

ACTUAL WAR WILL DEPEND ON FATE OF ARMED LINERS

If Armed American Ship Is Attacked Action May Be Forced

PRESIDENT WILL NOT FORCE THE SITUATION

Declaration of War Will Not Be Made If Possible To Avoid It

By Robert J. Bender. (United Press staff correspondent.) Washington, Mar. 20.—Actual declaration of war by the United States against Germany appears to depend upon the fate which befalls the first armed American liner. It also appeared today that avowal of hostilities by President Wilson against the Imperial German government will not result from the sinking of three American freighters last Saturday.

While taking every preparedness step which he believes can be taken, President Wilson is loathe to take further action. He has more aggressive steps under consideration, however, and this afternoon discussed all phases of the problem with his cabinet, which convened at 2:30.

It has been definitely ascertained that the president strongly questions the advisability of "forcing" the present situation. He is understood to feel that everything that possibly could be done to meet actual hostilities—now believed inevitable—is being done.

The president is understood to feel that the program he has outlined thus far does not call for actual declaration of war at this time, despite calls from the country for such an act. If an armed American ship is attacked, the situation will then call for the next forward step.

The president is declared today, however, to be still considering all phases of the present situation and it may be a day or two—possibly more—before any further decision is announced.

Meantime the very fact that he has delayed this long, has given rise to the general belief in official circles that a session of congress before April 16 is unlikely.

The United States will gain an immense advantage in coping with submarines if it can "drift" into a state of active warfare without formal declaration of war, military men here held today. They have so told White House officials.

Under such a condition this country, they pointed out, could engage in an industrial co-operation with the allies which, it is believed, would soon break the back of the central powers.

Munitions and gold could then be poured across the Atlantic between lanes of allied and United States warships.

Should the United States, however, declare formal war, public opinion here would demand an immediate cessation of shipments of war materials abroad until the country accumulated sufficient supplies to care for itself. It would then be "America first" with the public insisting that American resources be conserved, at least until the country is on an adequate war footing.

(Continued on page four.)

ABE MARTIN

Wide Spread Rumors of German Revolution

London, Mar. 20.—An unfounded rumor was spread in financial circles here this afternoon of a revolution in Germany.

The same rumor of a revolution in Germany has been persistently in circulation in the United States for the past two days. Today it went so far as to include the suggestion that the Kaiser had succeeded to the throne.

None of the rumors could be traced to a definite source, but all were recently founded on recent reports indicating unrest in Germany. The possibility that the success of the democratic movement in Russia recently might lead to a German revolution overthrewing the autocratic German military aristocracy.

The United Press received inquiries concerning various rumors about a German revolution from such widely separated cities as Philadelphia, Cleveland, Montreal and Chicago. The rumors were spread, like those reported in London, in financial circles.

Denmark Reports It. New York, March 20.—The Evening Sun this afternoon published the following dispatch from London: "Reports from a Danish newspaper state that a revolution has broken out in Hamburg, Germany. No confirmation of the rumor can be obtained here. Official advices are lacking."

INVENTS AUTOMATIC TORPEDO. Williston, N. D., Mar. 20.—Charles K. Field, grandson of Cyrus K. Field, the man who laid the first trans-Atlantic cable and turned it over to the American government, has invented a torpedo, designed to guide itself on a magnetic control, into the bowels of enemy vessels.

A NEW FRENCH LOAN. New York, March 20.—A new French loan of \$100,000,000 in two year notes to be floated in this country was announced by J. P. Morgan and company this afternoon.

WARM FIGHT STARTS OVER CITY ENGINEER

After An Acrimonious Debate No Important Change Made

Fight involving the city engineer and the assistant city engineer was precipitated in the council last night when a resolution was read reducing the salary of the assistant engineer from \$115 to \$90 a month was read.

Councilman Jones moved to amend so as to make it \$100 a month. This brought up the question of the hiring of a supervising engineer for the street paving this summer. Councilman Unruh declared he was in favor of increasing the salary of the engineer from \$20 to \$30 a month and making him supervise the paving and thus do away with a third engineer.

He opposed the amendment. He believed the assistant engineer was the backbone of the engineering department.

Mayor Keyes, who had called Councilman Elliott to the chair, said that Councilman Unruh was correct as to the backbone of the engineer's department, then the assistant should be made chief and vice versa, he said at first it was thought the city engineer would do the work of supervising but he said the city engineer said he could not supervise it. If that is the case he thought the salary should be cut down to \$75 a month.

Cheap Man Not Wanted. Councilman McClelland declared that it was possible to get too cheap a man. He said Rogers knows the city by heart and this reduction in salary is an attempt to get rid of him and get a cheaper man. Who this cheaper man is, he declared they all knew as he has been looting about the engineer's office and learning all he can there. He declared this man was not able to run a line correctly. With the present man in charge, he said it would be easy to save his salary in the work he did. He said Rogers was not liked by the contractors because he made them come exactly to the specifications. He did not think it was possible to get Rogers for \$90. He said it was impossible to get a first class engineer for less than \$150 a month. He stated Rogers was just as good as the engineer.

