative.

EXPLOSION KILLS 112

Chester, Pa.—An explosion at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, in the plant of the Eddystone ammunition corporation, at Eddystone, Pa., near here, is reported to have killed 50 to 150 persons. Several hundred are said to have been injured.

The fire, which was confined to the shrapnel loading building, in which it originated, had been subdued. In this building about 400 men, women and boys and girls were employed as loaders.

Latest reports place the total loss of life at 112. The little Chester morgue is filled with bodies and they are piled upon the sidewalk outside the building.

It is stated the building in which the explosion occurred was used for making time fuses for shrapnel. The workers were mostly women and young girls.

The Eddystone Ammunition company is understood to be an independent corporation, and is engaged in manufacturing and loading shells for the Russian government. The company has no connection with either the Midvale Steel company or the Remington Arms company.

Army of Million At Once Is Plan

Washington, D. C.—How the government plans to raise a war army of 1,000,000 within a year and 2,000,000 within two years was disclosed upon passage of the war resolution by the house.

The bill, prepared by the General Staff and approved by the President for submission to congress, provides for the immediate filling up of the regular army and national guard to war strength of more than 800,000, by draft unless enough volunteers enlist quickly and for bringing into the service by the late summer of the first 500,000 of the new force of young men between the ages of 19 and 25 years, to be called to the colors by selective conscription.

Norwegian Losses Mount.

London—During February and March 105 Norwegian vessels of 16,322 gross tons were sunk, according to a statement made by the Norwegian legation Saturday evening. Sixty lives were lost in the disasters and 122 persons who were on board ships that were sunk are still missing. The statement of the legation says:

"During February 41 Norwegian vessels of 63,84 gross tons were sunk. Fourteen persons were killed and 22 are missing. During March 64 vessels of 103,238 gross tons were sunk."

Ex-Czarina's Lady in Cell.

London—Mme. Virubova, the lady-in-waiting to the ex-empress, who introduced Gregory Rasputin, the mythic monk, to the Russian court, has been brought from Tsarskoe-Selo to the Taurida Palace and then taken to the prison of St. Peter and St. Paul, says a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd Saturday.

Mme. Virubova is a fellow prisoner of Mme. Soukhomlinoff, wife of the ex-minister of war.

AIRPLANE FIGHTING TERRIFIC

15 German Aviators Are Seen to Fall and 31 Others Driven Down.

London—In terrific air fighting during Saturday and Sunday in Northern France, British airplanes carried out numerous raids and dropped more than eight tons of bombs. Twenty-eight British machines are missing, says the official statement from British headquarters in France, and 15 German aeroplanes were seen to crash to the ground and 31 German machines were driven down.

Ten German balloons, the statement adds, were brought down in flames.

Berlin—The entente allies lost 44 airplanes on the western front, says the official statement issued by the German army headquarters staff. Thirty-three of the British or French machines were destroyed in aerial engagements. Five German airplanes, the statement adds, did not return.

SENATE VOTES TO PASS RESOLUTION

Upper House Declares for War With Only Six Dissenting.

Washington, D. C.—The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany was adopted in the senate Wednesday night by an overwhelming majority. It was immediately taken up for passage in the house.

Sensors who cast the negative votes were Gronna, of North Dakota; La Follette, of Wisconsin; Norris, of Nebraska; Lane, of Oregon; Stone, of Missouri, and Vandaman, of Mississippi.

The war resolution was adopted by the senate by a vote of 82 to 6.

Senator McCumber's substitute to declare the existence of a state of war on the sinking of another American ship by Germany was defeated without a rollcall.

The resolution drafted after consultation with the State department and already accepted by the house committee, says the state of war thrust upon the United States by Germany is formally declared, and directs the President to employ the entire military and naval forces and resources of the government to carry on war and bring it to a successful termination.

Action in the senate came just after 11 o'clock at the close of a debate that had lasted continuously since 10 o'clock in the morning.

