

UNITED STATES FACES GRAVEST CRISIS OF WAR WITH GERMANY OVER SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN

PRESIDENT FIRM; UPHOLDS RIGHTS OF AMERICANS

Efforts to Force Congressional Action Make Little Progress—Majority Back Up Wilson Until Diplomatic Negotiations Are Exhausted—New Berlin Clique Favor War.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Pressure for action warning Americans off armed ships apparently made little progress today in congress. In the senate a bill and a resolution for that purpose offered by Senator Gore were defeated from introduction by the objections of Senator Brandegee, a republican, under the rules. Senator Gore announced he would bring them up again tomorrow.

Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee, who was said to have privately told his colleagues he would not stand against action of the majority, issued a statement counselling against any congressional action until diplomatic negotiations by the president were exhausted.

Give President Time.

In the house the agitation apparently did not move forward, although its leaders declared no retreat was being made. Its supporters were represented as willing to give the president time further to consider the situation before seeking to force action.

The foreign affairs committee made partial concession to the proponents of action by asking the state department to submit evidences of orders to British merchant vessels regarding armament and war on submarines. This withdrawal support from Representative McLemore's resolution, which in addition to a warning to Americans to avoid armed ships, contained a request for such papers. Support then turned to Representative Foster's resolution, which only would authorize the president to warn Americans off armed ships.

President Still Firm.

President Wilson's opposition to any action by congress at this time was unchanged.

Representative Hellin, one of the acknowledged spokesmen for the president in the situation, said his conviction was that there was no chance for such a resolution to pass. In the event of its threatened passage, he said, he would suggest inviting the president to address congress in executive session.

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BANKER ORDERED INTO CUSTODY FOR GERMANIC PLOT

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Frederico Stallforth, a Mexican-German banker, was ordered today committed to the custody of the United States marshal by Federal Judge Dayton for refusing to answer questions before the federal grand jury which is investigating alleged efforts of German agents to foment trouble between this country and Mexico and to investigate strikes in munitions factories.

Stallforth was closely associated, it is said, with Franz Von Rintelen, the reputed head of the German propaganda in the United States who fled from the country under a false passport when the federal authorities began to investigate his activities.

Stallforth is the head of a German-Mexican bank with headquarters at Parral, Mexico.

While Von Rintelen was in this country he maintained headquarters in Stallforth's office in this city. A mass of documents taken from Von Rintelen by the English authorities and turned over to the state department proved, according to the federal officials, that German agents had spent large sums of money in Mexico.

KAISER DIRECTS GREAT BATTLE ABOUT VERDUN

Germans Claim Further Gains and Capture of Villages of Brabant, Havmont and Samonyneux—French Claim Line Not Broken at Any Point.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—At the war office today it was pointed out that although some ground had been lost by the French north of Verdun where a German attack in enormous force has been in progress for the last four days, the French lines have not been broken at any point. Great confidence was expressed that the lines would continue to hold.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Emperor William has established his headquarters at the German positions facing Verdun, according to information received from Berlin by the Evening News by way of Copenhagen. The dispatch says:

"According to information received from Berlin, Emperor William since his visit to the Balkans has been in Belgium and France. His headquarters now have been removed to Verdun.

"It is reported the emperor is more energetic than ever, making daily speeches to the troops and encouraging the soldiers not to yield. His majesty is mainly inspired at present with a desire to defeat the French army at any cost."

Germans Claim Gains.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 24.—Further gains for the Germans in the region north of the French fortress of Verdun were reported by the war office today. The statement says the entire wooded district northwest and north-east of Brabant and the forest of Herbe are in possession of the Germans.

Announcement also was made of the capture by the Germans of the villages of Brabant, Havmont and Samonyneux in the Verdun region.

Samonyneux is about one mile south of Havmont, the loss of which was admitted yesterday by the French war office. It is six miles north of Verdun.

French Line Holds.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—Fighting is continuing with undiminished intensity in the region north of Verdun, the French war office announced today.

