

News of the World in Brief

Overshadowing all else in the world news of the week and standing out as one of the important steps in the history of the United States, came the declaration of war against Germany on Friday. Following the passing of the war resolution by Senate and House, President Wilson signed the instrument accepting a state of war early in the afternoon, and issued a proclamation enlisting the loyal support of American citizens, and warning alien enemies resident in the United States, against the commission of any overt acts. Since his proclamation, war preparedness measures have been rushing throughout the country, enlisting for all branches of the navy has been pushed, and huge appropriations totalling more than \$7,000,000,000 have been introduced in Congress. It is the intention of the government to use \$3,000,000,000 of the amount in purchasing bonds issued by the Allies.

The personnel of the navy should be raised to 150 men, while according to present indications, the United States will have the largest army in history before enlistment is completed. As one of its first war moves, the government took entire control of all wireless stations, and ordered the dismantling of all amateur plants. Government control of railroads and coasting vessels is being seriously considered. A series of war conferences between representatives of the United States and the Allies is now under way.

Cruiser Is Sunk.
Immediately on the issuing of the President's proclamation, 91 German vessels, interned in American harbors, were seized, having been kept under close surveillance for several weeks past. The German cruiser, *Cormorant*, at Guam, escaped being taken when its crew blew up the ship as American marines were approaching to take possession.

The possibility that Argentina, Brazil and Chile might follow the example set by the United States, and declare war against Germany, was evidenced in the conference of ministers representing the three South American powers in Berlin. Brazil is still anxious to maintain its position as a neutral, and Chile is undecided. The stand taken by Argentina, it is thought, may be due to the threats being made by Great Britain and the United States in the endeavor to induce the lifting of the wheat embargo in the southern republic.

Austria Breaks With U. S.
As a direct outcome of the declaration of hostilities between America

and Germany, came the dispatch on Sunday that Austria had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States. Ambassador Penfield had already left Vienna for Washington, and Charge Grew in the Austrian capital, has asked for his passports. Austrian diplomats in this country will leave for their native land as soon as safe conduct and means of transportation have been arranged. No state of war as yet exists between the two countries. Relations with Turkey and Bulgaria are unchanged.

As a preliminary move, all ships under Austrian registry in American ports, were seized by the United States as soon as word of the diplomatic break was received.

Recognition of the Mexican menace has become more general, and the discovery of a plot to establish a German submarine base on the Mexican coast was announced in Congress by Representative Miller. Secretary of State Lansing refused to corroborate the report. It was learned Monday that the chief reason bringing about the purchase of the Danish West Indies by America, was to prevent Germany from establishing a submarine base on one of the islands.

U-Boats Still Active.
German torpedoing of ships continued unabated during the week, among the victims of the undersea craft appearing the following: *Cannizero* (British), *Trevler* (Belgian relief), *Missourian* (American), *Parans* (Brazilian), *Seaward* (American), *San Fulgencia* (Spanish), *Salme* (British). The American liner, *New York*, was mined, but succeeded in returning safely to port. The only deaths definitely reported occurred in connection with the sinking of the Brazilian steamer, three losing their lives as a result. It was this tragedy which precipitated the Brazilian demand for war.

Anti-American plotters were especially active during the week and the culmination of a policy aiming apparently to destroy the industrial resources of the land, was reached Tuesday when dispatches were received announcing the dynamiting of the Baldwin locomotive and munition works at Eddystone, Pennsylvania, involving the loss of 140 lives, the injuring of as many more, and the destruction of property valued at millions. The burning of two grain elevators in Minneapolis, entailing a loss of \$3,000,000, was another of the heaviest disasters.

Plots Are Numerous.
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MONEY TO LOAN

western Pennsylvania, and to dynamite the iron and coal mines of Alabama were unearthed, while the finding of a powerful radio station concealed at the base of Mt. Hood, indicated that early preparations had been made for the sending of messages by spies, to German vessels. The wreck on the Chicago and Erie railroad is generally attributed to the work of plotters. The secret service dragnet has been thrown out, and scores of Germans are being taken into custody, many of them on the Mexican border. The guard at the Capitol in Washington has been doubled because of a report that the capital was to be blown up, and throughout the country, railroad and important highway bridges are being closely watched by armed men. Of possible connection was the burning of the entire camp of field ambulance company A, near El Paso, the fires being almost certainly of incendiary origin.

In Europe, the onward move of the Allied forces against von Hindenburg's line is continuing, not to be denied. In the coldest weather of many years, General Haig's troops are hammering away until the Tonn line is strained to the breaking point.

Of interest in the northwest, is the upholding, by the supreme court, of the Oregon minimum wage law, and the 10-hour law.

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IS THIS ONE REASON FOR THE GERMAN RETREAT?



Official British Photograph. It is now claimed that the big war guns of the allies outrange the German guns by two miles. The English title to the above picture is "Somme Joking Gunners and Their Pet."

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