National Army of 2,000,000 Men Plan of Government

Washington, D. C.—Detailed plans of the War department for raising an army numbering millions if that is necessary "to bring the government of the German empire to terms," were placed in President Wilson's hands Thursday in the form of a bill prepared by the General Staff and reviewed and revised in part by Secretary Baker and the general officers who are his military advisers.

The President, as Commander in Chief, already has approved the basis adopted for the war army. Secretary Baker said the measure would go to the house and senate committees as soon as the war resolution was adopted.

Danes Do Not Approve.

Copenhagen—America's entry into the war cannot be said to have been received with favor in Denmark, either in official circles or by the public. The definite taking of sides by the last great neutral power is, however, no small matter for such a nation as Denmark. She and other small European neutrals during the war have been balancing in a more and more difficult equilibrium between the belligerents and endeavoring to maintain not only normal conditions of life but even necessary supplies for business existence.

Miss Wilson Gives \$1000.

Washington, D. C.—Miss Margaret Wilson, the President's daughter, Saturday handed the Red Cross her personal check for \$1000—the proceeds of her spring concert tour. Her check was dated April 2, the day of the President's address to congress.

The money goes to the fund for use among American sailors and soldiers. Miss Wilson soon will make another tour in the South for the same purpose.

French to Fly U. S. Flag.

Paris—The American flag will be flown from all public buildings in France as the result of an order issued by Louis J. Malvy, minister of the interior. The mayors of many towns have requested that the American colors be displayed on private residences.

Ex-Rebels Raise Flag.

Raleigh, N. C.—Old soldiers of the North Carolina Home for Confederate Veterans raised the Stars and Stripes over the institution Sunday for the first time. Heretofore the home has flown only the state flag.

NATION'S FORCES FOR WAR MIGHTY

Germany Forced to Combat Vast Resources and Many Men.

Washington, D. C.—Actual and potential resources, which, all told, probably never have been equaled by any other nation in the history of the world, are brought into the great war under the American flag.

In the balance against Germany are thrown a navy in strength and efficiency among the foremost afloat; an army, comparatively very small, but highly efficient, backed by a citizenry of upward of 20,000,000 capable of military duty; industrial resources, incomparably the greatest in the world, already mobilized for public service, and the moral force of more than 100,000,000 Americans, awakened to their country's peril and united behind their President with a patriotic fervor re-energizing the spirit of '76.

Although much remains to be done, officials believe the nation's destinies are secure now, no matter how stubborn or prolonged may be the pressure of German militarism or how wide the scope of German intrigue.

The navy, always the first line of defense, has cleared its decks of antiquated incumbrances, has added new units, modernized to meet the German tactics, and the patriotic co-operation of ship and material makers is hurrying to completion other fighting craft that will be the last word in power and efficiency.

Authorized but 10 days ago to recruit to the full war strength of 87,000 men, the navy already has almost attained the total. To provide additional officers a class of midshipmen has been graduated three months ahead of its time. A newly organized coast patrol of submarine chasers is on duty, and hundreds of small craft to augment it are under construction.

Army preparations are less complete, because of the uncertainty over what congress will authorize. The regulars, numbering nearly 120,000, and trained and equipped in a way which their officers believe matches, unit for unit, the boasted efficiency of Germany's best, are ready to respond over night to whatever call may come.

The national guard, 150,000 strong and hardened by months of service at the border, already has many units in active service for police duty throughout the country, and can be fully mobilized on short notice. Without additional authorization by congress, the regulars and guardsmen could be recruited to a combined strength of 700,000, and detailed plans for whatever larger army may be authorized have been prepared and great quantities of equipment purchased for it.

Industrial preparations have produced a great, compact scheme of national resources with almost unlimited possibilities.

Munition Prices Ordered Slashed.

Washington, D. C.—Thursday the government invoked for the first time its drastic powers to strike a death blow at exorbitant war profits. Under authority of the last naval appropriation bill a manufacturer was directed to furnish a large order of war supplies at a price fixed by the government far lower than the figure voluntarily submitted. If the order is not obeyed the plant would be taken over and operated by the government.

