

WILL NOT DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY

Wilson Desires Only Measures to "Protect Americans."

ONLY OVERT ACT IS AWAITED

Consider Arming and Convoying Merchant Vessels—Determination is to Uphold Freedom of Sea.

Washington, D. C.—The course to be taken by the United States if Germany compels the use of force to safeguard American lives and rights has been determined. It was learned authoritatively after Friday's cabinet meeting that in the event President Wilson goes before congress again it will not be to ask for a declaration of war, but to follow literally the words of the address in which he announced the break of diplomatic relations and request authority to use means deemed necessary to protect American seamen and people.

The President, it is said, is as strongly desirous as ever to avoid war with Germany, but also is as determined as ever that American citizens and ships shall be free to travel the high seas unmolested.

His next step, if taken, will be to enforce that right and even then the issue of war or peace will be with Germany. Any hostile action will have to come in the form of an interference with an American right.

Details of the government's plans are not discussed. It is known, however, that convoying and arming of merchant ships are being considered.

No new development came Saturday to indicate that the overt act by Germany regarded as inevitable was nearer at hand. Fewer reports of ships sunk came in and none told officially of the loss of an American life.

Light Guns Best to War Against German Submarines

New York—Although figures to show the number of submarines destroyed by the entente allies and the means used in their destruction are unavailable, owing to the rigid censorship on war activities, it was learned here Saturday from an authoritative source that direct gunfire from the decks of warships and auxiliary vessels had been the most effective method employed thus far.

To combat the submarine menace the British government and her allies have adopted various plans to catch the undersea boats, although some of them have been abandoned as ineffective.

A marine authority of unquestioned standing, who is close to British shipping interests, said when asked as to the effectiveness of arming ships:

"We have found that light guns, discharging projectiles of four to six pounds, in the hands of trained gunners, have been by far the most effective weapon. I know personally that as many as two and three submarines have been bagged in one day in this way."

Noted Bandit Dies.

Portland—Chris Evans, famed California highwayman, died Saturday at a local hospital, and ending a checkered career which carried him from the leadership of a bandit gang to the doors of the county poor farm. He was 70 years old.

Evans began his career as a bandit by declaring war against the Southern Pacific railroad when the company notified him that his grant of land in the San Joaquin valley had reverted to the corporation. His home was on the place, and he had been raising wheat and stock.

Baltic Arrives in Port.

New York—The steamship Baltic of the White Star line has arrived safely at Liverpool, according to a cable message received here Saturday by officers of the company. The message besides announcing that the Baltic had reached her pier said "all well." The arrival of the Baltic removes from the danger zone another British vessel carrying United States citizens. The steamship took to England full cargo of munitions.

Swedish People Approve.

Stockholm—The Swedish government's rejection of President Wilson's suggestion to make common cause with the United States in severing diplomatic relations with Germany has not been followed by dissent in high political quarters. Even the strongest pro-entente partisans seemed agreed the invitation could not possibly have been accepted.

AMBASSADOR IS DETAINED

Gerard Will Be Held in Berlin Until Bernstorff's Safety is Assured.

Copenhagen—It is officially stated that James W. Gerard, the American ambassador to Germany, will not be allowed to leave Berlin until the German government is satisfied as to the treatment of Count von Bernstorff, the retiring German Ambassador at Washington, by the American government. According to the Berlin Tageblatt, the American embassy officials in Berlin have ascertained that there are 2600 American citizens in Germany. There are only about 350 Americans in Berlin.

Washington, D. C.—The Scandinavian-American liner Frederick VIII, on which Count von Bernstorff and the whole corps of ex-German diplomatic and consular officials sail next week from New York for Christiania, will put in at Halifax, N. S., for inspection by British naval authorities.

Great Britain gave passports for the party on condition that they proceed home by the most direct available route, and the Frederick VIII will proceed to Norway by the northerly route without entering the war zone.

