

PRESIDENT AND CABINET DISCUSS GERMAN CRISIS BUT MAINTAIN SILENCE

MAY AWAIT OVERT ACT FOR BREACH

"Very Near Future to Develop Something Very, Very Serious," Declares Cabinet Member After Caucusing Situation With President—"Nothing to Announce," Is Statement Issued at White House—Senators Consulted by President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—After today's cabinet meeting this statement was issued at the white house: "The president and the cabinet thoroughly canvassed the situation but there is nothing to announce."

Whether immediate action will be taken or whether an overt act will be awaited was not made clear. Another cabinet member said: "The last chance has not yet gone, while Germany has announced her purpose, she has not carried it into effect so far as we know."

Immediately after a cabinet meeting lasting two hours and a half, President Wilson hurried to the capital to discuss the submarine situation with Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee.

No announcement on the conclusion reached by the cabinet was made, Secretary Lansing merely said the president would discuss the situation with Senator Stone.

Secretary Lansing authorized the statement today that so far no communication had been sent to Germany.

The secretary refused to say whether any instructions had been sent to Ambassador Gerard and declined to make any statement for the delay in announcing the course of the United States. Secretary Lansing said he was unprepared to disclose whether any announcement would be made today or not.

On every hand officials are convinced that nothing less than a weak in diplomatic relations is the ultimate development. Opinion was about even as to whether any communication had been dispatched to Berlin. There seemed to be no doubt, however, that some communication had gone to Ambassador Gerard, probably warning him of the steps the United States felt compelled to take and giving him an opportunity, however limited, to make some effort to alleviate the possible hardships of Americans in Germany. The gov-

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EUROPE AWAITS WILSON'S REPLY TO GERMANY

Neutral Shipping Being Held in Port or Recalled—Traffic With Continent Held Up—Action of President Awaited With Intense Interest by Both Belligerents and Neutrals.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The whole of Europe, neutral and belligerent, is anxiously awaiting the action of the United States on Germany's note announcing her new submarine policy. Meanwhile a large proportion of neutral shipping is being held in port or recalled.

Traffic between England and Holland, and England and the Scandinavian countries, so far as it is carried on by neutral vessels, is held up. This is as serious for the neutrals as for England, as the smaller countries depend upon Great Britain for many things, particularly for coal.

Liverpool ship owners today expressed the view that the new declaration of the submarine warfare will not affect trans-Atlantic traffic, but the number of Americans who contemplated returning home during the next few weeks have hastened their bookings.

The Holland-America and the Norwegian-Atlantic liners are the only ones whose voyages have been cancelled or postponed.

Thus far the results of the new policy have not been reflected in the losses of ships recorded by Lloyd's Shipping agency, today's list being about the same average size as for some weeks past.

The comment of the evening newspapers on the situation follows largely that of the morning journals. Most of them are concerned with what President Wilson will do. The Pall Mall Gazette says:

"President Wilson has a very simple question to answer. It is whether he will play the German game or take sides with civilization."

The Standard says: "Ever since the presidential election President Wilson has danced to the tune of Berlin. It remains to be seen whether the last German step, the most dire affront ever offered a great power, will prove a miscalculation."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Immediate construction of 100 submarines, eighty for coast defense and twenty for fleet operations, was proposed in a special bill introduced today by Senator Poinsett of Washington. The bill would direct that not less than six of the fleet submarines and not less than twenty-five of the coast submarines would be built on the Pacific coast. It would authorize the navy to spend \$4,000,000 to equip government navy-yards for construction of the vessels.



Logan Billingsley, one of the heads of the Seattle liquor syndicate and alleged chief of bootleggers.

WINTER BLOCKS ARMY PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS

BERLIN, Feb. 2.—Artillery and reconnoitering activity is reported in today's army headquarters statement from the Franco-Belgian front. The artillery duel was particularly sharp between the Ancre and the Somme, where in the Guedecourt sector on the Somme front, an operation by a British force resulted in the German lines being entered on a small front, the Germans afterward clearing the position by a counter attack.

"Owing to the severe cold and heavy snowfalls there were no important events," says today's official report regarding the Italo-Galician front.

No change on the Rumanian or Macedonian fronts are recorded.

PARIS, Feb. 2.—French trenches south of Leclercy, in Lorraine, were attacked last evening by the Germans. The attack failed, the war office announced today.