Officials would not disclose the name of the manufacturer nor the agency through which this order was given. It is said, however, that President Wilson and his advisers were firmly resolved that only fair and reasonable charges should be paid by the nation to its citizens for the things that are necessary to make ready for war.

European governments are paying an average of 10 per cent profit on war material purchased in the United States. It was asserted authoritatively that the government of the United States intends to buy its own supplies at less than that rate of profit to the seller.

U-Boats Sink 31 Britons.

London—British merchant vessels of 1600 tons or more sunk by mines or submarines in the week ending April 1 and including two not reported for the previous week, numbered 18 according to the official statement. The report says: "The number unsuccessfully attacked by submarines was 17. Fishing vessels sunk numbered six, including four sunk the week ending March 25. Arrivals during the week for vessels of all nationalities of more than 100 tons numbered 2281; sailing, 2399."

Austria Sure to Break.

Vienna—It appears certain that Austria-Hungary will sever diplomatic relations with the United States if Congress declares that a state of war exists between America and Germany. The government has placed a special car at the disposal of U. S. Ambassador Penfield, who will probably leave Vienna on April 5. Before leaving, Mr. Penfield will be received by Emperor Charles. The Ambassador will travel by way of Switzerland.

PRUDENCE

of the PARSONAGE

By ETHEL HUESTON

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CHAPTER XII—Continued.

"You are mistaken, father. Jerry is all right, and always was, I am sure. It is nothing like that. I told him to go, and not to come again. That is all."

"But if he should come back now—" "It would be just the same. Don't worry about it, father. It's all right."

"Prudence," he said, more tenderly, "we have been the closest of friends and companions, you and I, from the very beginning. Always you have come to me with your troubles and worries. Have I ever failed you? Why, then, do you go back on me now, when you really need me?"

Prudence patted his shoulder affectionately, but her eyes did not meet his. "I do not really need you now, father. It is all settled, and I am quite satisfied. Things are all right with me just as they are."

Then he took a serious step, without her knowledge. He went to Des Moines, and had a visit with Jerry. He found him thinner, his face sterner, his eyes darker. When the office boy announced "Mr. Starr," Jerry ran quickly out to greet him.

"Is she all right?" he cried eagerly, almost before he was within hailing distance.

Mr. Starr did not mince matters. "Jerry," he said abruptly, "did you and Prudence have a quarrel? She declines to tell me anything about it, and after the conversations about it and I have had, I think I have a right to know what has happened."

"Does she miss me? Does she seem sorry that I am away? Does—" His voice was so boyish and so eager there was no mistaking his attitude toward Prudence.

"Look here, Jerry, I want to know. Why are you staying away?"

"Won't Prudence tell you?"

"No."

"Then I cannot. She made me promise not to tell you a word. But it is not my fault, Mr. Starr. I can tell you that. It is nothing I have done or said. She sent me away because she thinks it was right for her to do so, and—you know Prudence! It is wrong, I know. I knew it all the time. But I couldn't make her see it. And she made me promise not to tell."

In the end Mr. Starr went back to the parsonage no wiser than he left, save that he now knew that Jerry was really not to blame, and that he held himself ready to return to her on a moment's notice.

The Ladies of the Methodist church were puzzled and exasperated. They went to the parsonage, determined to "find out what's what." But when they sat with Prudence, and looked at the frail, pathetic little figure, with the mournful eyes—they could only sigh with her and go their ways.

The twins continued to play in the great maple, even when the leaves were fallen. "It's a dandy place, I tell you, Prudence," cried Carol. "Jerry didn't have time to put up the rope before Connie pulled him down, but we've fixed it ourselves, and it is simply grand. You can go up and swing any time you like—unless your joints are too stiff! It's a very serious matter getting up there—for stiff joints, of course, I mean. Lark and I get up easy enough."

For a moment Prudence sat silent with quivering lips. Then she burst out with unusual passion. "Don't you ever dare climb that tree again as long as you live, twins! Mind what I say!"

Lark looked thoughtfully out of the window, and Carol swallowed hard. It was she who said gently, "Why, of course, Prue—just as you say."