Loss of the village of Brabant is admitted by the war office. The war office announces that the French line has not been broken at any point.

The statement follows: "In Artois a struggle with grenades is in progress east of Souchez. North of Verdun the struggle the struggle continued all night with

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DAY IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Senate: Resumed debate on water power bill.

Objection prevented Senator Gore from introducing legislation to keep Americans off armed ships of belligerents.

Hearing continued into fitness of Louis D. Brandeis for the United States supreme court.

Inquiry resumed into alleged monopoly of sisal output.

House:

Consideration of the postoffice bill continued on the floor.

Hearing on Representative London's neutral peace congress resolution began by the foreign affairs committee.

Admiral Winslow appeared before the naval affairs committee in executive session to testify on national defense.

SENATE BLOCKS GORE'S BILL TO STOP TRAVELERS

First Attempt to Introduce Legislation Warning Americans Off Armed Belligerent Ships Introduced by Democrat and Summarily Blocked by Republican.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The first attempt to introduce legislation warning Americans off armed belligerent ships made in congress today by Senator Gore, a democrat, was summarily blocked by Senator Brandegee, a republican, and under the rules of the senate cannot be resumed until tomorrow.

Senator Gore sought to introduce his bill to prohibit passage of Americans on such ships and also to introduce a concurrent resolution, requiring passage by the house, but unlike his bill, not the approval of the president.

Senator Gore issued a statement declaring "it seems to me that the ship of state is drifting or driving headlong upon the breakers. I do not say deliberately, but nevertheless swiftly."

When asked about reports that he had conferred with former Secretary Bryan before preparing his bill and resolution, Senator Gore said:

"I have not seen Mr. Bryan since last January. I did talk to him at that time about the bills on this subject."

Senator Gore's resolution follows:

"Whereas, a number of leading powers of the world are now engaged in a war of unexampled proportions;

"Whereas, the United States is happily at peace with all of the belligerent nations; and,

"Whereas, it is equally the desire and the interest of the American people to remain at peace with all nations; and,

"Whereas, the president has recently offered fresh and signal proofs of the superiority of diplomacy to butchery as a method of settling international disputes; and,

"Whereas, the right of American citizens to travel on unarmed belligerent vessels has recently received renewed guarantees of respect and inviolability; and,

"Whereas, the right of American citizens to travel on armed belligerent vessels rather than upon unarmed vessels is essential neither to their life, liberty or safety, nor to the independence, dignity or security of the United States; and,

"Whereas, congress alone has been vested with the power to declare war which involves the instigation of war; now therefore, be it

Keep Off Armed Ships.

"Resolved, by the senate and the house of representatives concurring, that it is the sense of the congress, vested as it is with the sole power to declare war, that all persons owning allegiance to the United States should, in behalf of their own safety and the vital interest of the United States, forbear to exercise the right to travel as passengers upon any armed vessel of any belligerent power, whether such vessel be armed for offensive or defensive purposes, and it is the further sense of the congress that no passport should be issued or renewed by the secretary of state or by any one acting under him to be used by any person owing allegiance to the United States for the purpose of travel upon any such armed vessel of a belligerent power."

SECRETARY OLCOTT FILES FOR RE-ELECTION

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 24.—Ben W. Olcott today filed his declaration of candidacy of renomination in the republican primaries for secretary of state. Secretary Olcott originally was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office by Governor Oswald West, democrat. At the last election the secretary of state was elected on the republican ticket.

SERBIAN AMAZON FACES FIRE ON BATTLE LINE



A typical Serbian Amazon is the young girl pictured here. She and hundreds of her kind fought through many campaigns. She is a prisoner in a German war prison. Unable to secure female attire she dresses in the clothing she can borrow from fellow war prisoners.

