

THE NATIONAL CRISIS

THE sinking of the Lusitania furnishes the awaited "overt act" by Germany. It did not need this act, however, for Germany virtually declared war upon America when war was declared upon our shipping in defiance of international law.

For America to tamely submit to German demands; surrender national rights at German dictation, is national weakness and cowardice, which in the end means national humiliation, decay and death. For the United States to permit the wanton slaughter of inoffensive citizens of the republic to continue, to sanction the wanton destruction of American property on the high seas, is to assign our rights and hard-won liberties to the whim of the Prussian juggler.

Every patriotic American believes in his country, at least when it is right, and there is no question but that America is not only right, but represents human rights in opposing the piratical course of Germany. If our rights are worth while, we must be ready to fight for them—otherwise we will deservedly lose them.

If the president has erred in his course, it is on the side of caution. He has now asked congress to authorize the use of the army and navy to protect American lives and property against unlawful aggression at sea. He has asked congress to do what it did for Washington and Adams more than a century ago, to sustain America abroad and at home.

What is congress going to do? Play peanut and partisan politics in a time of national crisis? Sacrifice the honor and dignity of the United States to gain personal and selfish ends? It looks that way. Congress has not made much of a record for itself. It quibbles and scolds and sidesteps, and does not present the world the united front demanded from a united nation in national emergency.

Again we have the peace-at-any-price agitation, nation wide in its scope—that we have had at every crisis during the past two years. We had it when the president notified Germany that he would hold her to strict accountability if it torpedoed merchant ships without warning. We had it after the Lusitania was torpedoed, and a hundred Americans murdered in calculated defiance of the president's threat. We had it when the Sussex was torpedoed and many Americans slain. We had it when the conspiracy to dynamite American munition plants was traced to the doors of the German embassy.

There is no question but that this agitation was directly inspired by Berlin to neutralize the growing hostility towards Germany and scatter the nation along racial lines. It was the same policy pursued for years in England, Belgium, France, Russia and Serbia by Berlin in its efforts to divide the world as German spoils.

Now that Germany has virtually declared war upon the United States and is again ruthlessly murdering Americans upon the sea, the present peace-at-any-price agitation comes close to treason. Its object is to divide public sentiment and handicap the president in his efforts to protect American lives and property from German frightfulness, to create a division in congress that will either refuse the president the authority he asks, or grant it so grudgingly that he will hesitate to act, fearing that he will not be supported.

The peace-at-any-price agitators are not all working in German interests. There are many faddists and idealists among them. The Bryans, Bigdows, Pinchots and others are sincere, but so infatuated by pacifist ideas that they have lost sense of proportion and see only a distorted perspective. They cannot realize that the future safety of the nation depends upon manliness and vigor with which the president is supported, in whatever action Germany takes.

There is no surer way for any nation to be dragged into war than to advertise to other nations its weakness and cowardice. When congress hesitates to back up the president and peace-in-spite-of-national-outrage clamor is ringing through the country, it is opening the door for future aggression and oppression by those who know no law save necessity and force.

CUBAN REBELS DESTROY SUGAR CANE CROPS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Some extent destruction of sugar crops by Cuban rebels in the Oriente province was reported to the state department today by American Minister Roussier at Havana. It was the first case of such burning reported. With this exception, the rebels have confined their destruction to the cutting of railroads and the making of haystacks. Official information received by Minister Roussier was that the government forces were making a steady but slow progress toward restoration of order.

BERNSTORFF AND PARTY LEAVE HALIFAX TONIGHT

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 27.—Final arrangements were made today for the departure of the steamer Frederic VII, bearing Consul Van Buren, American minister, and a large party of Americans.

It was the general expectation that the steamer would start for Copenhagen tonight.

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JOHN A. PERL UNDERTAKER

COUNTY CLERK'S SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT For the Six Months Ending December 31, 1916

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES. General Fund. The only warrants drawn against the General Fund were for payment of salaries.

STATEMENT SHOWING OUTSTANDING WARRANTS DRAWN ON THE GENERAL COUNTY FUND OF JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, ALSO ACCUMULATED INTEREST THEREON ON DECEMBER 31st, 1916.