It was learned Wednesday, however, that the stop at Halifax had been arranged for so that the ship may be subjected to the usual restrictions of the British blockade.

Concerted Action to Disable Interned German Ships Apparent

Washington, D. C.—Every one of 17 war-bound German merchant ships examined by American officials at Philippine ports since the break with Germany, has been so badly damaged by her crew that six months or more would be required to make any of them seaworthy. This was given out in an official report Wednesday.

The report added that of the 23 vessels tied up in the islands all but six had been inspected and none had been found which could be put into condition without a large expenditure of time and money.

So widespread and thorough has been the concerted disabling of German ships in American ports that some officials think it could be explained only by a blanket order from Berlin. It is suggested such instructions might have gone forward early in the war, or might even have been issued as a standing order before the war, to cover such exigencies as now have arisen. There have been no indications, however, that the American government has authentic information on the subject.

German War With America Not Desired by Allied Powers

Washington, D. C.—Entente diplomats here frankly express their hope that the United States will not actually enter the war.

Several of the allies' representatives let it be known that they entertained a growing fear that Germany deliberately precipitated a break with this country to hold American munitions and supplies here, thus cutting off imports to the entente.

The diplomats here have been surprised at the energy which the American government has shown in laying out its plans for eventualities, and do not conceal their fear that military precaution may force the United States to keep at home at least a considerable part of supplies now going abroad. Such an outcome, they said, would more than compensate for a mere break in relations from the German viewpoint.

Eighteen Merchant Ships Sunk by Submarines; American Fired On

London—Eighteen merchant vessels, of which a Belgian relief ship, nine British and one Russian, were Wednesday listed as sunk by German submarines.

One of the British vessels was the passenger steamer Port Adelaide, of 8181 tons. Ninety-six passengers and members of the crew have been picked up at sea. The captain was taken prisoner aboard the German submarine.

An attack on the American steamer Westwego by the German submarine U-45 was officially reported by the admiralty. The attack took place January 31, when five shells were fired at the American. The German commander threatened to sink the vessel unless provided with fuel oil. None of the shots took effect.

American Teutons Loyal.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Calling on its membership throughout the United States to support President Wilson in all his peace or war moves, the executive board of the North American Gymnastic Union made public a statement Wednesday which declared: "The sympathies of the heart must be silenced should the stern call of duty be heard."

The Union is a national organization of Americans of German extraction.

13 ARE DEAD IN HOTEL FIRE

Minneapolis Wooden Structure Burns With Temperature 10 Below.

Minneapolis—At least 13 persons are missing and are believed to have lost their lives in the fire which destroyed the Kenwood hotel, Twelfth street and Hennepin avenue, shortly after midnight Monday, according to police estimates.

In addition to the known missing, there are 11 others unaccounted for who may be in the ruins, according to E. D. Stalker, proprietor of the hotel. One person is known to be dead. Mrs. Lucille Squire suffered a fractured skull when she leaped from a third-story window. She died shortly afterwards at the city hospital.

Officials believe that many persons precipitated into the basement by crumbling floors and were buried in the debris.

Seventy-six persons are thought to have been in the hotel when the fire broke out.

Ministers of Germany's Allies May Be Sent Home



AMBASSADOR TARNOWSKI
MINISTER PANARETOFF
MUSSEIN BEY

These ministers of Germany's allies may be given their passports: Count Tarnowski represents Austria-Hungary, Stephen Panaretoff represents Bulgaria, and Hussein Bey is the Turkish charge.

While several of the injured were in a serious condition, it was reported at the city hospital that most of them would recover. One woman who became hysterical after being rescued raced down the street screaming and froze her feet before overtaken. Others, garbed in night attire, suffered terrible exposure in the 10 below zero temperature.

1300 Acres to Be Opened.

Washington, D. C.—Thirteen hundred acres in the second unit of the West Umatilla irrigation project will be opened to homestead entry March 6. Under regulations promulgated Monday, those desiring to enter should file their applications at The Dalles or La Grande offices between March 1 and 6. The building charge assessed against this land is 96 an acre, 5 per cent of which must be deposited before the application for entry will be received.

