

LIMIT POWER OF PRESIDENT IN EMERGENCY

Senate Not to Act Upon President's Request to Arm Ships Until House Votes—Flood Bill Recommended—Strikes Out Words "Other Instrumentalities" and Amends Insurance

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The house foreign affairs committee today reported the Flood bill, designed to give the president power to protect the lives of United States citizens and American ships, after striking out the words "other instrumentalities," and amending the measure to prohibit government war insurance for ships carrying munitions of war.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—That the senate will take no action on the armed neutrality bill until the house has passed the measure practically was assured today after a conference between Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, and Representative Mann, house republican leader. Mr. Mann declared the senate could not act on a bill providing for an issue of bonds until it had been passed by the house.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Senators and representatives today considered bills which will determine largely the future course of the United States in its relations toward Germany, daily becoming more serious.

No doubt remains in the minds of state department officials that the sudden night attack on the Laconia embodies an open defiance of the principles for which the United States government has contended, but it was said no additional step would be taken pending action by congress to grant President Wilson the authority he asks.

Fresh Exasperation.

Reports that the German government is now detaining the Yarwoodale prisoners on the excuse that an infectious disease has been discovered at the place where they are living were received here with a feeling of approaching exasperation. In addition to this irritating incident, it was disclosed that the state department feels a break in relations with Austria-Hungary is so inevitable that Ambassador Penfield at Vienna has been instructed to make all arrangements for withdrawal of American diplomats and consuls from the country.

House Measure.

As reported by the house committee, the bill would read: "The president of the United States be and is hereby authorized and empowered to supply merchant ships, the property of citizens of the United States and bearing registry of the United States, with defensive arms and also with the necessary ammunition and means of making use of them in defense against unlawful attack, and that he and is hereby authorized and empowered to protect such ships and the citizens of the United States against unlawful attack while their lawful respectful pursuits on the high seas."

This eliminates the provision which would have empowered the president to use such "other instrumentalities and methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate."

The bill would provide the \$100,000,000 bond issue and authorize the president to transfer some of the funds to the war risk insurance fund.

(Continued on Page Two.)

CONGRESS PROVIDES FOR FOOD INQUIRY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Over the protests of Chairman Fitzgerald of the appropriations committee, who declared the federal trade commissioner's investigation into the high cost of living was chasing a "will of the wisp," the house today voted the necessary appropriation of \$400,000 in the civil sundry bill on a roll call vote.

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH CAUSES HOT INDIGNATION

Washington Views Von Bethmann-Hollweg's Address to Reichstag With Amazement and Indignation—Trying to Befuddle the German People by Continued Falsehood.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Surprise bordering on indignation was voiced today over Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech to the reichstag.

State department officials are amazed that the chancellor should seek further to confuse German-American relations with a series of statements which they say are palpably opposed to the most obvious events of recent history.

The chancellor's statement that the United States severed relations "brusquely" is viewed as too absurd for discussion. It is pointed out that the American correspondence had plainly threatened such action; that Count Von Bernstorff had said for several days beforehand that he expected to be dismissed and that the German government had shown its realization of the coming break by sending out orders to disable its merchant ships in this country.

Chancellor Contradicted. It also was pointed out that while the United States delayed three days in taking the action it had clearly foreshadowed in several notes, Germany put into effect its campaign of ruthlessness on eight hours' notice after months of assurances that she had no intention of taking such a step.

The statement that Germany in her Sussex note reserved a new course of action is declared wholly unjustified. The United States specifically refused to accept that condition, and in default of any reply from Germany, was justified in believing that Germany adhered to her point of view. In diplomacy the last note between the two nations is the binding note and stands in all particulars until denied by one or the other participants.

SCHOONER LAW NOT TORPEDOED BY AUSTRIAN U-BOAT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—It is officially established that the American sailing schooner Lyman M. Law was not sunk by an Austro-Hungarian submarine.

It had been presumed that the law was destroyed by an Austrian submarine because she was halted on her way to Palermo, Italy, in a region where it was thought there were no German U-boats. The submarine showed no marks of identity, and it now is assumed that she must have been German or possibly Turkish.

Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, cabled a report today in response to inquiries from Secretary Lansing. The law was sunk, according to official dispatches, by a bomb after its crew had been under shell fire.

President Wilson in his address to congress characterized the destruction of the law as expressing a "ruthlessness which deserves grave condemnation." But was what might have been expected.

FIRE DESTROYS MINING PLANT, MOYIE, B. C.

NELSON, B. C., Feb. 28.—Fire last night destroyed the entire concentrating plant and buildings at the St. Eugene mine, Moyie, B. C., operated by the Consolidated company. The old mill cost \$500,000, but was being remodelled for experimental purposes, and its actual value was much less.

BRITAIN STOPS ALL PASSENGER SHIP TRAFFIC

Liner Finland Reports That All Vessels, Liners as Well as Freighters Used Solely for Supplies and Troops—Lloyd George Anxious to See America Get Into the War.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Reports that passenger traffic on all British vessels leaving England for America and France has been suspended, were brought here today by passengers, who arrived on the steamship Finland, the last American liner boat to leave Liverpool and the third out of this fleet to sail from that port after Germany's proclamation of unrestricted submarine warfare.

James F. Egan of Philadelphia and Robert Wilson of New York, European representatives of large American business interests said that before leaving England they had been informed on what they considered reliable authority that the British admiralty had decided to employ all vessels, passenger carriers as well as freighters, solely for transporting supplies or moving troops.

Passengers Barred. Scandinavian and Dutch passenger ships to America no longer stop at British ports, but avoid the submarine zone by making Halifax their port of call. Consequently, if the report of the Finland's passengers is correct, no passengers can now reach the United States from England unless American liners sail from this country to fetch them.

It was one a. m. on February 18 when the Finland left Liverpool with 170 passengers. She sailed with all lights burning, illuminating the American flag painted on either side. No submarine was sighted.

Dr. Henry Van Dyke, former American minister to Holland, who was reported to be on the Finland, did not sail. United States Senator Elmer Frederick Hale of Maine said he understood Dr. Van Dyke was still in London.

Mr. Hale, during three weeks spent in England and France met many of the leading men handling the affairs of the entente allies.

Lloyd George's Hopes. "I talked with Lloyd George in London and he told me he hoped America would get into the war," Mr. Hale said. "He added that he wanted to see America take a prominent part in the peace negotiations at the end of the conflict."

"I also saw Premier Briand in Paris and he said the entry of America into the fight against the central powers would have a great moral and practical effect toward bringing about peace."

"The prevailing sentiment among leading officials in both countries was expressed that were the United States to send over even a small fighting force under the American flag, it would have a great moral effect."

PRESIDENT TALKS TO PEACE ADVOCATES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—President Wilson told peace advocates who called on him today to protest against the steps he proposes in dealing with Germany that the country was faced by a momentous problem in the present situation, that he had always been for peace and would do everything within his power to maintain it.

The president received their suggestions sympathetically, members of the delegation said, but told them the country must realize the magnitude of the question.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—New war department orders received here today by Major General J. Franklin Bell, commander of the western department of the United States army, and signed by Secretary Newton D. Baker, designate the "Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem and prohibit military bands including it or national anthems of foreign countries in medleys.

NATIONAL WAR COMMITTEE TO DIRECT THE NATION'S INDUSTRIES



DEFENSE BOARD ASKS CONSIDERATION FOR ALIEN RESIDENTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The council of national defense today issued an appeal to the people of the United States to show every consideration in the present international situation to aliens resident in this country.

"The presence here at this time of perhaps 8,000,000 aliens is deeply and soberly to be weighed, not only in our interests, but in their own," says the statement.

"Emphasizing anew our national doctrines of tolerance and personal liberty, of holding all persons within the land to be loyal unless by their own acts they shall prove the contrary, we call upon all citizens, if untoward events should come upon us, to present to these aliens the attitude of neither suspicion nor aggressiveness."

"Any other course is unworthy of our traditions and against public policy and the free flow of governmental affairs."

GERMANS RETREAT ALL ALONG LINE BEFORE BRITISH

FROM STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Feb. 27.—There was sharp retreat along the line of the German retreat tonight than at any time since the movement began.

