

FORECAST
Rain or Snow Tomorrow;
Warmer Tonight.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

WEATHER
Max. Yesterday 45; Min.
Today 30; Precip. .30.

Forty-sixth Year.
Daily—Eleventh Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1917.

NO. 288

PRESIDENT ASKS CONGRESS FOR POWER

BIG CUNARDER LACONIA SUNK OFF BRITISH COAST

WILSON ASKS AUTHORITY TO USE ARMY AND NAVY FOR ARMED NEUTRALITY

Congress Hears Appeal by President for Authority to Place United States in Position to Resist Submarine Menace—Continued Invasion of Neutral Rights and Intolerable Blockade of American Commerce Have Taken Place of Quot Act.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace.

Continued invasion of the plain rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effectual as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act" which was expected to shock the world—and have forced the president into the next step toward war.

Arming of Ships.
President Wilson in asking to be empowered to take such steps as are necessary, which includes the arming of ships, the conveying of merchantmen by war vessels, made plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights, or by driving the American flag from the seas.

News of the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia with Americans aboard was received here as the president was on his way to address congress. Although without details, its grave possibilities added emphasis to the president's words.

With a full realization of the solemnity of the occasion, the president took his action today with the calm confidence that congress and the country will stand behind him.

The grim-faced body of senators and representatives heard in tense silence and grave attention the words which carry the American republic a step further in its stand against ruthless sacrifice of neutral rights and lives and a step nearer war, if it must be.

Still Hopes for Peace.
Devoutly expressing the hope that it would not become necessary to "put armed force into action," the president specifically asked for authority to supply American merchant ships with defensive arms "with the means of using them," and to "employ any other instrumentalities" as well as a "sufficient credit" to enable him to provide "adequate means of protection."

This, without being specific in terms, was a request for the use of the army and navy and the necessary money to make them effective.

Behind the rights of Americans, the president declared, he was thinking of the rights of humanity, but through it all, he proclaimed to the world a policy of peace, if peace be possible. He disclaimed thinking of war or steps that might lead to it, and declared that the American people wanted to exercise none but the rights of peace.

Resolution Introduced.
"No course of my choosing, or of
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AMERICAN LINERS PREPARE TO ARM

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—If President Wilson is authorized by congress to arm ships to protect American merchantmen on the high seas, the American line steamships tied up here will resume sailings as soon as guns can be provided, it was stated by the line's officials here today.

President in Speech Hopes That It Will Not Be Necessary to Put Armed Force into Action—President Asks Authority for Arming American Ships and Employing Any Other Instrumentalities to Enable Him to Provide Protection.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—President Wilson arrived at the capitol just before one o'clock. He spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen of the congress: I have again asked the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical times during which it seems to me to be my duty to keep in close touch with the house of congress so that neither counsel, nor action shall run at cross purposes between us.

"On the third of February, I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the imperial German government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to this government in April last and undertake immediately the submarine operations against all commerce whether of belligerents or of neutrals, that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe or the harbors of the Eastern Mediterranean and to conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice, without regard to any considerations of humanity which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice. It has now been in active execution for nearly four weeks.

Results in Doubt.
"Its practical results are not fully disclosed. The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely but not, perhaps, very much more severely than it was already suffering before the first of February when the new policy of the imperial government was put into operation. We have asked the co-operation of the other neutral governments to prevent these depredations, but I fear none of them thought it wise to join us in any common course of action. Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering, rather in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timidly keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk.

"Two American vessels have been sunk, the Housatonic, and the Loran M. Law. The case of the Housatonic, which was carrying foodstuffs consigned to London, was essentially like the case of the Frye in which, it will be recalled, the German government admitted its liability for damages and the lives of the crew, as in the case of the Frye, were safeguarded with reasonable care.

Ruthlessness of Method.
"The case of the Law, which was
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SOUTH AMERICA OFFER MEDIATION

BUENOS AIRES, Argentine Republic, Feb. 26.—According to La Nacion, the Argentine government is endeavoring to bring about joint action by the Latin-American republics in offering mediation for ending the war. The United States will not be asked to take part because of its rupture with Germany. Negotiations with the diplomatic representatives here of the other Latin-American republics will be initiated by Argentine, the newspaper says.

