

PRESIDENT DECIDES COURSE TO PURSUE IN CASE OF 'OVERT ACT' BY GERMANY

FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT WILSON TELLING CONGRESS OF THE BREAK WITH GERMANY

DECLARATION OF WAR NOT TO BE DEMANDED

President Will Ask to Be Allowed to Use Whatever Measures He Deems Necessary to Protect American Seamen and Travelers—Rapidly Preparing for Any Eventuality.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—President Wilson has framed a definite course to be pursued in case Germany commits the "overt act" mentioned in his address to congress. He will not ask congress for a declaration of war, but will do just what was promised in the address and ask that he be allowed to use whatever measures he deems necessary to protect American seamen and travelers.

It was learned definitely after today's cabinet meeting that the president has not yet decided finally that it will be necessary for him to take this step, although officials generally believe that Germany already has proved conclusively that she will proceed with her program of ruthless submarine warfare in spite of the warning of the president.

Acting on this assumption, the administration proceeded rapidly today with its preparation for any eventuality. All of the resources of the nation are being marshalled for possible steps for the protection of the country.

The president prepared to go to the capitol after the cabinet meeting to discuss legislation, but changed his mind and telephoned Senators Pomerehne and Shafer, whom he desired to consult.

The entente embassies here have asked the state department if some step cannot be taken to cease publications of sailings of vessels and publication of manifests of ships going into the war zone. Officials realize that there is no warrant of law to prevent publication of sailings, but some step may be taken to ask American publishers to refrain from printing them on the ground of national policy.

GERMANY TO PAY NORWEGIAN LOSSES

CHRISTIANA, Feb. 9.—It is announced that Germany has notified Norway of her intentions to pay damages for loss of life on Norwegian boats torpedoed in the Arctic ocean and also for those killed when two Norwegian boats were sunk in the North Sea last fall. These cases have been the subject of prolonged negotiations. Germany stipulated that the payment is made without admission of any violation of international law but out of humane and sympathetic consideration for the hardships suffered by the families of the dead sailors.

The long wrangle over the political situation in Norway has been ended by the decision of the party controlling parliament that there shall be no reconstruction of the cabinet. The retirement of certain ministers, demanded by the leading newspapers has been one of the principal bones of contention.

BLOODHOUNDS TRAIL NEBRASKA FIEND

ORD, Neb., Feb. 9.—Bloodhounds brought from Albion were last night set on the trail of a young man suspected of the rape and murder of Alice Parker, daughter of a Bohemian farmer. They traced him to his home. The young man is Louis Kamrad, aged 21. He was arrested and tried about a year ago for criminal assault on the daughter of a Danish family. He is now in custody.

NEGRO FIREMAN LOST ON TURINO NOT AMERICAN

White American Rights Technically Violated by German Submarines, Government Is Holding Its Peace Until Some Outrage Presenting a Clear-Cut Issue Compels Action.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—George Washington, the negro fireman who lost his life in the sinking of the British steamer Turino, was reported by Consul Frost today to be "apparently" a British subject. It was stated that he was born in Alberta, Canada.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Preliminary reports before the state department today on the sinking of merchant vessels without warning by German submarines contained evidence of technical violation of American rights, yet the government was holding its peace until some outrage presenting a more clear-cut issue should compel it to act. Information on all ships torpedoed is being collected and it was officially stated that up to today the situation had not changed.

President Wilson, pursuing his general policy of having the government refrain from any act which might be construed as being prompted by an ulterior motive in the crisis, authorized an announcement that bank deposits, merchant ships and other private property of foreigners will not be seized, even in case of war. This confirmed a provision of the Prussian-American treaty of 1888, without actually reconfirming the convention.

Officials were impressed anew with the apparent success of Germany's new campaign as they received reports of the aggregate tonnage sunk in the last few days, but they looked for early action by the British admiralty to convoy merchant ships, or to take some other steps to lessen the destruction of her vessels.

CONGRESS REFUSES TO RUSH NAVAL BILL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The house rules committee today refused a special rule to hurry the three administration amendments to the naval bill to provide for a \$150,000,000 bond issue for ships and war supplies, \$1,000,000 for aircraft patents and authorization to commander shipyards and munition plants.

The three propositions constitute new legislation not in order on an appropriation bill without a special rule.

