

# U. S. BREAKS WITH GERMAN EMPIRE

## RUPTURE COMES; PASSPORTS GIVEN

### Wilson Severs Diplomatic Relations on U-Boat Mandate.

## GERARD IS ORDERED HOME

### President Addresses Congress in Joint Session—Break With Austria Expected—Bernstorff Gets Papers.

Washington, D. C.—Diplomatic relations with Germany have been broken. Count von Bernstorff has been handed his passports and Ambassador Gerard has been ordered from Berlin.

President Wilson addressed a joint session of congress at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

In spite of the fact that this became known definitely, officials at the White House and the State department would not discuss the situation in any form.

The President completed his message to congress early Saturday morning, and arrangements for his appearance were immediately made.

Whether the break with Germany would be accompanied by a similar break with Austria-Hungary, could not be learned definitely.

Inasmuch as Austria is understood to have endorsed the action of Germany, however, this action is expected to follow, if it has not already been taken.

The State department notified Ambassador Gerard to ask for his passports.

The decision to break relations was reached after the President's conferences with the cabinet and members of the senate Friday. The President, by those conferences, came to the conclusion that the country would stand solidly behind him in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany.

## American Ship, Housatonic, Sunk By German Submarine, is First

Washington, D. C.—The possibility that the sinking of the American steamer Housatonic will become a serious factor in the crisis with Germany apparently was eliminated Monday by evidence that the attacking submarine acted within international law. American Consul Stephens at Plymouth reported that warning was given and provision made for the safety of the crew.

London — The American steamer Housatonic has been sunk by a German submarine.

The Housatonic was sunk near the Scilly Islands.

The rumor is current that the Housatonic was sunk without warning.

The Housatonic was submerged at noon Saturday. All the officers and crew were saved by a British armed steamer.

Washington, D. C.—News of the sinking of the Housatonic created a sensation here.

State department officials said it would depend entirely on the circumstances whether the incident would affect the present situation.

The ship was carrying contraband and if she was destroyed with proper warning and provision for the safety of her crew or in an attempt to escape, the United States merely would have a claim for damages, as in the Frye case.

The first effect of the incident in official quarters was to direct anew to the President's declaration in his address to congress that if American ships and lives were sacrificed "in heedless contravention of the just and reasonable understanding of international law" he would again go before congress for authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people."

## Germans Cripple Interned Ship By Spoiling Boilers

Boston—The North German-Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie, which was seized by the United States Marshal Mitchell on a civil process Saturday night, was found to be crippled beyond possibility of early usefulness, according to an official who assisted in the seizure.

The liner's boilers were said to have been cleared of all water, the fires were burning at top capacity, and countless valves in the engine room had been mutilated, transferred or re-

moved entirely, this official stated. Captain Charles A. Polack and the skeleton crew of 112 men who have made the ship their home for more than two years, had been put ashore and housed for the time being at the immigration bureau. They made no resistance. The German engineers, firemen and others had been replaced by American citizens and 50 men of the city police force had been put on board to protect the vessel from any wilful damage.

Philadelphia—An attempt was made Saturday to scuttle the United States torpedo-boat destroyer Jacob Jones by opening several of her seacocks at the Philadelphia navy yard, according to unofficial but reliable reports.

## German Ambassador's Departure Being Arranged by Swiss Official

Washington, D. C.—Having received passports for himself, his family and his suite, together with a note explaining why President Wilson has severed diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, Count von Bernstorff Saturday night was waiting for his departure to be arranged by the Swiss minister.

The minister, Dr. Paul Ritter, has cabled Bern for formal authority to take over Germany's affairs here, and when it is received he will call on Secretary Lansing and arrange details.

Count Tarnowski, the new ambassador from Austria-Hungary, who has not yet presented his credentials to President Wilson, denied himself to callers, and official confirmation of reports that his government had taken action similar to that of Germany was not obtainable at the embassy. It is taken for granted that when such action is a certainty relations will be broken with the Vienna government.

It is still uncertain what action will be taken by Turkey.

## German Spies Are Watched; Arsenals Heavily Guarded

Chicago—Steps for the protection of government property in the zone around Chicago were taken here, following receipt of orders from Washington, when sentries were tripled and all visitors barred from the grounds of the Great Lakes naval training station near Lake Bluff. Picked riflemen of the Illinois naval reserves mounted guard on the United States gunboat Isle de Luzon and on the training ship Commodore. Enactment of mobilization orders, which have been in possession of Captain E. A. Evers, is expected to assemble 1000 members and ex-members of this organization for duty on American fighting craft.

## Latin-America in Doubt.

Washington, D. C.—Although there have been intimations that the break between the United States and Germany may be followed by a severance of relations also between the Berlin government and Brazil, Argentina and perhaps other Latin-American republics, no evidence came to light Saturday to show that the Latin-American diplomats here were doing more than gathering information to transmit to their governments.