There is no indication as yet of the fixed purpose by the Germans to make a definite stand but they are doing everything possible to hold up and interfere with the British advance. To the rear, outposts were immensely strengthened and this led to stiff fighting with the British patrols.

The Germans prepared carefully for their retreat, apart from choosing the movement when spring was just beginning, bringing with it new depths of clinging mud. Belt after belt of barbed wire marks the German trail.

Always great believers in this method of defense, the Germans appear to have outdone all previous efforts in the way of wire barriers in the Somme and Ancre areas.

The British, however, pushed forward today all along the eleven mile line stretch from south of Gommecourt to west of Le Transloy. They pushed further into Puisseux Anquet southeast of Gommecourt, in which more fires were visible last night. Searchlights also were playing anxiously about.

HOUSE FILIBUSTER AGAINST CAPITAL PROHIBITION LAW

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Prohibition and anti-prohibition forces in the house lined up this afternoon for a final determined fight over the senate bill to make the District of Columbia dry.

Opponents of the measure began a filibuster by demanding roll calls on a dozen amendments, one of which would provide a referendum of the question by the residents of the district.

The drys, in a determined effort to break the filibuster, then offered a resolution to substitute the bill already passed by the senate for the loose bill and make it in order without debate. The wet immediately launched another filibuster, but it seemed that the resolution would be adopted and a final vote taken before midnight.

FOUR AMERICAN CONSULS HELD BY GERMANY

Suspicion of Imperial Government Is Voiced by Detention of United States Envoys—Based Upon Circumstances Which, Through No Fault of America, Detained Mueller

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Four American consuls are being detained in Germany while the Berlin government awaits official advice that all German consuls in this country, ordered to Central and South America, have been permitted to proceed.

The German government's action is based on circumstances which, through no fault of the United States, detained Consul Mueller at Havana, Cuba, while he was on his way from Atlanta, to Quito, Ecuador.

The American consuls detained in Germany are Consul Henry C. E. Damm, transferred from Aachen to Hargut, Turkey; Consul John Q. Wood, transferred from Chemnitz to Messina; Vice Consul W. Bruce Wallace, transferred from Magdeburg to Constantinople, and Vice Consul C. James Down, transferred from Mannheim to Constantinople.

Two Notes Received. Two notes have been received from the German government on the subject the first a week ago, charging that the United States had detained Mueller at Havana and a second asking for a reply to the first and also containing a statement on charges that American consuls and their wives departing from Germany had been subjected to indignities. It added that as soon as Mueller had been allowed to proceed the American consuls could go on.

That the German government has been misinformed regarding Consul Mueller and other German consuls formerly stationed in the United States is certain. The departure of none has been hindered by this government. Mueller was forced to remain in Havana longer than he at first thought would be necessary and he called Berlin that he was detained there. The German government is believed to have taken this to mean that the United States was responsible for the detention. As a matter of fact, Mueller was forced to remain in Havana because of temporary lack of transportation and failure to receive passports from the Ecuadorian government.

Deny Bad Treatment. In the note received today, Germany complains against published reports recently cabled to the United States from The Hague, in which it was stated that American consular officers leaving Germany had been mistreated. It is stated that everything possible was done to provide for the comfortable and safe departure of the American officials and blame for the alleged misrepresentation is placed upon Vice Consul Harold B. Quarton, formerly at Berlin, who Germany believes to have been the only consular officer from Germany in The Hague at the time the newspaper articles were cabled.

As for treatment said in newspaper dispatches from Europe to have been accorded American consuls and members of the families, Germany declares that instructions were given that they should receive every personal consideration. However, it is made clear that on the grounds of military necessity there were many conditions incident to the crossing of the frontiers to which Americans, the same as citizens of other nationalities, had to submit. It was impossible, Germany asserts, that all the military regulations could be done away with at the time the American consular and diplomatic officials were crossing the border.

FEDERAL FARM LOAN BOARD PLACES BONDS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Federal farm loan board officials are understood to have arranged for placing half of the entire first issue of forthcoming farm loan bonds, amount undetermined, with a syndicate of bankers at New York and elsewhere at a rate of 4 1/2 per cent. The rate to be charged the farmers on loans will range between 5 and 5 1/2 per cent.