On the day before Christmas an insured package was delivered at the parsonage for Prudence. A letter was with it, and she read that first.

"My dearest little sweetheart: I chose this gift for you long before I had the right to do it. I was keeping it until the proper moment. But the moment came, and went again. Still I want you to have the gift. Please wear it, for my sake, for I shall be happy knowing it is where it ought to be, even though I myself am banished. I love you, Prudence. Whenever you send for me, I am ready to come. Entirely and always yours, Jerry."

With trembling fingers she opened the little package. It contained a ring, with a brilliant diamond flashing myriad colors before her eyes. And Prudence kissed it passionately, many times.

Two hours later, she went quietly downstairs to where the rest of the family were decorating a Christmas tree. She showed the ring to them gravely.

"Jerry sent it to me," she said. "Do you think it is all right for me to wear it, father?"

A thrill of hopeful expectancy ran through the little group.

"Yes, indeed," declared her father. "How beautiful it is! Is Jerry coming to spend Christmas with us?"

"Why, no, father—he is not coming at all any more. I thought you understood that."

An awkward silence, and Carol came brightly to the rescue. "It certainly is

a beauty! I thought it was very kind of Professor Duckie to send Lark and me a five-pound box of chocolates, but of course this is ever so much nicer. Jerry's a bird, I say."

"A bird!" mocked Fairy. "Such language."

Lark came to her twin's defense. "Yes, a bird—that's just what he is."

Carol smiled. "We saw him use his wings when Connie yanked him out of the big maple, didn't we, Lark?" Then, "Did you send him anything, Prue?"

Prudence hesitated, and answered without the slightest accession of color. "Yes, Carol. I had my picture taken when I was in Burlington, and sent it to him."

"Your picture! Oh, Prudence! Where are they? Aren't you going to give us one?"

"No, Carol. I had only one made—for Jerry. There aren't any more."

"Well," sighed Lark resignedly. "It's a pretty idea for my book, anyhow."

From that day on Prudence always wore the sparkling ring—and the women of the Methodist church nearly had mental paralysis marveling over a man who gave a diamond ring and never came a-wooing! And a girl who accepted and wore his offering, with nothing to say for the man! And it was the consensus of opinion in Mount Mark that modern lovers were mostly crazy, anyhow!

And springtime came again.

Now the twins were always original in their amusements. They never followed blindly after the dictates of custom. And when other girls played "catch" with dainty rubber balls, the twins took unto themselves a big and heavy croquet ball—found in the Avery woodshed. To be sure, it stung and



And Springtime Came Again.

bruised their hands. What matter? At any rate, they continued endangering their lives and beauties by reckless pitching of the ungainly plaything.

One Friday evening after school they were amusing themselves on the parsonage lawn with this huge ball. When their father turned in, they ran up to him with a sporting proposition.

"Bet you a nickel, papa," cried Carol, "that you can't throw this ball as far as the schoolhouse woodshed!—By the way, will you lend me a nickel, papa?"

He took the ball and weighed it lightly in his hand. "I'm an anti-betting society," he declared, laughing, "but I very strongly believe it will carry to the schoolhouse woodshed. If it does not, I'll give you five cents' worth of candy tomorrow. And if it does, you shall put an extra nickel in the collection next Sunday."

Then he drew back his arm and carefully sighted across the lawn. "I'll send it right between the corner of the house and that little cedar," he said, and then, bending low, it whizzed from his hand.

Lark screamed, and Carol sank fainting to the ground. For an instant Mr. Starr himself stood swaying. Then he rushed across the lawn. For Prudence had opened the front door and stepped quickly out on the walk by the corner of the house. The heavy ball struck her on the forehead and she fell heavily, without a moan.

CHAPTER XIII.

Fate Takes Charge.

For hours Prudence lay unconscious, with two doctors in close attendance. Fairy, alert but calm, was at hand to give them service.

