

FORECAST
Tonight and Tomorrow
PROBABLY FAIR.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

WEATHER
Max. Yesterday 41; Min.
Today 28; Precip. .05.

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1917

NO. 289

FOUR AMERICANS ON LACONIA LOSE LIFE

DESTRUCTION OF LACONIA "OVERT ACT"

Sinking of Cunarder Without Warning With Loss of American Lives Regarded as Clear-Cut Violation of American Rights by President—Action, However, Awaits Decision of Congress—First Step is to Furnish American Ships With Guns.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The sinking of the Laconia with the loss of American lives is looked upon by the American government as a clear-cut violation of American rights, according to an authoritative expression of opinion obtained after a conference of President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. No further investigation is considered necessary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Official dispatches confirming reports of the death of Americans on the Laconia torpedoed without warning, establish the case as "the overt act."

The situation, however, was unchanged from where the president left it yesterday, when he asked congress for authority to deal with the submarine peril.

President Wilson and state department officials took the position that no further step would be taken until congress has had an opportunity to act on the president's request.

The view prevailed that the sinking of the Laconia should hasten action by congress. The first step of the government, it is indicated, will be to furnish American ships with guns and gunners for defensive purposes and insure them in the government war risk bureau.

On the basis of the official reports, the sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case in principle, even though fewer lives were lost.

President Wilson, it was said today, is opposed to calling an extra session of congress, unless it is absolutely necessary. Word has been conveyed to him that the republicans may filibuster in an effort to force an extra session, but he is hopeful that this intention will not be carried out.

President Objects.
After today's cabinet meeting it became known that the administration will oppose any vital change in the proposed legislation to authorize President Wilson to protect American lives and rights.

The administration expects that while a number of changes may be suggested, the bill as now framed will be adopted by both houses without material alteration.

LACONIA SUNK BY 2 TORPEDOES IN HEAVY SEA

No Effort at Rescue Made by Submarine—Thirteen Boats Launched, One of Which, Containing Hoys, Was Swamped—Gale Blowing and Swells Twelve Feet High.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Wesley Frost, the American consul at Cork, has sent to the American embassy here the following report regarding the sinking of the Laconia:
"The Laconia was torpedoed without warning at 10:30 p. m. in a heavy sea while the ship was making 17 knots. The first torpedo struck on the starboard side of the engine room. The engines stopped and the ship turned, listing to starboard. Most of the boats were launched from the starboard side.

"Twenty minutes later, after most of the boats were clear, a second torpedo was fired, striking the engines on the port side. The ship sank forty-five minutes after the firing of the first torpedo.

"The ship was armed with two 7-inch guns. The ship's wireless was kept in continual action until the last minute. Skyrockets also were sent up and all the lifeboats were equipped with an ample supply of flares. The cargo consisted of cotton and food-stuffs.

"The submarine was not seen from the Laconia, but after the second torpedo had been fired and the boats launched a submarine appeared on the surface, came alongside the boat containing the second officer and asked for the captain.

"The submarine commander told the people in the second officer's boat that a British admiralty patrol had caught the Laconia's wireless and was coming to the scene. The submarine made no offer of aid and submerged immediately after.

"Thirteen boats were launched from the Laconia. The Hoys (Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, Chicago) were in No. 8, which was swamped, its life-belted passengers being picked up by other boats, but who suffered severely as the result of exposure in the cold water.

"The boats, after leaving the Laconia, had to scatter rather widely in order to avoid the danger of collision in the twelve-foot swells which were running. Flares were kept alight by most of the boats during the five hours of anxious waiting for the patrol to arrive. The patrol began picking up the boats at 4 o'clock in the morning, but had not finished until daylight."

FOUR AMERICANS AMONG 13 DEAD LINER LACONIA

Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Daughter, Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, Die From Exposure and Are Buried at Sea—Total Loss of Life Thirteen, 281 Landed.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Cunard company gives the following names of the Laconia's passengers missing and supposed to have been lost:
Mrs. Mary Hoy,
Miss Elizabeth Hoy,
C. P. Ivatts,
William J. Robinson,
Dr. Fortunat Zydel,
William Eva,
The first three were Americans. Four members of the crew are also given as missing.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—American Consul Frost at Queenstown reports that an American, Thomas Cassey, colored, a member of the Laconia's crew, was among the lost. He was the only American member of the crew that perished.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The following dispatch from Consul Frost at Queenstown, dated at 11:15 o'clock last night, was received today at the state department:

"Two American ladies dead of exposure and bodies buried at sea from Laconia, namely, Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago. Four Americans saved—F. P. Gibbons, Chicago Tribune; Mrs. E. E. Harris, wife of Colonel Harris, U. S. A., Fort DuPont; Arthur E. Kirby, Upper New York state, and Father Waring of St. Joseph's Seminary, Baltimore.