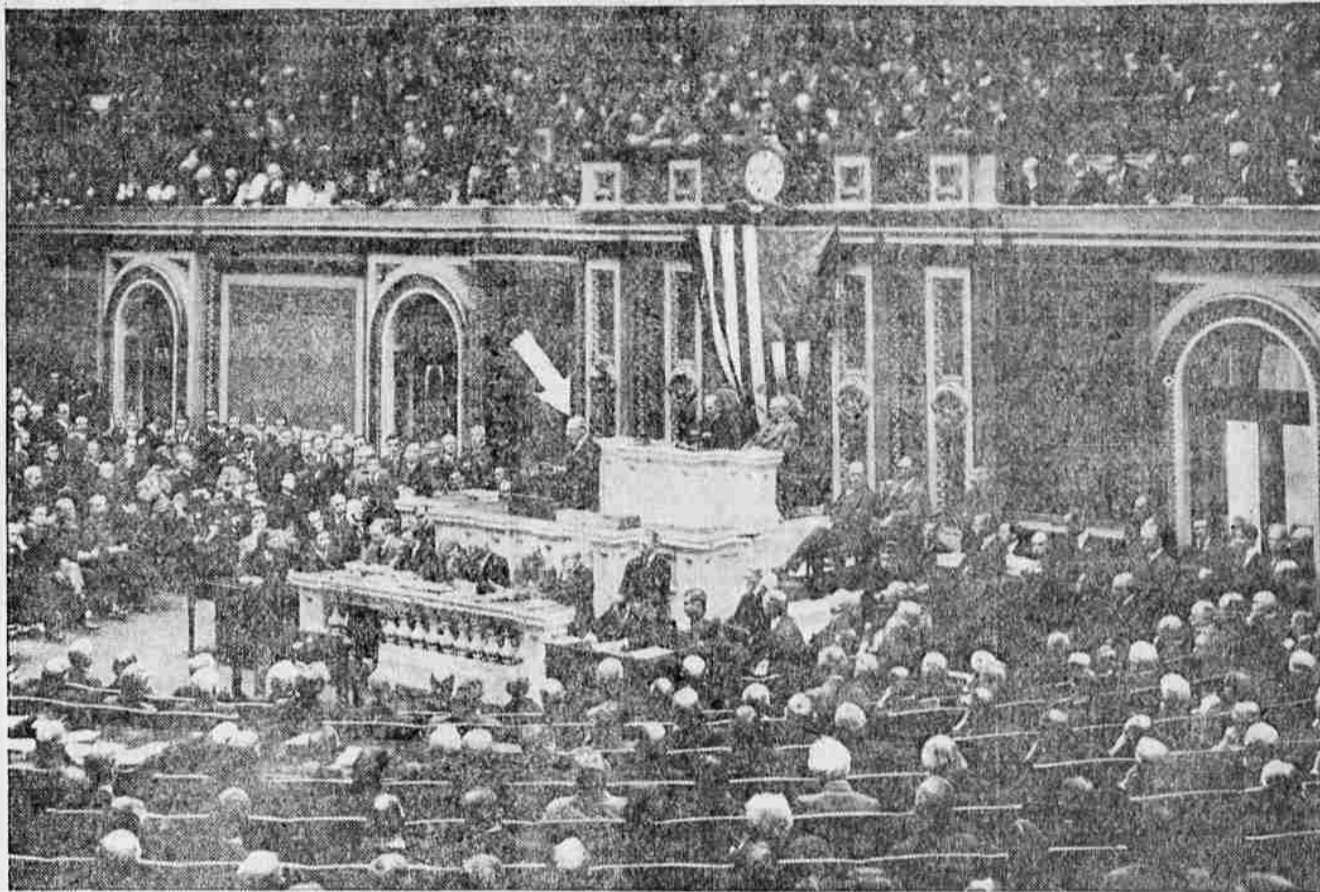
The naval bill again was considered in the house.

REPEAL LAW FOR EXAMINING BRIDEGROOM

SALEM, Or., Feb. 9.—Complex who cannot pass the Oregon health tests probably will no longer have to go to other states to obtain marriage licenses, as the senate today passed a bill repealing the state law, which requires a health certificate from every applicant for a license. The measure now goes to the house, where it is said to be assured of passage.

INCREASE POSTAGE RATES ON NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—An immediate increase from one to one and a half cents a pound in the postage rates on newspapers and periodicals for this year and to two cents a pound next year is provided in the postoffice appropriation bill ordered reported to the senate today by the postoffice committee.