It is a significant thing that in bitter anguish and grief, Christians find comfort and peace in prayer. Outsiders, as well as Christians, pray in times of danger and mental stress, pray, and pray again, and continue still in the agony and passion of grief and fear. And yet they pray. But Christians pray, and find confidence

and serenity. Sorrow may remain, but anguish is stilled.

Mount Mark considered this a unique parsonage family. Their liveliness, their gaiety, their love of fun, seemed a little inappropos in the setting of a Methodist parsonage.

"They ain't sanctimonious enough by half," declared old Harvey Reel, the bus driver, "but, by Jings! I tell you they are dandies!"

But as a matter of fact, every one of the family, from Connie up, had a characteristic parsonage heart. When they were worried, or frightened, or grieved, they prayed. Fairy passing up the stairs with hot water for the doctors, whispered to her father as he turned in to his own room, "Keep on praying, father, I can't stop now, because they need me. But I'm praying every minute between errands!"

And Mr. Starr, kneeling beside his bed, did pray—and the stony despair in his eyes died out, and he came from the little room quiet, and confident, and calm.

Connie, seeking a secluded corner to "pray for Prudence," had passed the door of the dungeon, and paused. A fitting place! So she turned in at once, and in the farthest and darkest corner, she knelt on the hard floor and prayed, and sobbed herself to sleep.

Lark remained loyally with Carol until consciousness returned to her. As soon as she was able to walk, the two went silently to the barn, and climbed into the much-loved haymow. There they lay flat on the hay, faces downward, each with an arm across the other's shoulder, praying fervently.

After a time they rose and crept into the house where they waited patiently until Fairy came down on one of her numerous errands.

"Is she better?" they whispered. And Fairy answered gently, "I think she is a little better." Then the twins, in no way deceived, went back to the haymow again.

Fairy prepared a hasty supper, and arranged it on the kitchen table. She drank a cup of hot coffee, and went in search of her father. "Go and eat, dad," she urged. But he shook his head.

"I am not hungry, but send the girls to the table at once."

On their next trip into the house, Fairy stopped the twins. "Get Connie and eat your supper. It's just a cold lunch, and is already on the kitchen table. You must help yourselves—I can't come now."

The twins did not speak, and Fairy went hurriedly up the stairs once more.

"I do not think I can eat," said Carol. "We'd better take away about half of this food, and hide it. Then she will think we have already eaten."

This novel plan was acted upon with promptitude and the twins went back to the haymow. When it grew dark they slipped into the kitchen and huddled together on the woodbox beside the stove. And down to them presently came Fairy, smiling, her eyes tear-brightened.

"She is better!" cried Carol, springing to her feet.

"Yes," said Fairy, dropping on her knees and burying her face in Lark's lap, as she still sat on the woodbox. "She's better. She is better." Lark patted the heaving shoulders in a motherly way, and when Fairy lifted her face again it was all serene, though her lashes were wet.

"She is conscious," said Fairy, still on her knees, but with her head thrown back, and smiling. "She regained consciousness a little while ago. There is really nothing serious the matter. It was a hard knock, but it missed the temple. When she became conscious, she looked up at father and smiled. Father looked perfectly awful, twins, so pale, and his lips were trembling. And Prudence said, 'Now, father, on your word of honor, did you knock me down with that ball on purpose?' She spoke very low and weak, but—just like Prudence! Father couldn't say a word; he just nodded, and gulped. She has a little fever, and the doctors say we may need to work with her part of the night. Father said to ask if you would go to bed now, so you can get up early in the morning and help us. I am to stay with Prudence tonight, but you may have to take turns in the morning. And you'll have to get breakfast, too. So father thinks you would better go to bed. Will you do that, twinies?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Never Out of Date.

We are inclined to smile at the quaint costumes that our grandparents wore, and at their rather stilted, formal manners. We dispense with a great many things which were considered important a hundred years ago. But patient, plodding perseverance, sticking to a thing till you finish it, is held in as high esteem in the twentieth century as it was in the eighteenth. Industry and patience are never out of date.

Rains Have Delayed the Grinding of the Dominican Sugar Crop from Two to Three Weeks.