

# ASK NEUTRALS TO JOIN U. S. IN ARMED POLICY

### Policy of Armed Neutrality Described as Military Measures for Defending Rights of Neutrals Against Infringements by Belligerents—Other Nations Will Probably Be Asked.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Armed neutrality is described by authorities on international law as military measures for the purpose of defending rights of neutrals against threatening infringements on the part of a belligerent. It has generally concerned more than one power and the most striking historical instances of armed neutrals were those of the northern European powers in 1793 and 1806, made to defend the principle of free ships and free goods adopted by treaty between the Baltic powers and opposed by England.

"If the commercial interests of several nations," says one authority, "are threatened by unjust or unlawful measures on the part of a belligerent, which they deem unjust or a menace to their rights, there can be no question of their right to adopt such means as seem to be necessary."

Armed neutrality, in fact, an alliance of several powers, usually of a defensive character, though this is by no means essential.

During the present war Holland and Switzerland have maintained what amounts to an armed neutrality although it has been confined to land.

When war broke out between France and Spain and France and Great Britain, neutrals became alarmed at the dangers with which the maritime rights were threatened and the empress of Russia undertook to unite them in defense of their neutral rights. This formed the basis for treaties between Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Austria and Portugal. They formed a league, which under the name of armed neutrality undertook to preserve inviolate the maritime rights of neutrals. These declarations were recognized by the treaty of peace between Great Britain and France and were the established law of nations when the United States in 1783, was recognized as an independent by the powers of the world.

May Ask Co-Operation. While there was no indication that President Wilson was intending to ask other neutrals to join the United States in armed neutrality, the fact that he already had invited them to join this country in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany aroused some speculation as to whether he might not ask neutrals to join with the United States in the latest move. It was recognized that there was ample historic precedent for such action and that the situation of other neutrals gave it additional probability. Holland, Norway, and Spain especially with their merchant marine being rapidly destroyed, it was pointed out, might consider joining with the United States.

The last time the United States was in a state of armed neutrality was during the war between France and England, which ended with the downfall of Napoleon.

ASHLAND TEAM IS ON HIGH HORSE Because the Ashland school board ruled that members of the high school basketball team should not frequent pool rooms as long as they represent the school, the basketball team has gone on a strike and it is probable that the Medford-Ashland games will be called off, or delayed. The edict of the school board, according to reports brought to this city, ruffled up the personal liberty feathers of the athletes, and some of the other students. Now some who never went into pool halls go.

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thems," said he, "will lead to war. War can come only by the willful acts and aggressions of others."

Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee announced he would introduce late today a bill granting power to the president to arm ships and all other authority necessary.

From republicans and democrats, who have been pressing for forward action in the situation there were vigorous nods of approval. The element classed as pacifist heard the address in silence and when it was over, refrained from expressions, saying they were "thinking."

To the very end of the address there was no applause, but when it was concluded, there was a storm of cheering and handclapping.

# WILSON IN SPEECH TO CONGRESS ASKS ARMED NEUTRALITY

(Continued From Page One.)

carrying lemon boy stays to Palermo disclosed a ruthlessness of method, which deserves grave condemnation, but was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time in connection with the use of the submarine against merchantmen as the German government has used it.

"I am, therefore, the situation we find ourselves in with regard to the actual conduct of the German submarine warfare against commerce and its effects upon our own ships and people is substantially the same as it was when I addressed you on the third of February, except for the ring-up of our shipping in our own ports because of the unwillingness of our ship-owners to risk their vessels at sea without insurance or adequate protection and the very serious congestion of our commerce which has resulted, a congestion which is growing more and more serious every day.

"This, in itself might presently accomplish, in effect, what the new German submarine orders were meant to accomplish, so far as we are concerned. We can only say, therefore, that the overt act, which I have ventured to hope the German commanders would in fact avoid, has not occurred.

German Intentions. "But while this is happily true, it must be admitted that there have been certain additional indications and expressions of purpose on the part of the German press and the German authorities which have increased, rather than lessened the impression that, if our ships and our people are spared it will be because of fortunate circumstances or because the commanders of the German submarines which they may happen to encounter, exercise an unexpected discretion and restraint, rather than because of the instructions under which those commanders are acting.

"It would be foolish to deny that the situation is fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers. No thoughtful man can fail to see that the necessity for definite action may come at any time, if we are in fact, and not in word merely, to defend our elementary rights as a neutral nation. It would be most imprudent to be unprepared.

"I cannot, in such circumstances, be unmindful of the fact that the exploration of the term of the present congress is immediately at hand, by constitutional limitations and that it would in all likelihood require an unusual length of time to assemble and organize the congress which is to succeed it.

"I feel that I ought, in view of that fact, obtain from you full and

(immediate assurance of the authority which I may need at any moment to exercise. No doubt I already possess that power without special warrant of war, by the plain implication of my constitutional duties and powers; but I prefer, in the present circumstances, not to act upon general implication. I wish to feel that the authority and the power in the congress are behind me in whatever it may become necessary for me to do. We are jointly the servants of the people and must act together and in their spirit so far as we can define and interpret it.