China Threatens Break.

Pekin—The Chinese cabinet has indorsed the American action against Germany on the submarine campaign. The cabinet has assured the American minister, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, that China associates itself firmly with the United States.

Marine News

Nippon Warships Sighted.

Port Angeles, Wash.—Three Japanese battleships passed in at the Cape about noon Tuesday. They flew no name signals, only their Japanese ensigns flying. It is probable that they were bound for Victoria, B. C.

Sailing from South Africa for Puget Sound, taking 103 days on the trip without seeing one vessel, is the record of the four-mast barkentine Puako, which arrived late Tuesday night in tow of the Richard Holyoke and cleared for Victoria. Capt. Petersen reports having a tough time with his crew coming up this trip. Going from Puget Sound to South Africa the first mate was lost overboard while rounding Cape Horn and drowned.

President Halts U. S. Ships.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson has issued a proclamation under the authority of the recent shipping act prohibiting American ship owners from transferring their vessels to any other registry.

The President pointed out that a national emergency exists and that many ship owners of the United States are permitting their vessels to pass to alien registers and to foreign trade in which we do not participate, "and from which they cannot be brought back to serve the needs of our waterborne commerce without the permission of governments of foreign nations."

Ship Deals Are Under Way.

Portland—Evidence that the war scare has not influenced negotiations for the purchase of new wooden ships here is offered by owners in some quarters, who admit that they are dealing this week with persons in the market for tonnage; also it is known more new contracts are being arranged for.

So far as is known, sales now in sight will be to American firms, so war conditions will not affect deals. Naturally, as compared with prices asked a year ago, higher figures are in effect because of increased wages in shipyards and advance in the cost of material and gear.

Tacoman Gets Tug Resolute.

Tacoma—By a decision of the Federal court in admiralty Wednesday, Charles E. Steelsmith of Tacoma was awarded ownership of the tug Resolute, adjudged a derelict, which has been lying in the Columbia river at Vancouver since the death of her owner, F. R. Hill, over a year ago, upon a libel of the plaintiff.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.50 per bushel; fortyfold, \$1.46; club, \$1.44; red Russian, \$1.43.

Millfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$26.50 per ton; shorts, \$30.50; rolled barley, \$42@43.

Hay—Producers' prices: Timothy, Eastern Oregon, \$19@20 per ton; valley, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$14@16; valley grain hay, \$12@14.

Butter—Cubes, extras, 39c per pound; prime firsts, 37c; firsts, 36c; dairy, 30c. Jobbing prices: Prints, extras, 41@43c; cartons, 1c extra; butterfat, No. 1, 43c; No. 2, 41c, Portland.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, current receipts, 30c per dozen; candled, 31@32c; selects, 34c.

Poultry—Hens, heavy, 17½@19c per pound; light, 16@17c; springs, 17½@19c; turkeys, live, 20@22c; dressed, 25@28c; ducks, 18@22c; geese, 12@13c.

Veal—Fancy, 14½@15c per pound.

Pork—Fancy, 14½@15c per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 90c@\$1.10 per dozen; tomatoes, \$6.00@7.50 per crate; cabbage, \$5 per hundred; eggplant, 25c per pound; lettuce, \$2.35 @3.25 per box; cucumbers, \$1.50@2.00 per dozen; celery, \$5.50 per crate; cauliflower, \$2.25@2.50; peppers, 30c per pound; sack vegetables, \$1.25 per sack; sprouts, 12½c per pound; rhubarb, 9@11½c.

Potatoes—Oregon buying prices, \$2.50@2.75 per hundred; sweets, \$4.

Onions—Oregon buying prices, \$7 per sack, country points.

Green Fruits—Apples, 75c@\$1.50 per box; pears, \$1.75@2.50; cranberries, \$10@11 per barrel.