From the number of applications from farmers wanting loans officials estimate that as high as \$59,000,000 in bonds may be issued within the first year. Although officials of only five of the banks have been announced so far, virtually all the banks will be doing business, it is expected, within three weeks.

Secretary McAdoo is expected soon to sign certificates for the government's subscription to stock not taken by the public. The government will place approximately \$8,870,000 at the disposal of the banks in this manner. These funds will be drawn upon as fast as needed and although each bank will issue its own bonds, the board will undertake the marketing of them.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—At the Dutch legation it was said today there was no confirmation of the report published earlier in the week that the Dutch steamship Bandoeng, Rembrand and Zwaardijk were still afloat. On the contrary, the latest information received by the Dutch officials led to the belief that the vessels had been lost. A search for the steamships proved unavailing.

PRIEST RELATES TRAGIC TALE OF LACONIA VICTIMS

Mrs. Hoy Died in Arms of Daughter, Who Succumbed a Few Minutes Later—Ivatt Passed Away in the Arms of His Fiancee, Who Tried in Vain to Keep Him Warm with Hair.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 28.—The Rev. F. Donstan Sargent of Grenada, British West Indies, a passenger on the Laconia, who administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic church to seven persons who perished, gave to the Associated Press today the following account of the death of Mrs. Mary Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago, and Cedric P. Ivatt of London.

"Mrs. Hoy died in the arms of her daughter. Her body slipped off into the sea out of her daughter's weakened arms. The heartbroken daughter succumbed a few minutes afterwards and her body fell over the side of the boat as we were tossed by the huge waves.

Exposure Caused Death. "In my water up to her knees for two hours, the daughter all the time bravely supported her aged mother, uttering words of encouragement. From the start both were violently seasick, which, coupled with the cold and exposure, gradually wore down their courage. They were brave women."

After a pause, Father Sargent continued: "The first to die in our boat was W. Irvine Robinson of Toronto. After his body had been consigned to the sea, we tossed about for an hour, getting more and more water until the gunwales were almost level with the sea. Then Mr. Ivatt, who was not physically strong, succumbed in the arms of his fiancee, who was close beside him, trying in vain to keep him warm by throwing her wealth of hair about his neck. Even after he died, she refused to give him up, and although the additional weight made the situation more dangerous for us all, she yielded to her pitiful pleading and allowed her to keep the body. It was taken aboard the rescuing patrol, from which it was buried. The burial aboard the patrol at which I officiated, was a solemn and memorable ceremony."

In Boat Ten Hours.

"The boys were the next to pass away. Then a fireman died and later two others of the crew who were too thinly clad to resist exposure. Altogether, we were in the boat ten hours. We were rescued in the middle of the morning."

Father Sargent said his boat was badly damaged on being launched and immediately began to leak. Owing to the heavy waves they were unable to attract the attention of the other boats or to transfer the passengers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—A report today from Consul Frost says that the Laconia's lifeboat, which contained Father Donstan Sargent and Mrs. and Miss Hoy was riddled while being hoisted and sprung a leak. It floated away, supported by its tanks. Mr. Frost reported having taken affidavits from survivors. His dispatch follows:

"Death of Hoy ladies and negro Coffey, covered by affidavits Father Donstan Sargent and Jacob Fatheringham, shows boat No. 8 riddled and sprung in lowering against port side and filled with water at once. Boat floated away by its tanks, became separated from other boats, picked up by second patrol 20th, 7 a. m., eight of its twenty-two occupants having succumbed during the night.

Survivors in Hospital.

"Add to American survivors two negroes, Marshall Hyland, New York, and Cleveland Teak, New Albany, Ind. All survivors except four hospital."

(Continued on Page Two.)

GERMANS TO REPLACE SEVEN DUTCH SHIPS

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb. 28.—The German government has offered to replace the seven Dutch merchantmen which were torpedoed off the English coast last week with German freighters until the end of the war, on condition that Holland purchase them afterward.