TO ARMS!



PRESIDENT GIVES SENATE DRAFT OF WHAT HE DESIRES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—When the president was at the capitol it was learned late today, he gave Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee a draft of his idea of what the resolution to be adopted by congress should be. The resolution was broad and embodied exactly what the president proposed to congress.

A copy of the draft also was given to Senator Oliver. It would authorize the president to supply and man guns for merchant ships, give general authority to "employ any other instrumentality that may be necessary" and provide for a special bond issue of \$100,000,000.

Sentiment generally in the house seems to be that if the legislation proposed limits the president to arming ships or supplying convoys, it will carry. Republicans particularly, however, oppose an attempt that might be made to give the president blanket authority which would involve the country in war. Chairman Flood said that his bill would meet this objection. The president, he believes, has no desire to be entrusted with power to make war.

FIVE BILLIONS FOR BRITISH WAR LOAN

LONDON, Feb. 26.—In the house of commons today, Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced that the total of applications for the war loan, treasury bills and war savings certificates during the period of the war loans applications was 1,000,312,350 pounds new money.

FIVE MILLION TONS SHIPPING DESTROYED

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—Merchant shipping aggregating 4,998,800 tons, belonging to entente and neutral nations, has been destroyed or condemned as prizes by the central powers since the beginning of the war, it was officially announced today.

GERMAN WARSHIPS BOMBARD BRITISH WATERING PLACES

LONDON, Feb. 26.—German destroyers bombarded Broadstairs and Margate early this morning. One woman and one child were killed and two persons were injured. Two houses were damaged. This announcement was made in the house of commons today by Sir Edward Carson, first lord of the admiralty.

Margate is one of the most popular watering places of England. It is situated on the east coast of the Isle of Thanet, in the North sea, a few miles from the North Foreland and eighty miles southeast of London. It has a population of about twenty four thousand.

Broadstairs is also an English watering place on the east coast of the Isle of Thanet. It is two miles north-east of Ramsgate and has a population of about 5,000.

Sir Edward Carson said that one of four British torpedo boat destroyers on patrol duty in the English channel last night encountered several German destroyers and a short engagement ensued. The British destroyer was not damaged though she was under heavy gun and torpedo fire.

The German vessels were lost sight of, the first lord said, but in the darkness another force of German destroyers bombarded the undefended parts of Broadstairs and Margate.

British light forces in the vicinity closed in on the German warships, which only remained a short time, he added, and were gone before the approach of the British vessels.

The following official account of the raid was issued by Field Marshal Viscount French, commander in chief of the home forces:

"Some enemy torpedo boat destroyers approached the Kentish coast at 11:15 o'clock last night and fired a number of shells at the undefended towns of Broadstairs and Margate. The fire was continued for about two minutes. The material damage caused was slight. One occupied and one unoccupied house were wrecked and about ten houses were damaged. It is regretted, however, that one woman and one child were killed and two others seriously injured.

Representative Hon Sheldon has returned from Salem and Portland.

BRITISH CAPTURE CUT-EL-AMARA FROM THE TURKS

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Cut-el-Amara has been captured from the Turks by the British forces, according to a statement made in the house of commons today by Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war cabinet. The Turks are in retreat toward Bagdad, 24 miles to the west of Kut-el-Amara, pursued by British cavalry.

Kut-el-Amara, a strategic military position on the Tigris river leading to Bagdad, was surrendered to the British April 28, 1916, after General Townshend with a British force of some 9000 troops had withstood a siege since the previous December.

Mr. Bonar Law announced that as a result of the operations on the Tigris river front all of the Turkish positions from Samarra to Kut-el-Amara have been secured and that the town of Kut-el-Amara automatically passed into the hands of the British.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—According to the official news agency at Constantinople, the losses of the British in the recent fighting along the Tigris exceed 30,000 men. Several steamships crowded with wounded British soldiers have been sent away, the news agency says.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 26.—The war office today announced withdrawal of the forces at Kut-el-Amara. The announcement follows:

"According to a prearranged plan and in order to effect a junction with reinforcements which have arrived, our troops which have held for a year advanced positions at Kut-el-Amara, as well as positions to the east and west of the town, have been withdrawn to the rear in an easterly direction. The movement was entirely unopposed by the enemy."