There were artillery actions last night at Louvemont, north of Verdun and at Metzeral, in the Vosges.

A German aviator dropped five bombs yesterday on Dunkirk. The war office statement reports the damage was small and that there were no victims.

NORWAY STOPS MAIL STEAMERS

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Feb. 2.—The regular daily mail and passenger service between Norway and England was stopped today while the Norwegian-American liner Kristianstad, which was scheduled to sail today, is being held for further orders. The Norwegian postoffice is declining to accept mail for the United States, as both the direct route and that by way of England is closed.



In center—Hiram Gill, mayor of Seattle. At right, top, Bob Hodge, former Sheriff. Below, Chief of Police C. L. Beckingham.

STOCKS YIELD TO PRESSURE AGAIN ON WAR SCARE

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—After a rally from yesterday's crash the stock market was again subjected to heavy selling during the late trading this afternoon on rumors that definite developments in the submarine situation would be forthcoming today.

The market began to sag soon after noon and during the last hour persistent selling in representative shares, including railroad issues, developed. The latter yielded one to four points to the lowest levels of the current movement.

United States Steel, which had shown some steadiness during the forenoon, fell to a fraction above par in the last half hour, four points below the maximum quotation of the day.

Other industrials, including the equipments, coppers, motors and oils, fell in sympathy with declines elsewhere.

LACK OF LICENSES CAUSES ARRESTS

Offenders against the motor vehicle law were held in justice court in schools, the police net having been set yesterday following the announcement by Chief Hutton that beginning February 1 all motorists not having 1917 licenses on their cars would be arrested and fined.

26 KILLED IN TENEMENT BY GAS EXPLOSION

Fire Follows Blow-Up Which Wrecks Three-Story Building in Chicago—Persons Buried in Debris for Hours Are Rescued—21 Injured, 23 Rescued or Accounted For.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—At noon, 11 hours after an explosion and fire which wrecked a West Side tenement building at 813 West 14th place at 1 a. m. today, the police announced that 26 persons were missing and probably dead. Ninety-one persons resided in the building, according to the agent representing it. The janitor accounted for 19 of these as being away at work, leaving 72, whom he assumed were in the building at the time the leaking gas exploded. These the police accounted for as follows:

Known dead 2; injured 21; missing, probably dead, 26; known rescued or accounted for, 23.

Heard for Miles. The explosion was heard for miles. By some freak of the shock, buildings a few yards away were undamaged while windows were broken many blocks further distant. Hundreds of Hebrews, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian tenants of the district rushed into the street scantily clad although the weather was the coldest of the year—ten below zero.

The explosion wrecked one end of the tenement building which contained 24 flats, 16 of which were occupied.

The flames burst throughout the lower story immediately. When firemen arrived they were able to rescue a few children who were dropped by their parents from the upper windows. Some adults also were saved in this way.

The ruins are so hot that it would be many hours before complete search of the wreckage could be made and an accurate account of the loss of life ascertained. The water thrown on the ruins froze almost as fast as it fell and the burning gas which remained alight long after the material of the building had ceased to burn presented an unusual spectacle, much as if an iceberg were on fire.

Caught in Trap. Patrick Donahue, an assistant fire marshal, said that when he reached the scene a great flame of gas was leaping across West Fourteenth place.

"A lot of these people," he said, "must have been caught like rats in a trap. They were in bed and asleep and had no chance to escape. Where gas and flames did not cut them off, falling stairways and crumbling walls did."

After working for an hour at the wreckage where the moans came from firemen came upon a man and woman in a semi-conscious condition. The firemen said that the voices were becoming plainer and that a number of persons seemed to be imprisoned in a sort of wreck-choked grotto arched over by fallen timbers.

OPERATORS DENY SENDING WIRE FROM CONNOLLY

Telegraphers Flatly Contradict Testimony Given by Washington Broker Regarding Sending of Resume of President's Peace Note to Hutton—Hearing Adjourns to Washington.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—When the congressional "leak" inquiry committee adjourned today to meet in Washington, the testimony of F. A. Connolly, the Washington broker, regarding his sending a resume of President Wilson's peace note to E. F. Hutton & Co., New York brokers, had been disputed by every telegraph operator in Hutton's employ, who, Sherman L. Whipple said, might have handled Connolly's message.

