

CONFIRM GERMAN PLOT AGAINST AMERICA

CONGRESS TO BACK-UP PRESIDENT

Shocked and Amazed by Revelations of German Duplicity, Republicans Abandon General Filibuster and Swing Into Line to Give Executive Support Needed in National Emergency—Full Official Confirmation of German Plot Given.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Shocked and amazed by the revelations of Germany's attempt to unite Japan and Mexico to war upon the United States, congress today forgot its differences of opinion and began swinging into line behind the president.

Senate republicans abandoned their general filibuster and gave democratic leaders assurances of their support to the president in a national emergency.

In the house, without a roll call and under special provision for its immediate consideration, Representative Flood's bill to clothe the president with authority to deal with the German submarine menace by arming ships was taken up under an agreement for a vote after three hours of debate.

President Wilson, however, will insist on being empowered to use "other instrumentalities" as proposed in the bill pending in the senate.

Official Confirmation.

Full official confirmation of Germany's move as revealed by the Associated Press was given at the white house, state department and on the floor of the senate.

Secretary Lansing, in an official statement, made clear that the United States did not believe Japan had knowledge of the scheme or would take part in it. He also expressed the confidence of the government that Mexico would take no part.

The Japanese embassy in an official comment declared that under no circumstances would Germany's proposal be considered by the Tokyo government, reiterated the allegiance of Japan to the entente alliance and reaffirmed her friendship for the United States.

The magnitude and astounding character of Germany's proposal completely overshadowed all other considerations in the government today.

Effect Instantaneous.

The effect of the situation on congress was almost instantaneous. Republican senators who had been filibustering against the proposal to empower the president to arm ships and use "other instrumentalities" to deal with Germany, began abandoning their opposition and assured democratic leaders they would stand behind the president.

In the house, without a roll call, a special rule was adopted for immediate consideration of the Flood bill to clothe the president with authority and to authorize a bond issue of \$100,000,000.

No message or statement of any kind will be sent or has been sent by this government to Germany regarding the Zimmermann instructions, it was said officially today. As yet officials said there had been no communication between this government and Mexico, but it is probable there will be.

FREIGHTER ROCHESTER ARRIVES IN FRANCE

BORDEAUX, March 1.—The American freighter Rochester has arrived at the mouth of the Gironde.

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

DETAILS OF PLOT ASKED BY SENATE

White House Debates Armed Neutrality Bill, Senate Requests President to Send Information Regarding Zimmermann Note and for Further News Concerning Activity of Imperial Government Affecting Relations of U. S. With Other Nations.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Spurred by the development of the international situation, the house today took up the bill to clothe the president with authority to deal with the German submarine menace under an agreement to vote after three hours of debate, which was later extended to permit all who wished to talk to be heard.

The statement was made officially that the white house stands behind the bill as drawn in the senate "first last and all the time," and does not approve the house bill in its entirety because it does not provide the "other instrumentalities," which the president desires, and proposes to refuse war insurance to ships which carry munitions.

The portions that the administration wants may be inserted on the floor of the house, or after the bill gets to the senate.

Lodge Resolution.

The senate foreign relations committee this afternoon ordered a favorable report on the Lodge resolution after changing only a few words.

The committee struck out the provision asking the president for information as to when the "Zimmermann" letter came into possession of the United States.

An ordered reported by the committee the resolution reads:

"Resolved that the president be requested to inform the senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, whether the note signed 'Zimmermann' published in the newspapers of March 1, inviting Mexico to unite with Germany and Japan in war against the United States, is in his opinion authentic and is in the possession of the government of the United States and if in his opinion authentic, to send to the senate any further information in the possession of the government of the United States relative to any activities of the imperial German government affecting the international relations of the United States."

Resolution Reported.

The resolution will be reported to the senate this afternoon.

Senator Hitchcock reported the resolution as amended by the foreign relations committee to the senate at three o'clock and asked unanimous

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READY FOR WAR WITH UNITED STATES

BERLIN, March 1.—All outward signs indicate that the German nation is reconciled completely to any eventuality growing out of the loss of American lives in the sinking of the steamship Laconia.

There has just been received here a brief dispatch from Washington to the effect that the United States government regards the torpedoing of the liner as an overt act. There are no indications, however, of any departure from Germany's resolution to carry on submarine warfare unretarded.

The remarks of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg on this subject, in his address to the reichstag yesterday, have met with general support. The submarine campaign is inspiring great enthusiasm and is regarded as the agency which is capable of forcing the war to a conclusion in Germany's favor.

GERMAN KAISER, WHOSE DULCITY IS EXPOSED



The Kaiser has become a cigarette fiend. New pictures of Kaiser Wilhelm arriving in this country show he continually smokes cigarettes. On horseback or on foot, on the battlefield or at home, he may be seen smoking his cigarette.