This great news photograph was snapped at the momentous minute in recent American history—the instant President Wilson broke the news to congress of the diplomatic break with the German empire. The president is shown under the arrow reading his dramatic message in the hall of the house of representatives, as members of both the house and the senate listen in serious attention. Behind the president are shown Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark, presiding officers of the senate and house, respectively.

GERARD LEAVES GERMANY FOR BERNE, SATURDAY

BERLIN, Feb. 8, via London, Feb. 9.—Former Ambassador Gerard and his party probably will leave Berlin Saturday evening, although the date has not been settled definitely. It is expected they will travel by way of Switzerland.

Mr. Gerard was offered the choice of leaving Berlin Saturday or Sunday and decided in favor of the earlier date. The train which will take him to neutral soil will be composed of sleepers and day coaches and probably will make better time than the regular train service which no longer attaches importance to the speed as in peace time.

Arrangements for the departure of Mr. Gerard and his suite were practically completed today. The delay was caused by the number of passports to be made out for the ambassadorial party and because of the lack of news regarding the movements of Count Von Bernstorff.

A special train will leave Berlin on Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock for Switzerland by way of Basel and Berne. The party will then travel to Spain, where Mr. Gerard will embark on the first available steamer for the United States. The former ambassador and Mrs. Gerard will be accompanied by nearly all the embassy secretaries and attaches and members of the consular service in Germany—except a few old going to Scandinavia or Holland—and by most of the American newspaper correspondents. The train will carry in all some 200 persons from the German capital. Two representatives of the foreign office will accompany the train to the border, which is expected to be reached early Sunday afternoon.

ASK AMERICANS TO AVOID NETHERLANDS

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb. 9.—Maurice M. Langhorne, the American charge d'affaires here, has telegraphed Ambassador Gerard at Berlin asking him to divert as many Americans departing from Germany as possible to Denmark or Switzerland, owing to the restricted accommodations, food difficulties, high cost of living and the absence of shipping facilities in Holland.

BRITISH GAIN ON SOMME, VERDUN ATTACKS FOILED

BERLIN, Feb. 9.—The British made attacks at three points on the Somme front yesterday. Today's announcement from army headquarters says they gained a small amount of ground. An absence of important developments along the Russian, Rumanian and Macedonian fronts is reported in these war areas.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—A German attack last night in the region of Yaux les Palameux southeast of Verdun was repulsed by the French, today's official statement says. Violent artillery actions occurred in the Woerwe region.

Last night and this morning bombs were dropped by airplanes in the region of Dunkirk. Four civilians were killed.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 9.—Only minor operations along the Russian and Rumanian fronts are reported in today's war office statement, which reads:

"Western front: South of Brody the gallant General Karolinski was killed by a rifle bullet. The enemy artillery bombarded the town of Stanislav, with twelve-inch shells which destroyed a house and wounded several inhabitants.

"Rumanian front: Infantry fire is proceeding."

STEVENS NOMINATED ON SHIPPING BOARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Raymond B. Stevens of New Hampshire was nominated by President Wilson today as a member of the shipping board to succeed Bernard P. Baker, who resigned soon after being confirmed by the senate.

Mr. Stevens, nominated for a term of five years, was formerly a member of congress from New Hampshire, and at present is a special counsel for the federal trade commission.

ANTI-PICKETING BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

SALEM, Or., Feb. 9.—The Oregon house of representatives today passed a bill aimed to prohibit picketing during strikes. The measure was introduced by Representative K. K. Robb of Portland.

GERMAN RAIDERS REPORTED CRUISING IN INDIAN OCEAN

TOKIO, Jan. 10.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Special measures have been taken by the Japanese naval department to protect Japanese shipping from German submarines. While details of the government's plans are kept secret for obvious reasons, it is understood that several steamers plying between Japan and England by way of the Suez canal will be armed with three inch guns manned by naval gunners.

While there have been no reports of German submarines operating in the Pacific, passengers of the Canadian Pacific liner Empress of Asia, which reached Yokohama from Vancouver yesterday, reported that unusual precautions were taken when the steamer left the Canadian port ten days ago.

The liner's lights were extinguished or darkened for three nights and the wireless was forbidden for the use of passengers.

Persistent rumors have been afloat that two German converted cruisers have appeared in the Indian ocean and a dispatch from the Bombay branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, reports a sudden rise in war insurance rates on account of these rumors. While nothing confirmatory of the existence of the raiders has been considered of sufficient importance for the navy department to begin an investigation, many warships of high speed, mostly small cruisers, have been detailed for patrol duty in the neighborhood of Singapore, Penang and other points on the Indian ocean routes.