BOHEMIAN LEGION TO SERVE UNCLE SAM

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Members of the "Sokol Union of America," a Bohemian organization of gymnasts, 12,000 in number, many of whom have had physical training, today were called on to report to their district officers with a view to forming a Sokol legion to be ready for service should President Wilson call for volunteers.

NO WARNING GIVEN TO LINER WHEN TORPEDOED; 26 AMERICANS ABOARD

Laconia, 18,000 Tons, One of Largest Vessels of Cunard Fleet, Sunk at Sea Sunday Night—Sailed From New York February 18 for Liverpool—278 Survivors Land—Details Lacking—One Known Dead and Some Missing—Carried War Supplies, But No Explosives—Six American Passengers and Twenty Americans in Crew—5000 Sacks of Mail, Containing Many Valuables, Aboard—75 Passengers and 216 in Crew—None in Steerage—Is Largest Vessel Sunk Since Warfare Began.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Twenty Americans, all native born, were members of the crew of the Laconia.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—It is stated officially that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning.

QUEENSTOWN, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line steamship Laconia, of 18,000 tons gross, which sailed from New York, February 18, for Liverpool, has been sunk.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, telegraphed the American embassy here today:

"Cunarder Laconia torpedoed 10:20 Sunday night. Two hundred and seventy-eight survivors landed. Details lacking, but known some missing, one dead."

Sinking Confirmed.
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line announced at 1:36 p.m. that they had received confirmation from the British admiralty of the destruction of the Laconia, and that their advisers stated there was only one casualty thus far known. She was torpedoed last night, the line announced.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Five thousand sacks of United States mail were carried by the Laconia, of which 1300 were transferred from the American liner St. Louis when it was decided to hold the latter vessel in port. Many valuable securities and documents sent by American business firms were supposed to be in the St. Louis mail bags.

The Laconia was one of the largest vessels of the Cunard fleet and the largest thus far sunk since the new German submarine warfare was commenced. She registered 18,000 tons.

Among the passengers on the Laconia were Mr. and Mrs. G. Boston of Liverpool. Mrs. Boston is a sister of Mrs. Corning Kenley of Medford. They were on their return home from a business and social visit in the United States.

FOOD RIOTING IN NEW YORK RESUMED

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Food rioting broke out again here today on the East Side. Police reserves were called out to disperse several hundred women who attacked a vegetable wagon and started to dump barrels of potatoes and onions into the street. The women were resisted by the owner, who drew a revolver and threatened to shoot. He was arrested and was followed to the police station by a menacing crowd of women.

OAKLAND WHITE SLAVE CASE IS DISMISSED

OAKLAND, Calif., Feb. 26.—Madame Pauline Polish alias Pearl Samsborn, formerly of Helena, Mont., charged with alleged attempt to induce Mrs. Pearl Balthus to enter San Francisco night life, was dismissed today for lack of evidence.

FOURTEEN KILLED WHEN FRENCH AIRSHIP IS STRUCK

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—Fourteen men were killed by the destruction of the French airship reported in yesterday's official communication to have been brought down by the German defense fire.

PUBLISHERS ACCEPT COMMISSION'S OFFER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Newsprint publishers from throughout the United States, meeting here today with the federal trade commission, voted unanimously to co-operate with the commission in its endeavor to accept the proposal by news print manufacturers that the commission fix a price for their products. The publishers agreed to reduce their requirements if necessary to make the plan successful.

AMERICAN FREIGHTER PASSES WAR ZONE

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The American freighter Orleans has entered the mouth of the Gironde, according to a Bordeaux dispatch to the Havas agency.

The Orleans and the freighter Rochester were the first American vessels to leave the United States for Europe after diplomatic relations with Germany were severed.