## Chicago Pit Moved to Tears.

Chicago—Patriotic fervor was loosened on the floor of the Chicago board of trade Saturday at the close of a memorable session. It came following the announcement that this country had broken its diplomatic relations with Germany. An impromptu, rousing and altogether moving demonstration was staged. In the memory of the oldest trader on the board nothing like it was ever seen before. It moved many men to tears.

## Militia Is Called Out.

New York — The entire National guard of New York state and the Naval militia were ordered out Saturday by Governor Whitman after a conference with Major General John F. O'Ryan. General O'Ryan was directed to have every arsenal, armory and watershed adequately guarded by the militiamen and Commodore Forshaw, of the Naval militia, was ordered to protect all bridges.

## War on Sea is German Hope.

Berlin—Admiral Scheer, commander of the German battle fleet, has telegraphed the following to the Lokal Anzeiger: "My slogan is that our future lies on the water. However the British sea lion gnashes his teeth, we must and will attack him until a free path on the seas has been won."

## Honolulu is on Alert.

Honolulu, T. H.—Extra precautions to guard against violations of neutrality were taken here by army and navy forces. Extra guards are patrolling the wharves harboring interned German vessels. The United States cruiser St. Louis is patrolling the harbor.

## U-BOAT WARFARE IS UNRESTRICTED

### All Hopes of Peace Are Blasted When Kaiser Sends Note.

## STARVATION OF ENGLAND PLAN

### Washington is Staggered by Decision to Use Every Weapon Against Allies—Super-Crisis Comes.

Washington, D. C.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare.

A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world has never seen, was announced to the world Wednesday in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and to the State department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-feared campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by Von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by Von Tirpitz.

Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a-world-a-fire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge-of-war" statement are being recalled in the capital with feelings of apprehension and misgiving.

Germany's action is super-crisis of all those that have stirred the American government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace in Europe and of means of preserving the peace of the world has gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document, which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to comment. President Wilson began immediately a careful study of the document.

The President has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind.

German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month.

Admittedly, the plan is to carry starvation to the door of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operations of an unheard-of number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within 60 days. One German official here predicted the war would be over in a month.

## Free Hand Is Asked.

Washington, D. C.—To insure quick construction of naval vessels and manufacture of ammunition and equipment for which private plants are under contract, Secretary Daniels has asked congress for authority to commandeer such plants if necessary and operate them in the public service.

## Swiss Food Restricted.

Berne, Switzerland—In view of the critical situation created by the German submarine campaign, the Federal Council has decided on a number of measures tending to restrict food consumption. Among these measures are prohibition of night work in bakeries and the sale of fresh bread.

## Americans Released.

Berlin—Germany Sunday acceded to the American demand for the immediate release of the 72 Americans taken from ships sunk by the raider in the Atlantic and brought to a German port aboard the steamer Yarrowdale.

# Doings of State Legislators

## "Bone-Dry" Prohibition Law Passes House by 53 to 7

Salem—Callan, Kubli, Lewis, Mackay, Schimpff, Stott and Willett—these are the names of the only members who voted against the bone-dry prohibition bill Monday.

The bill went through the house late in the afternoon after a four-hour siege of oratory, by a vote of 53 to 7.

As soon as the vote had been taken members of the house were served with individual half-pint bottles of loganberry juice, and the entire assembly rested while the bottles were drained.

The bill, as passed, merely carries into effect the constitutional amendment adopted by the people at the November election prohibiting the importation of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes. It also remedies the existing prohibition laws so that it will be impossible to buy pure grain alcohol excepting on prescription of a physician or permit of a district attorney.

Inasmuch as the measure carries an emergency clause it will become a law as soon as it is signed by the governor—probably before the end of the week.

Five days are allowed, however, after the governor signs the bill, for the express companies to deliver goods already ordered or in transit.

## Grange and Labor Merge Support for Modified Consolidation Bills

Salem—Representatives of the State federation of labor, the State grange and the Farmers' union, following a long conference the first of the week, issued a statement indicating their combined attitudes on questions of legislation pending or proposed.

They suggest a form of consolidation for the offices relating to labor, modified from that suggested by the consolidation committee; declare in favor of state aid in marketing problems and outline their position on various other phases of the legislative situation.

"We, the organized farmers and laborers of Oregon, are unanimously asking your support of the following," they say in a statement addressed to the various members of the legislature.

## Free Textbooks Rejected.

Salem—Free text books in public schools were voted down by the house at noon Tuesday, 38 opposing the measure, 22 favoring it and 4 absent. The measure had been looked upon with suspicion since its introduction, and when it went to the committee it was badly revamped before it saw the light again. The section providing that text books could be secured free by other than public schools was but one feature eliminated before the battle on the floor was staged. Representative Tichenor made a warm defense of his bill, claiming that it was a bill for the benefit of "the poor kids."