ANOTHER BILLION FOR WAR FROM BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The parliamentary papers today announce that the government will ask a supplemental vote of credit for 200,000,000 pounds for war expenses to March 31, and also a vote of credit of 350,000,000 pounds as a first installment of the amount required for the year ending in March of 1918.

25,000 RECRUITS FOR U. S. NAVY NEEDED AT ONCE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Navy recruiting agents have been instructed to immediately enlist 25,000 additional men.

While the current naval bill authorized a peace strength of 74,000 men, it carried appropriations for considerably less than that number since the department had estimated that in the normal course of events not more than 10,000 recruits above the number necessary to replace men discharged could be found.

Officials have been encouraged by retraining returns during the winter months, however, which have brought the actual strength up to nearly 53,000 men already.

In the event of war, probably the first act of the president will be to authorize the enlistment of the maximum war time strength of 87,000 men. Probably this could be quickly accomplished by a provision in the department's regulations permitting volunteers to enlist for duration of the war and not binding them to a full enlistment in times of peace.

In the war department steps are under consideration for hurrying organization of the officers' B reserve corps. Less than 1,000 men have been commissioned so far, although approximately 50,000 would be required for a volunteer army of 500,000 men. An official statement issued today calls attention to the classes of men eligible for commissions and urges that "there is no reason why eligible men should hesitate to apply for commissions on account of being only or even deficient in technical military matters." It says personality and probable efficiency of the individuals are given greater weight by examining officers. The establishment of examining boards in every city or town where a fair number of applicants come forward is no wailing consideration.

ASKS REFERENDUM BEFORE A WAR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—A resolution, calling for a popular referendum before a declaration of war or act of war except in case of insurrection or invasion, was introduced today by Representative Callaway of Texas, "by request," following a conference with several of his colleagues.

TWO BIG LINERS NOW OVERDUE BRITISH PORTS

No Word Heard From Baltic and Saxonia—Possibly Made Detour—Three Norwegian and One British Ships Sunk by Submarine Today—Shippers' Problem Serious.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—Shipping circles still lacked news this afternoon of the safe arrival of the British passenger liners Baltic and Saxonia, now due to have reached British ports from New York. Officials of the White Star and Cunard line said, however, they believed they would have been advised if the liners had met with mishap and pointed to the fact that the British censor has been withholding reports on the movements of ships. It was possible also that both vessels may have made a detour, they said, which would lengthen their voyages.

With the sailing of other ships for European ports delayed on account of the international situation, freight export was beginning to accumulate here, but it was said the situation was not serious.

Norwegian Ships Sunk

QUETNSSTOWN, Feb. 9.—The Norwegian ship Storog of 2,191 tons gross, was sunk yesterday by a German submarine. The crew was aboard when a steamer appeared and the undersea boat submerged. The chief officer and carpenter were the only ones able to return to the ship's boat and they were picked up by the steamer.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Lloyd's Shipping agency this afternoon announced the Norwegian steamship Hansknek, formerly the American steamer Satilla of 2,667 tons gross, has been sunk.

The Norwegian steamship Hansknek was last reported in available shipping records as leaving New York December 31, bound for Rotterdam. She was 299 feet long and 41 feet wide. She was built at Quincy, Mass., in 1906.

Two More Victims

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The Norwegian steamship Ida of 1,172 tons, has been sunk by a German submarine. Surviving members of the crew were landed today. The captain stated that the chief mate and the steward were killed while on deck by gunfire, the submarine firing continuously without warning until the vessel sank.

The Norwegian steamship Ida was built at Aberdeen in 1883. She was 239 feet long and had a beam of 32 feet.

The British steamship Hanna Larsen, 1,319 tons gross, has been sunk by a submarine. Her captain and chief engineer were taken prisoner. The remainder of the crew were landed.

The Hanna Larsen was 245 feet long and was built in 1903 at Flensburg. Originally German, her registry was changed to British when she was requisitioned by the British admiralty while interned at a British port.

GERMANY SOUNDED NEUTRALS IN ADVANCE

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 8.—Germany was satisfied in advance that the European neutrals would not take action of a radical nature against her because of the launching of her new submarine campaign, according to a statement attributed by the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin to Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier.

Premier Tisza, says the newspaper, told his followers that before Germany announced her ruthless submarine campaign the central powers sounded the European neutrals and satisfied themselves that these neutrals would undertake no warlike action against the central powers.