Connolly had testified he sent the message over a private wire between his house and Hutton's between 1:15 p. m. and 1:30 p. m., December 20, Joseph W. Becker, Hutton's operator on this wire, first swore yesterday that he received no such message.

Operator's Denials. The other operators who followed today with denials that they received it were John F. Hummel, who works the other regular wire into Connolly's office, and others who might have received either Becker or Hummel.

During the examination of the operators, it developed that prior to their coming to the hearing today, E. F. Hutton, head of the firm, criticized Becker in the operating room in the presence of the other operators, for his testimony. Hutton contended, according to the operators, that Becker could not remember at this date whether he received the Connolly's message.

Doubtful whether the Connolly message did reach the Hutton house by telegraph, the committee will investigate other channels through which it might have arrived. The fact developed today that Connolly's private wire is interchangeable between telephone and telegraph, has aroused interest and this will be gone into more fully.

Ellis to Testify. George E. Ellis, the member of the Hutton firm who wrote a warning to customers from the Connolly resume of the note that it was coming, will be the first witness called in Washington. He now is on his way north from Savannah, Ga., and has been advised by telegraph to stop off at Washington.

Inquiry also will be made soon into another telegram which, like Connolly's, is missing. According to the testimony of M. W. Malby, a Hutton operator, today, Mr. Clement, of the Clement-Harris company of Chicago, sent the Hutton house a message of protest touching on the president's note, information disseminated by E. F. Hutton & Co., which has not been produced.

LANSING ADVISES SHIP NOT TO SAIL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The state department has made no reply to the telegram from the International Mercantile company, asking instructions for movements of American ships. No announcement similar to Germany's has been received from Austria.

BERLIN JOYOUS OVER RESUMPTION UNDERSEA WAR

BERLIN, Feb. 2.—The official report of this morning's session of the Reichstag committee says that after declarations by a representative of the socialist party, further explanations were made by Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, the foreign secretary; Dr. Karl Helfferich, the vice-chancellor, and Vice-Admiral Capelle, minister of the navy.

A representative of the conservatives explained the standpoint of this party. Vice-Admiral Capelle made further remarks and General Groener, chief of the war office, addressed the committee. The forenoon sitting was closed with a speech by a representative of the radical socialists.

The sessions of the committee, as previously, were closed to the press. The house was buoyant upon the submarine announcement, which was regarded as bringing peace nearer. Industrial and navigation securities rose 2 to 3 points.

ASK INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL OREGON BONE DRY BY NIGHT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—A resolution declaring it to be the sense of the senate that the president at the close of the European war should endeavor to negotiate a treaty with the powers of the world to constitute an international judicial tribunal to settle disputes, was introduced today by Senator Shafroth and referred to the foreign relations committee, without debate.

SALEM, Feb. 2.—The following bills have passed the house: H. R. 99, by Sheldon—Removing property restrictions on voters at school elections. H. R. 219, by Sheldon—Requiring eighth-grade diploma or its equivalent for admission to free high schools.

REPUBLIC STEEL SHOWS BIG PROFITS

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The Republic Iron & Steel company, one of the many industrial corporations which have profited largely by war contracts, reports net earnings of \$16,544,636 in its annual statement for 1916, issued today. This is an increase of \$11,195,938 over the previous year.

FOREST GRAZING FEES INCREASED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—An increase of 25 per cent in the grazing fees on all national forests, instead of 33 1/3 per cent as originally contemplated, will be made for the 1917 season. Secretary Houston today announced. Additional increases will be made after March 1 next year, when the real value of the forage upon any forest is found to be more than the amount charged.

SHIP UNDERWRITING SUSPENDED BY DANES

LONDON, Feb. 2.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Times says that the underwriting has been temporarily suspended by the Danish war insurance office. The United Shipping company has ordered ships in English ports to leave before Sunday if possible. The Scandinavian-American liner Hellig Olay, now in New York, has been ordered to remain there.

AVALANCHE UPSETS UNION PACIFIC ENGINE

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 2.—A locomotive, caboose and rotary snow-plow were overturned by an avalanche of snow which slid off a hillside at Bacon, Oregon, just before daybreak today immediately after an eastbound trans-continental Union Pacific train had passed the spot, according to reports reaching here. Fireman Cox was buried in the slide.