Current Expense Fund. July, August, September, October, November, December, Total.

County Salary Fund. July, August, September, October, November, December, Total.

County Advertising and Fair Fund. Warrants were drawn against this fund only during September, November and December.

Road Fund. District No. 1—Labor, District No. 2—Labor, District No. 3—Labor, District No. 4—Labor, District No. 5—Labor, District No. 6—Labor, District No. 7—Labor, District No. 8—Labor, District No. 9—Labor, District No. 10—Labor, District No. 11—Labor, District No. 12—Labor, District No. 13—Labor, District No. 14—Labor.

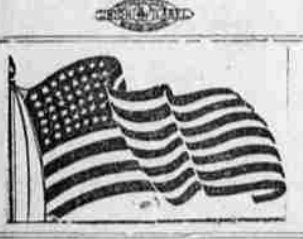
General Road. Labor, Material, State Valley Gold Hill Road, Medford-Jacksonville Road, Ashland-Rainier 1912 road tax, Bridge on Curvets, Eagle Point-Brownsville road, Repairing road roller, Power for Eagle Point rock crusher, Light for P and K crossing, Rent of road roller, Rock Creek road, Trip to Port, Ore. for Crater Lake Highway, Rent of shed for road machinery, Road damages, On bills paid, Publishing special road tax notice.

Total expenditures (Road Fund) for the six months ending December 31st, 1916, as per foregoing report. Total warrants issued (Road Fund) for the six months ending December 31st, 1916.

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EM-TEES

No man ruleth safely but that he is willingly ruled.—Thomas A. Kempis.

The flag hasn't been changed to suit the Kaiser, but the New York World's cartoonist has knocked out 23 of the stars.

Isn't it about time we had a navy big enough to enforce our own "freedom of the seas" against all comers?

Might let T. H. trounce Bulgaria while the rest of us prepare for war with the Germans.

"Red-headed girls are becoming more popular," remarks a western editor. Whaddya mean, becoming?

Uncle Sam's army just out of Mexico is the finest of its size on earth, according to a foreign expert. But a lion can't devour a herd of elephants.

The Atlantic Monthly believes in "writing down" its readers. It runs an explanatory note after using the term fifty-fifty.

PROHIBITIONISTS SEE PLOT TO AID DEMON RUM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Prohibition leaders in congress were up in arms over a report that the conferees on the postoffice appropriation bill were preparing to let the measure fall in order to bill the Reed "bone dry" amendment prohibiting the shipment of liquor into dry states. Representative Randall of California declared he had definite information that such a course had been planned. He and other prohibition champions said if the conferees reported a disagreement, and a resolution continuing the present postoffice appropriations were brought in, they would see to it that the Reed amendment went to the white house with the continuing resolution.

WAGON ROAD TO BLUE LEDGE AGAIN PASSABLE

Manager F. W. Carnahan of the Blue Ledge mine announced Monday night that the road to the Blue ledge had been opened after being tied up for a week, on account of storm conditions. A load of ore resolved Jacksonville Monday afternoon from the mine. The opening of the road will allow a number of miners in that city, Jacksonville and Grants Pass to go to the mine to begin work, also the shipping of supplies.

STANDARD OIL SEEKS INDEMNITY FROM GERMANY

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—The Standard Oil company will seek indemnity for the destruction of its oil properties in Rumania at the time of the German invasion of that country.

COMMUNICATION

To the Editors: To those who are responsible for the article in Monday's Mail Tribune about the rainfall, etc. for this month, will say that a full twenty-three inches will hit us and twenty-one inches in bottom third in my yard from Tuesday night until Friday (end of last week). It was entirely in the open, sunny from all days, roads, etc. Friday etc. It had collected a little over four inches of water.

W. M. YURD.

Siskiyou Heights, Feb. 27. (Editor's Note:—Mr. Yurd should get a rain gauge and then he can ascertain the difference in precipitation between his place and the Medford weather bureau, as measurement by tub is guesswork.)