AMERICAN RIGHTS AT STAKE STATES CHAIRMAN FLOOD

WASHINGTON, March 1.—At the outset of the house debate over the Flood resolution, intense interest was aroused. Every reference to America's willingness to protect the rights of citizens wherever they had a right to travel was met with a volley of applause.

"In 1878," said Chairman Flood, "conditions were much as they are today. England and France were at war and France was pressing on commerce as Germany is today. Many people in this country at that time said our rights should not be upheld and that to uphold them would lead to war with France. We gave the president the power, our commerce was protected, our honor vindicated and war was averted.

"By this act," said Representative Flood, "we may not be able to avert war. If we should become involved in war, however, the passage of this bill would be one of the minor causes of that direful result. It may be necessary only to arm ships, but if we must do more the fault is not ours. Give the president this power asked and the question of war will be with Germany. There is no doubt of the right of Americans to travel, and we should uphold this right peacefully. If that cannot be done, then we will do it with arms.

"If Germany were conducting this war with the instincts of humanity, we might take our chances. I cannot understand how this bill can fail to pass. It is a question of American rights, and when such a question arises in this house there are no party lines."

PROPOSED UNION OF JAPAN AND MEXICO AGAINST U. S.

Triple Alliance Against America

The text of the message sent Mexico by Germany is as follows:

"Berlin, January 19, 1917.
"On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support, and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement. You are instructed to inform the president of Mexico of the above as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States, and suggest that the president of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan, suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"Please call to the attention of the president of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

(Signed) "ZIMMERMANN."

JAPANESE SPURN GERMAN PROFFER OF AN ALLIANCE

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Ambassador Sato of Japan was informed of the possession of the text of Germany's proposal by this government yesterday afternoon when he called at the state department to see Counsellor Polk. Officials here expect Japan will welcome the opportunity to reiterate her allegiance to the entente alliance and that the occasion will be taken as a means of cementing relations between the United States and Japan.

The Japanese embassy made the following comment:

"With regard to the alleged German attempt to induce Japan and Mexico to make war upon the United States made public in the press this morning, the Japanese embassy, while lacking information as to whether such invitation ever reached Tokyo, desires to state most emphatically that any invitation of this sort would under no circumstances be entertained by the Japanese government, which is in entire accord and close relations with the other powers, on account of formal agreements and our common cause, and moreover our good friendship with the United States, which is every day growing in sincerity and cordiality."

BRITISH PURSUIT OF TURKS CONTINUES

LONDON, March 1.—The British continued the pursuit of the Turks on the Tigris front throughout Tuesday. It is announced officially.

LONDON, March 1.—The remnants of the Turkish forces retreating from Kut-el-Amara have been shattered completely, according to information given out in the house of commons today. The Turks, it was said, would reach Bagdad only as a disorderly mob.

BRITISH FIRM CAN MAKE U. S. SHELLS

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Great Britain has withdrawn her objection and made known her permission for Huddell's Ltd., an English munitions concern, to contract with the United States navy for armor-piercing shells of the 14 and 16-inch type.

GERMANS RETREAT ON BOTH BANKS OF RIVER ANCRE

PARIS, March 1.—The Germans have already fallen back behind Bapaume and the fall of that town is imminent, according to information from the front, which has reached military circles here. The new German line is said to run along the road from Bapaume to Peronne and some distance in the rear of the former town.

During their retirement the Germans have systematically destroyed their dugouts and provision depots and rendered their trenches useless.

BERLIN, March 1.—German army headquarters today announce a voluntary and systematic withdrawal of parts of the German advance positions on both banks of the Ancre, on the Franco-Belgian front.

The statement reads: "On both banks of the Ancre several days ago, for special reasons, a part of our advance positions was voluntarily and systematically evacuated and the defense has been placed in another prepared line. Our movement remained concealed from the enemy. Rear guard posts, acting carefully, hampered his troops, which only with hesitation groped forward, occupying without fighting the strip of land which was abandoned by us and which is lying in ruins. Yielding in the face of a numerically superior attack, as had been ordered, these minor detachments inflicted considerable sanguinary losses upon the enemy and up to now have captured 11 officers and 174 men and four machine guns and today still dominate the field in front of our positions."

COLOMBIA TO QUIT PAN-AMERICAN UNION

NEW YORK, March 1.—The Associated Press today received the following cablegram from Bogota, signed by ten Colombian newspapers:

"The Colombian press, commenting on the indefinite postponement of the Colombian-American treaty, insists upon the necessity of Colombia's withdrawal from the Pan-American union."

W. H. Hamilton and son, Sherwood, of California, were Medford visitors Wednesday afternoon, leaving in the evening for Eagle Point.