GAS PIPE BOMBS CAUSE EXPLOSION NEBRASKA CAPITOL

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 24.—Discovery of three short pieces of gas pipe in the waste furnace of the state capitol, following an explosion damaging the furnace last night, led to wild rumors today. A police investigation is in progress. Gail Harland, a janitor, says the pipes were filled with some sort of explosive. Whether they were experimental bombs made by the aviation department of the national guard or brought in by outside parties has not been determined.

The pipes were about three feet in length, two inches in diameter and of brass. Each was filled with three inches of cement at one end and next to this nine inches of a light yellowish powder which Chief of Detectives Antles believes to be an explosive.

One of the tubes was blown from the furnace when the explosion occurred, the fire was scattered about the basement room, which is directly under the state treasurer's office. The flames were extinguished by the janitor.

Only one end of each of the pipes had come in contact with the fire in the furnace and Chief Antles expressed the opinion that the explosion was caused by a powder fuse attached to the tubes.

U. S. NAVY IN WAR NEEDS 102,815 MEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Rear-Admiral Badger told the house naval committee today that the United States navy would need on a war basis 102,815 men to man the fleet which will be in commission in 1917. His present peace estimate of 67,000 men was for 6000 more men than recommended by Secretary Daniels. The committee devoted most of its time today to confidential affairs concerning the navy as presented by Admiral Badger in executive session. Among the subjects was the navy upon which the general board based its opinion that the United States navy should equal the strongest navy afloat.

PRIZE CREW SINKS BRITISH STEAMER OFF TENERIFFE

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British steamer Westburn, which reports received last night from Santa Cruz, Teneriffe (Canary islands) said had rescued that port in charge of a German prize crew and carrying 206 prisoners taken from various vessels captured by a German sea raider believed to be the Mowse, has been sunk outside Santa Cruz harbor by her captors. This is the news received today in a message from Santa Cruz. After landing their prisoners in Santa Cruz the German crew put to sea again on the Westburn and sank their prize, the message stated.

Advised received last night from Santa Cruz stated that the British steamer Westburn, which left Liverpool January 21 for Buenos Aires, had put in there for repairs, flying the German flag and with a German prize crew of one officer and seven men aboard besides 206 prisoners taken from various captured vessels.

RUSSIAN CZAR OFF FOR FRONT

PETROGRAD, Feb. 23, via London, Feb. 24.—Emperor Nicholas, who visited the duma at its opening session yesterday and delivered a brief address to the members, has left for the front.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 24.—The president of the duma, during yesterday's session, read the following telegram addressed by Emperor Nicholas to the duma: "I cordially thank the members of the duma for the congratulations which they sent me on the occasion of the capture of Erzerum. I believe, with you, that this fresh exploit of the army of the Caucasus will be of importance in leading to the final triumph of our arms, a token of which I see in the eagerness of all the children of our great country to use might and main in its service."

KENDALL SEEKS PROBE PROBLEM CHILD POVERTY

Iowa Senator Points Out Fact That Half of Men Who Enlist for Army Are Rejected as Physically Unfit, That Children of Poor Have Large Death Rate and Seeks Cause.

By GILSON GARDNER. WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—"The army and navy departments report that over 50 per cent of the men who apply for enlistment are rejected as being physically or mentally unfit for the service," said Senator Kenyon of Iowa, discussing the joint resolution which he introduced today in the senate, authorizing the president to appoint a commission to inquire into the causes of child poverty and suggest remedies therefor. "Inefficiency in adults must have some cause," continued the senator. "In England at the beginning of the war, 60 per cent of the men who applied were rejected as unfit. In Germany, 10 per cent are rejected as unfit."

Death Rate of the Poor.

"The children's bureau reports that the infants of men who earn \$10 a week die at the rate of 225 per 1000, while the infants of men who earn \$25 a week or more die at the rate of only 84 per 1000. In other words, the babies of the poor die at three times the rate of those who are in fairly well-to-do families."

"The industrial relations commission reported that 79 per cent of the fathers of wage-earning families earn less than \$700 per year. This means that between one-half and two-thirds of these families were living below the standards of decent subsistence, while about one-third were living in a state of abject poverty."