"Laconia torpedoed without warning 10:30 p. m. February 25, 150 miles west of Fastnet, Ireland, heavy swells not breaking, fair breeze.

Two Torpedoes.

"Laconia carried 47 min invisible at night. Second torpedo twenty minutes after first. Thirteen boats got away, of which number eight with Hoy ladies was lost. Wireless had been sent out. Boats picked up admiralty patrol 4 a. m. February 26. Cargo cotton, food-stuffs and no explosive munitions. Apparently eight deaths out of 335 on board. Two hundred and sixty crew and seventy-five passengers, including many women and children.

"Ship sank in about forty-five minutes from time of first torpedo. Had fired six rockets which were seen by..."

(Continued on Page Six.)

FRENCH LINER CAPTAIN WHO SANK U-BOAT WITH ONE SHOT



Capt. Rousselot of the French liner Guayane is here shown, also the gun with which he sank a U-boat off the coast of France, January 22. The Guayane arrived at New York from Bordeaux. After a torpedo from the U-boat had missed the liner, one shot from the gun at the stern sank the submarine.

FOOD FAMINE AND LABOR STRIKE IN PORTO RICO

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Feb. 26 (correspondence of the Associated Press).—So serious is the question of food supply in Porto Rico that Governor Yagor this week called together the sugar and other large planters of the island and urged them to devote a portion of their lands already under cultivation to the raising of beans and other vegetables and fruits for home consumption.

Practically all of the commercial crops of the island, including sugar, tobacco, coffee and fruits, are grown for export.

Today, one week after the calling of the first agricultural strike of the season there are 25,000 cane field employes out, according to the police, who report that five sugar centrals, most of them in the eastern part of the island, are now closed. So far there have been no disorders, according to the police.

The strikers are demanding \$1 and an eight-hour day, the same demand made by them last year. Last year they compromised after an increase had been granted them.

FINAL PASSAGE BONE DRY BILL NOW IN DOUBT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Final passage of the postoffice appropriation bill with the Reed "bone dry" prohibition amendment seemed today in grave doubt.

Conferees on the bill were unable to break their deadlock on the senate amendment directing the postmaster general to renew pneumatic mail tube contracts in large cities for another year.

Opponents of the "bone dry" amendment are jubilant and their hope for its failure is encouraged by the fact that its passage is not absolutely essential.

Postal appropriations have failed in the past and existing appropriations have been continued by resolution.

\$100 A MONTH PENSION TO FUNSTON'S WIDOW

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—A bill granting a pension of \$100 a month to the widow of the late Major General Frederick Funston was passed today by the senate.

SAYS U. S. BREAK WITH GERMANY UNPRECEDENTED

German Chancellor Declares That He Knows No Reason Why the United States Should Sever Diplomatic Relations—Says Old Principles in America Overthrown Since War.

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's address to the reichstag, postponed from last week, was delivered today. The chancellor said:

"While our soldiers on the front stand in the drum fire of the trenches and our submarines, defying death, hasten through the seas, while we at home have no other—absolutely no other—task but to produce cannon, ammunition and food and to distribute victuals with justice; in the midst of this struggle for life and for the future of our empire, intensified to the extreme, there is only one necessity of the day which dominates all questions of policy, both foreign and domestic—to fight and gain victory."

"To terminate the war by the lasting peace which will grant us reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantee the existence and future of a strong Germany—that is our aim—nothing less and nothing more."

Submarine Warfare.
The chancellor then turned to the establishment of the barred zones around England, France and Italy, and to the answers received from neutrals to the communication made by the neutral powers. He said:

"We by no means underestimate the difficulties caused to neutral shipping and we therefore try to alleviate them as much as possible. For this purpose we made an attempt to supply raw materials such as coal and iron, needed by them, to neutral states within the boundaries of our sea forces. But we also know that all these difficulties, after all, are caused only by England's tyranny of the seas. We will and shall, break this enslavement of all non-English trade. We meet half way all wishes of neutrals that can be complied with. But in the endeavor to do so we never can go beyond the limits imposed upon us by the irrevocable decision to reach the aim of the establishment of the barred zone.

"I am sure that later the moment will come when neutrals themselves will thank us for our firmness, for the freedom of the seas, which we gain by fighting is of advantage to them also."