TRIPLE BLOW PLANNED AGAINST UNITED STATES REVEALED IN INSTRUCTIONS OF ZIMMERMANN

At One Sweep, Germany Proposed to Weaken Entente Alliance by Defection of Japan, Strike at England's Naval Power by Cutting Off Mexican Oil Supply, and Engage Attention of United States by an Invasion of Japan and Mexico, for Which Mexico Was to Be Rewarded by Reconquering Her "Lost Provinces of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Revelation of how Germany, expecting war with the United States as the result of her submarine campaign of ruthlessness, plotted to unite Mexico with Japan with her in an attack on the United States has stirred the capital to its depths.

Members of congress, many of whom have been hesitating before President Wilson's request for full authority to deal with Germany in the present situation, went to the capitol today reading documentary evidence of the intrigue which proposed to separate Japan from her allies and add the United States to the list of nations which Germany hopes to see conquered in her dream of world domination.

Proposed Triple Blow.

How Germany confident that unrestricted submarine warfare is the instrument by which she will bring England to her knees, proposed a triple blow, is revealed in a set of instructions from German Foreign Minister Zimmermann to German Minister Von Eckhardt in Mexico City, which was transmitted through Count Von Bernstorff, late German ambassador here.

At one sweep, Germany proposed to weaken the entente alliance by the defection of Japan, strike a crushing blow at England's naval power by cutting off the vital supply of Mexican fuel oil and thoroughly engage the attention of the United States by an invasion, in which Japan was to be invited to join and for which Mexico should be rewarded by reconquering her "lost provinces"—Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

This astounding document, dated Berlin, January 19, 1917, contents of which have for some time been in possession of the United States government, shows plainly that Germany, while making repeated protestations to the United States that she had no intentions of resuming her sea campaign of ruthlessness, was making the final arrangements for its execution two weeks before it was announced, and had even gone so far in consideration of the consequences that she proposed to meet them by the attack with Mexico and Japan upon the United States.

Proof of Duplicity.

To American officials the startling disclosure throws new light on Germany's real attitude toward the United States. It shows that while the administration has been going to almost lengths to avoid an armed clash with Germany, even to the extent of repeatedly enduring flagrant violations of American rights on the sea and breaches of neutrality on American soil, Germany, with the diplomacy so suddenly revealed by the outbreak of the European war, has been undermining the United States among her enemies and making provision to meet such a situation.

The documentary proof of Germany's plot to unite Japan and Mexico against the United States has

been in the hands of the United States government while German statesmen have been pleading that President Wilson's action in breaking off diplomatic relations was "brusque" and harsh and that they were informed of no authentic reasons for his action. While the German chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, was making his celebrated speech in the reichstag in which he deplored the break and protested that Germany had promoted and cherished the friendship of the United States "as Bismarck put it—no heirloom from Frederick the Great," the documentary evidence in the hands of officials here showed that Germany was plotting an attack on the United States by a triple alliance.

Effect of Disclosures.

American officials wonder how, in the light of these disclosures, German officials will reconcile their plea that the United States put an interpretation on the new submarine orders "not intended by Germany," with the organized disabling of German merchant ships in American ports, at a prearranged signal from the German embassy here—some of them even before the break was an accomplished fact.

American officials are equally interested in knowing what reaction the startling disclosures will meet in Germany and what will be the effect on the German people if they are permitted to know about them.

The evidences at hand are that if Mexico, as Germany suggested, communicated to Japan the proposal for an attack on the United States, it met with a reception in Tokio which was quite contrary to what Berlin had expected. It is thought here that Germany's announcement that she intended to withdraw from the Pacific, as part of the making of peace, was carefully planned long ago to attract Japan to Germany's schemes with the prospect not only of occupying the German possessions in the Pacific, adding to her domination of that great ocean, but of settling the long-standing friction with the United States.

Japan refuses Bait.

Observers here believe that the breakdown of the scheme, so far as Japan was concerned, was signified when the Mexican government suddenly reversed its attitude and announced that it had no intention of cutting off the British supply of naval fuel oil, as had plainly been indicated in General Carranza's proposal to make peace in Europe by cutting off exports of food and munitions from neutrals.

Aside from the plan to alienate Japan from the entente and turn that country against the United States, the plot to embroil Mexico in a war against the United States, which was to have general financial support from Germany, commands chief attention because it is regarded as proof of long smouldering suspicions of German activities to stir up trouble.

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MEXICANS DECLINE TO DISCUSS PLOT

MEXICO CITY, March 1.—Most of the Mexican officials have declined today to discuss the effort of Germany to involve Mexico in a war with the United States except to say that they thought such efforts were vain and that Mexico would be neutral.

STRIKE OUT MONEY FOR FOOD INQUIRY

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Provision for \$400,000 for the federal trade commission's investigation of the food crisis was stricken from the sundry civil bill by the senate appropriations committee today. As ordered reported, the bill carries \$139,928,513.