Hops—1916 crop, 5@9c per pound; 1917 contracts, 10@11c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, fine, 28@33c per pound; coarse, 33@36c; valley, 33@41c; mohair, nominal.

Cattle—Steers, prime, \$8.00@9.20; fair to good, \$7.00@8.00; medium, \$6.50 @ 6.75; cows, choice, \$7.35@7.75; medium to good, \$6.50@7.00; ordinary to fair, \$5.75@6.25; heifers, \$5.00 @ 6.00; bulls, \$3.75 @ 6.00; calves, \$3.00@9.00.

Hogs—Light and heavy packing, \$11.25@11.75; rough heavy, \$9.85@10.00; pigs and skips, \$9.35@10.00; stock hogs, \$8.50@9.00.

Sheep—Yearling wethers, \$9.75@10.50; lambs, \$11.00@12.50.

SENATE INDORSES WILSON'S STAND

Upper House Approves Break by Vote of 78 to 5.

POLITICS LAID ASIDE FOR TIME

Republicans and Democrats United in Supporting Severance of Diplomatic Relations With Berlin.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson's severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was formally approved Wednesday by the senate voting 78 to 5 for the adoption of a resolution submitted by Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee, indorsing the withdrawal of American Ambassador Gerard from Berlin and giving German Ambassador Bernstorff his passports.

Senators who voted against the resolution were:

Democrats—Kirby, of Arkansas; Vardaman, Mississippi.

Republicans—Gronna, North Dakota; Works, California, and LaFollette, Wisconsin.

Five hours of debate preceded the vote, but the only active opposition came from the five senators who stood out against the resolution when the roll was called. The ranking Republican leaders joined the Democrats in declaring the whole-hearted support of the President. The resolution follows:

"Whereas, the President has, for the reasons stated in his address delivered to the congress in joint session on February 3, 1917, severed diplomatic relations with the Imperial German government by the recall of the American ambassador at Berlin and by handing his passports to the German ambassador at Washington, and

"Whereas, notwithstanding this severance of diplomatic intercourse, the President has expressed his desire to avoid conflict with the Imperial German government, and

"Whereas, the President declared in this said address that if in his judgment an occasion should arise for further action in the premises on the part of the government of the United States he would submit the matter to the congress and ask the authority of congress to use such measures as he might deem necessary for protection of American seamen and people in the prosecution of their peaceful and legitimate errands on the high seas.

"Therefore, be it resolved by the senate that the senate approves the action taken by the President as set forth in his address delivered before congress as stated above."

California Torpedoed Without Warning; Only American Saved

Washington, D. C.—Consul Frost at Queenstown cabled the State department Wednesday night that the British passenger liner California had been torpedoed without warning off the Irish coast and that the one American known to have been on board was saved.

Some of the passengers and crew still were missing, including two women and several children.

The captain of the ship was quoted as saying the submarine did not hail or give any warning before firing two torpedoes from a distance of 300 yards and sending the California down.

Washington, D. C.—The steady stream of reports telling of the destruction of merchant ships by German submarines was brought to a climax by a cablegram to the State department from Consul Frost at Queenstown announcing that the British passenger liner California had been torpedoed without warning and that an American citizen was among the survivors.

Whether this will prove to be the overt act to drive the United States into war no one would attempt to say. President Wilson, who must make the decision, had retired when the news came and officials would not wake him. Late Wednesday afternoon he had been informed of the message from Consul Frost telling of the sinking of the California, but giving no details as to warning or the presence of Americans.

802 File for Citizenship.

New York—Eight hundred and two men and women applied for their first citizenship papers here Thursday. This, it was said, broke all previous records. Six women, trained nurses, who came here from Canada, were among the applicants. A priest and a nun, both of Austrian birth, also were in the list. There were 163 Austrians, 108 Germans, four Bulgarians and two Turks. The others were Poles, Canadians, English, Russians and Irish.