United States Break.
"One step further than taken by European neutrals has been made—as is known—by the United States of America. President Wilson, after receiving our note on January 31, brusquely broke off relations with us. No authentic communication about the reasons which were given for his steps reached me. The former United States ambassador here in Berlin communicated only in spoken words to the state secretary of the foreign..."

(Continued on Page Two.)

SENATE BILL AUTHORIZES SHIPSTOARM

Foreign Relations Committee Agrees Upon Measure to Give President Authority to Supply Merchant Ships With Arms and Gunners—Also Empowers President to Use "Other Instrumentalities" as Asked—Opposition Materializes.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The senate foreign relations committee late today agreed upon a bill to give the president authority to supply merchant ships with arms and gunners and to use other means necessary to handle developments in the submarine situation. A motion to "direct" the president to arm the ships was voted down.

The bill as framed by the committee follows the precedent of 1819, empowering commanders of merchant vessels to arm for their own defense and authorizing the president to supply the means for arming vessels fore and aft for defensive purposes.

The senate bill empowers the president to use "other instrumentalities," as he asked.

This feature is expected to meet some opposition. Two democrats and two republicans voted against it in committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—While details of the deaths of four or more Americans in the unwarred destruction of the Laconia began coming in today, the opposition in congress to giving President Wilson the broad authority to deal with the submarine menace began taking definite form and showed considerable strength.

At the white house it was made known authoritatively that the destruction of the Laconia was a clear-cut and ruthless violation of American rights and a demonstration of what might be expected in the future, of sufficient force to hurry congress into clothing the president with full authority to meet the peril.

Limit the President.

Nevertheless, the house foreign affairs committee, after debating the Flood bill, which has the backing of the president, decided that the broad powers to be conferred by the use of the phrase "other instrumentalities" should be modified and that the president should be limited to using the "naval forces of the United States, including the naval militia."

The senate foreign relations committee republicans, voted solidly against giving the president blanket authority and it was reported they drew support from three democrats, Senators Stone, Hitchcock and O'Gorman.

No formal action was taken in either committee and while the house committee was in adjournment until four o'clock this afternoon, Chairman Flood took to the white house proposed amendments, including one to prohibit arming of ships carrying munitions or contraband and the other to limit the president's authority.

Send Laconia Case.
Administration officials considered the attitude of congress in the fact of the Laconia case of sufficient importance to discuss sending an official report on the killing of these Americans to congress in some official way.

(Continued on Page Six.)

GEOGIC B. IVATTS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

RACINE, Wis., Feb. 27.—Representatives of local manufacturing establishments, for whom Geogic B. Ivatts, a victim of the Laconia disaster, acted as foreign representative, asserted today that Ivatts, although born in England, was a citizen of the United States, having taken out his citizenship papers.

ALLIES RAIDING GERMAN LINES

PARIS, Feb. 27.—"Southeast of Valley we entered the German lines and returned with prisoners," says today's official announcement. "There were patrol engagements in the region of Hexentaux and in the Vosges. Elsewhere calm prevails."

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—British troops yesterday many times attacked the German positions in front of Ypres, in Belgium, and the River Somme, says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff. Only at one place were the British successful in entering the German lines, at a point to the east of Arras, the statement adds, and there the British were ejected by a counter attack.

EXPLOSION OF MUNITION FACTORY KILLS 209

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—The Frankfurter Zeitung says it has received from a private source in France, by way of Switzerland, a report that more than 200 persons were killed and 700 wounded by an explosion of ammunition depots on February 2. According to this report, more than 30,000 tons of ammunition were destroyed.

FIRST PICTURE OF "WE WANT BREAD" RIOTS IN NEW YORK CITY



Women from the poor sections of New York, many carrying their babies, and protected against the cold by shawls, storming the city hall in protest against high food prices. "We want bread" was the cry of the women who claimed they and their children are starving.

GROCERY STORES LOCK OUT CLERKS

GREAT FALLS, Mont., Feb. 27.—About 500 men are out in Great Falls as a result of a lockout by the grocery stores of the city this morning, clerks reporting for work being informed that there was no work for them. Drivers of delivery wagons, both grocery and meat, delivered until noon today and were then told to lay off. All wholesale houses in the city shut down this morning and laid off employees. The lumber yards of the city announce they will close tomorrow. All contractors have closed work, although there was little doing in this line.

Construction upon the \$200,000 filtration plant of the city came to a sudden stop. In the grocery stores proprietors are working and state that they will continue to keep their stores open, as do meat shops, but people must come for their goods and wait their turn to be waited upon.

It is regarded as extremely possible that the lockout may involve several thousand instead of hundreds if settlement be not soon reached.