"And Judge Henry Neil, the father of mothers' pensions, reports that his investigation of the problem of child poverty shows that thousands of children are separated from their mothers on account of poverty and that the depriving of children of mother love tends to make inefficient and unpatriotic adults."

Bearing on Efficiency.

Senator Kenyon believes that the problem of child poverty has a direct bearing on the efficiency of the nation in its relation to "preparedness." "We must prepare the human resources as well as the material. It is just as important—in fact more important—that we take care of our human resources properly, as that we conserve our material resources. A nation of unfits is not the kind of a nation out of which to build a decent civilization or one which will be properly prepared to resist invasion."

Senator Kenyon's resolution is identical with that introduced in the house on February 8 by Representative Keating of Colorado.

ENGLAND IN GRIP OF SEVERE SNOWSTORM

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British Isles today are in the grip of the most severe snowstorm of years. Reports from the continent show that severe weather prevails throughout Europe. The snowfall in England began yesterday and this morning the snow varied from one to several inches in depth. Scotland has suffered more than England or Wales. Along the coasts shipping is in difficulty, owing to blinding sleet.

WAR SCARE CAUSES DROP IN COTTON

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 24.—Anxiety over international politics caused a wave of selling in the cotton market here today. In the early afternoon the weaker months were almost \$2 a bale down from the best of the season.

NEW BLOCK TO REPLACE SHACKS AND OLD HOTEL

Three-Story Moore Hotel and Collection of Odds and Ends of Buildings Adjoining to Be Wrecked and Modern Structure Erected, 70x100 Feet—White Enameled Brick.

The Moore hotel building will be wrecked and removed, together with all of the buildings and shacks on West Main street between that structure and Fir, and a new modern business block erected thereon.

Architect Frank C. Clark has perfected plans for a structure to cover the space thus cleared, 70x100 feet. This building will contain seven storeys, five of which will face Main street and two on Fir. This business structure, to be one-story for the present, will extend from the corner of Main and Fir to the alley west on Main.

The Moore hotel, three stories in height, is an old type of architecture and cannot be sufficiently modernized for the purposes designed in the proposed structure. The old shacks on the corner have long since been an eyesore on one of the most prominent business corners in the city. Their removal will be hailed with delight.

White Brick and Marble.

The owners of the properties involved are Dr. E. B. Pickle, Reginald Parsons, L. Neidermeyer and Delroy Getchel. They realize that a new era of growth and development is dawning in the Rogue river valley and Medford, its principal business center. They are, therefore, erecting this structure with a view to making it eventually a modern office building, the first story walls being built of sufficient weight and strength to hold as many additional stories as future business may suggest.

The front of the new business structure will be of marble, white enameled brick and terra cotta. The ornamentation will be peculiarly modern and substantially attractive, being of the polychrome type, including the various colors of the several materials used.

This noteworthy improvement will probably suggest to other owners of prominent business locations similar improvements. In fact, others are now being considered.

New Front Palm Building.

In addition to this work, Archi-

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GERMAN CRISIS CAUSES DROP IN WHEAT MARKET

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Disturbing rumors that drastic consequences would result from tension between Washington and Berlin regarding Germany's submarine policy caused a break of more than 7 cents a bushel today in the price of wheat, as compared with values current earlier in the session. The gist of the rumors was that the handling of passports to the German ambassador was imminent.

The most sensational fall took place in the price of the May option, which dropped from \$1.24 3/4 to \$1.17, a loss of 7 1/4. The low point was down 10 cents a bushel as compared with figures Monday.

For the greater part, the losses took place in the last fifteen minutes and were accompanied by wild efforts on the part of holders to unload.

Closing prices showed a slight reaction, but were 5 to 5 1/2 under yesterday's finish, with May at \$1.17 1/2 and July at \$1.14 1/2.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Weakness prevented all branches of the market today as a result of the complex situation arising from Germany's submarine policy.