## Limit Put on Commission.

Salem—Representative Burdick has introduced a bill in the house providing a complete code of procedure for the operation of a county government. It defines the duties of county commissioners, who are empowered to estimate the amount of money to be raised for county purposes and to make levies in specified sums. The county court is restricted under this bill from undertaking the erection of any courthouse or other public buildings costing more than \$5000 without the approval of a majority of the voters.

## Apprentice Limit Attacked.

Salem—Representative Callan has introduced a bill in the house intended to make it unlawful to restrict the number of persons learning a trade in any given profession. Labor unionists on the ground are opposing the measure already. They say that it will prevent them from enforcing their contracts with employers which fix the ratio of apprentices to skilled mechanics employed in various industries operating under closed-shop agreements.

## Four Appropriations Submitted.

Salem—Four appropriation bills came into the house the first of the week from the ways and means committee, but did not get onto the calendar, as the house already had passed that order of business. They provide appropriations as follows: Oregon National guard, \$155,000; Naval militia, \$15,000; Insane hospital, \$656,596; Tuberculosis hospital, \$75,562.60; total, \$902,498.60.

## Labor Against Prison Plan.

Salem—Organized labor will oppose the recommendation made in the report of the Prison survey commission that the law prohibiting the sale of convict-made goods on the open market be repealed. Labor is strong against such a proposal, but have counter proposal of their own, which they believe, will solve the problem of idleness at the penitentiary.

## Must Cut \$1,630,116 Excess to Keep Within 6-per-Cent Limit

Salem—Up to date the legislature has \$1,630,126.45 to cut from the budget and appropriations asked for, if it keeps within the 6-per-cent limitation amendment. This is according to figures prepared by John Schroeder, chief clerk of the ways and means committee.

Appropriation bills, however, continue to come in and it is expected that this will go well beyond the \$2,000,000 mark before long. It means that the joint ways and means committee has a husky job ahead of it if it keeps pared down to the provisions of the amendment.

The total reduction which so far has been made by the committee is \$215,091.40. At the beginning of the session there was an excess in the budget over what is allowed by the amendment of \$715,382.09. The cut of \$215,091.40 made from the budget requests, with not quite one-half of the budget yet considered, reduced the original excess figure to \$500,290.69.

The \$500,290.69, if cut from the requests of the budget, will bring the committee exactly even with the 6-per-cent amendment, without taking into consideration any other appropriations whatsoever.

But on top of that amount the aggregate of appropriations which has been asked in the numerous bills carrying appropriations so far introduced is now \$1,129,835.76.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The senate has become so tender-hearted that it rarely kills a bill. Including nine that went through Thursday, it has passed 81 measures this session and has killed by indefinite postponement only 17.

Representative Sheldon has introduced a bill in the house providing a system of search and seizure of automobiles and trucks running across the state line from California into Oregon and suspected of carrying prohibited liquor.

Affairs of the State fair board may undergo reorganization as a result of the house passing a bill reducing the salary of A. H. Lea, the board's secretary, from \$3000 a year to \$2000, and requiring that the accounts of his office be audited by the secretary of state.

A bill to regulate jitneys operating on public highways is introduced in the house by Representative Laugaard. It places the jitneys under control of the Public Service commission and fixes a license fee of \$15 a year. A cash deposit of \$50 is required as evidence of good faith.

The joint ways and means committee was saved \$8440 by the discovery of a clerical error in the budget. The discovery was made when the chief clerk was checking over some figures. As a result it brings the excess of the original budget over the 6 per cent limitation amendment down to \$706,942.09.

The commercial fishermen of Yaquina Bay have forwarded to Joint Representative Fuller, of Polk and Lincoln counties, a petition to amend the fishing law governing Yaquina Bay to close it to salmon fishing during the open season from 6 p. m. Saturday evening to 6 p. m. Sunday evening of each week.

No bill denying to Japanese, Chinese or other Orientals the right to own land in Oregon will be passed by the present legislature. A drastic anti-Asian land bill, aimed especially at the Japanese, but including also Chinese and Hindus, was introduced in the senate early in the session. This measure was referred to the senate committee on judiciary, and there it has been reposing ever since.

It will not longer be necessary for a resident of Portland or any other city of Oregon to own property in order to vote at school elections, if the senate concurs in the action of the house in passing Representative Sheldon's bill by an overwhelming vote. The Sheldon bill, however, goes only part way in removing the property question qualifications for voters at school elections. It will permit any registered citizen to vote for school director, but not on questions of issuing bonds.

What is known as the State Land Board's rural credits bill will be reported out of the senate committee soon, where it has been reposing for several days, but whether it will come out with minor reports attached remains to be seen. Shanks and Barrett, both members of the agriculture committee, have rural credits bills before the committee in addition to the land board bill, and both wish to see features of their own bills incorporated in the measure which finally is proposed. One desires appraisers appointed, while the other wishes to see title examiners placed in the attorney general's office.