Daily Democrat

Wm. H HORNIBROOK

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1917

THE AMERICAN POSITION

The press despatches yesterday carried the news that the American steamer "Algonquin" had been torpedoed without warning by a German submarine. This is the Kaisers answer to the protests and warnings of the American Department of State and to the plea for peace which has been tnade by President Wilson in his speech before the United States Sen-

If there was any reason for uncertainty as to the German position in regard to the status of American merchantmen entering the barred zone, that uncertainty ha been removed. There will be no discrimination between belligerent and neutral vessels. All will be treated alike by the Kaiser's nder-sea boats if they enter the region which has been blocked off and tagged as the exclusive territory of Germany. Both warships and passenger steamers will be torpedoed and no inquiry will be made as to the flag they carry or of the kind or character of the cargo. No warning shot will be fired and the passengers and crew can expect neither aid nor comfort from the crew of the submarine.

America can with decency make but one answer to this challenge. Our merchant vessels must be armed. They must be manned with expert gunners and the crew thus be prepardefend themselves against any

unlawini attack which may be made by a hostile submarine.

If a clash comes it will be the Kai-

er who must assume full responsibllity. The United States is asking no more and no less than that which has Ceen recognized as good International Law for a generation. If the protection of American life results in plunging this country into the war, it is unfortunate, but the average American regards it as the only course which can pursue if we desire to maintain our self respect and the respect

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