"No one doubts what it is our duty to do. We must defend our commerce and the lives of our people in the midst of the present trying circumstances, with discretion, but with clear and steadfast purpose. Only the method and the extent remain to be chosen, upon the occasion, if occasion should indeed arise.

"Since it has unhappily proved impossible to safeguard our neutral rights by diplomatic means against the unwarranted infringements they are suffering at the hands of Germany, there may be no recourse but to armed neutrality, which we shall know how to maintain and for which there is abundant American precedent.

Still Seeks Peace. "It is devoutly to be hoped that it will not be necessary to put armed force anywhere into action, and our desire is not different from theirs. I am sure that they will understand the spirit in which I am now acting, the purpose I hold nearest my heart and would wish to exhibit in everything I do. I am anxious that the people of the nations at war also should understand and not mistrust us. I hope that I need give no further proofs and assurances than I have already given throughout nearly three years of anxious patience that I am the friend of peace and mean to preserve it for America so long as I am able.

I am not now proposing or contemplating war or any steps that need lead to it. I merely request that you will accord me by your own vote and definite bestowal, the means and the authority to safeguard in practice the right of a great people, who are at peace, and who are desirous of exercising none but the rights of peace to follow the pursuit of peace in quietness and good will—rights recognized time out of mind by all the civilized nations of the world. No course of my choosing or of theirs will lead to war. War can come only by the willful acts and aggressions of others.

Asks for Authority. "You will know why I can make no definite proposals or forecasts of action now and must ask for your supporting authority in the most crucial terms. The form in which action may become necessary cannot yet be foreseen. I believe that the people will be willing to trust me to act with restraint, with prudence and in the true spirit of amity and good faith that they have themselves displayed throughout these trying months, and it is in that belief that

# PRESIDENT'S FIGHTING FACE



PRESIDENT WILSON

I request that you will authorize me to supply our merchant ships with defensive arms should that become necessary and with the means of using them and to employ any other instrumentalities or methods that may be necessary or adequate to protect our ships and our people in their legitimate and peaceful pursuits on the seas. I request also that you will grant me at the same time, along with the powers I ask, a sufficient credit to enable me to provide adequate means of protection where they are lacking, including adequate insurance against the present war risks.

For Human Rights. "I have spoken of our commerce and of the legislative errands of our people of the seas but you will not be misled as to my main thought, the thought that lies beneath these phrases and gives them dignity and weight. It is not of material interest merely that we are thinking. It is rather, of fundamental human rights, chief of all the right of life itself. I am thinking not only of the rights of Americans to go and come about their proper business by way of the seas but of something much deeper, much more fundamental than that. I am thinking of those rights of humanity without which there is no civilization. My theme is of those great principles of compassion and of protection which mankind has sought

to throw about human lives, the lives of non-combatants, the lives of men who are peacefully at work keeping the industrial processes of the world quick and vital, the lives of women and children and of those who supply the labor which ministers to their sustenance. We are speaking of no selfish material rights but of rights which our hearts support and whose foundation is that righteous passion for justice upon which all law, all structures alike of family, of state and of mankind, must rest, as upon the ultimate base of our existence and our liberty. I cannot imagine any man with American principles at his heart hesitating to defend these things."

BOSTON EDITOR SPEAKS AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. C. Hamilton of Boston, Mass., associate editor of the Christian Endeavor World, and of international reputation in Christian Endeavor circles, will speak to the young people of Medford at the Presbyterian church tomorrow evening at 7:30. The young people's union of the city have been invited to unite in this service. Jacksonville, Phoenix, and Central Point will send large delegations. A banquet in Dr. Hamilton's honor will be served at 8:30. All young people should hear him. Everybody, all ages, made welcome.

# CHAMPIONSHIP OF SOUTHERN OREGON SETTLED TONIGHT

Medford basketball fans tonight will witness the final game of the series of three games with Roseburg, tonight's game to decide the championship of Southern Oregon. This is the first time in the history of Medford high school athletics that Medford has had even a chance at winning the basketball championship. The backing of every local fan will be needed to bring the coveted honor to Medford.

Tonight's game will be a fight from the first blast of the referee's whistle to the blowing of time. In team play, accuracy and understanding of the game the teams are evenly matched. Fight and stamina will decide the contest. From this standpoint Medford would seem to have a little the better of her opponents. Roseburg Saturday night defeated the Ashland Armory quintette 20-11. Although the visitors saved themselves as much as possible, the contest undoubtedly took away much of their pep.

Roseburg captured the first game of the series last Thursday night by a score of 28-14. Friday night Medford came back and in the fastest, hardest fought game ever seen on a Southern Oregon floor, defeated the visitors 21-17.

The same lineup will be used in the game tonight that was seen in action last week. Jones and Williamson will play forward, Brandon center and Wallace and Young guards.

A record crowd is expected to be present, judging from the interest displayed by fans and from the advance sale which is the heaviest of the season.

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—Mrs. G. O. LOWERY, 911 S. Barrett Ave., Dennison, Texas.

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