TO ASK CONGRESS TO INCREASE ALL FREIGHT RATES

Commission Can Only Decide As To Extra Cost To Railroads

SUPREME COURT SAYS IT ALONE CAN DO THIS

Railroads Say Increase In Passenger Rates Will Be Necessary

Washington, Mar. 20.—Congress, at the coming extra session, will be asked to pass a law granting increased freight and passenger rates to the railroads to reimburse them for increased wages they will be compelled to pay under the Adamson eight hour law, prominent railroad heads and officials of the interstate commerce commission told the United Press today.

"Since the supreme court has decided that congress has the plenary power to fix wages for the trainmen, then applying the same rule, it has the right to legislate railroad rates," a prominent government official said. The fact that congress can dispose of the increased rate problem in a more speedy and satisfactory manner than the interstate commerce commission is said to be the reason why the matter will be put up to congress.

The eight hour commission created by the Adamson act to investigate the effect of the eight hour law on the railroads is powerless to grant increased rates. The only power this commission has is to determine how much the railroads will have to pay out in increased wages and the general effect that it will have on the roads.

This commission, consisting of General Goethals, George R. Rublee and Edgar E. Clark, the latter a member of the interstate commerce commission, has been actively at work since the first of January, when the Adamson law became effective, but as operation of the law was interfered with as a result of the injunction the commission was not able to gather such information regarding the effect of the law. Now, they have laid their plans so that they will be able to begin work at once.

The preliminary plans have been mapped out. (Continued on page three.)

Buildings Blown Up, Roads Mined and Whole Country Vast Area of Devastation

By Henry Wood (United Press staff correspondent.) With the French Armies Advancing from Roye, Mar. 20.—One hundred and sixteen square miles of territory, burned black and rent with wanton explosions, has been the prize wrested from the Germans by the French in a little district from around Chaulnes to the Oise. It is merely a part of a vast territory reoccupied by the French troops after their pursuit of a German retreat that for precipitate haste resembles the retreat from the Marne.

This 116 miles, however, is typical of German ruthlessness in retreat. It has been a retreat by the Germans marked by wanton destruction and devastation exceeding even that of the original German invasion.

Traveling over the highways in every direction on the thirteen mile front around Roye, Chaulnes and the Oise today, one finds roads everywhere blown up, trees and fences cut down, houses and all other buildings razed and the very land itself damaged to as great an extent as possible.

Baby Week Work This Year To Save Mothers From Death at Childbirth

Washington, Mar. 20.—Plans to make Baby Week celebrations throughout the country this year from May 1 to May 6, a huge educational movement for the reduction of mortality among women at childbirth are under way at the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor today.

Baby week celebrations in the past have been directed more towards reducing infant mortality. The fact, however, that 15,000 mothers are dying annually from conditions incident to childbirth has opened up an even greater problem, the bureau announced. Ignorance and neglect are the prime causes for this high mortality.

"Many women," one official at the bureau said, "do not seem to realize how much their own health and the health of their children depends on the intelligent care of the mother before her baby is born. Baby week can help mothers in various ways and it will be made the starting point, this year, for certain concrete activities."

Plans now being completed, will include centers for mothers living in the country to gather and take prenatal educational work. The needs of rural mothers are less generally understood than those of city mothers and a rural nursing service is urged as one means of reducing the mortality rate in sections far removed from the city.

Grand Duke Nicholas Caused Abdication

Petrograd, Mar. 20.—The Grand Duke Nicholas cemented his alliance with the people in the Russian revolution and added to his popularity today when he became known that it was he who had really induced Czar Nicholas to abdicate.

It was revealed that the grand duke held a lengthy audience with the emperor and urged this step upon him prior to the visit of the abdication committee bearing the abdication declaration.

One other bit of history made public today, was that the action of the Russian duma in resolving to overthrow the autocratic government was unanimous with the exception of 15 members who stood out for immediate establishment of a republic, without waiting for a popular vote and without the temporary duma committee form now governing.

ORDERED 60 SUBMARINES

Washington, Mar. 20.—Secretary Daniels yesterday afternoon directed the New York navy yard to proceed at once with the construction of 60 submarine chasers.

They will cost \$30,000 each complete except machinery. The yard can lay down 40 at once. Delivery will begin in from 60 to 80 days at the rate of one boat every three days.

GERMAN RETREAT SLOWS UP NEARING NEW DEFENSE LINE

Recent Fighting May Be But Prelude To General Engagement

GERMANS CLAIM ALLIES HAVE LOST HEAVILY

French Make Slight Progress—Russians Take City of Helsingfors

London, Mar. 20.—The German retreat on the western front slowed up perceptibly today. Dispatches from the press headquarters at the British front said this might possibly be attributed to stormy weather. It was also possible it might mean the Germans were now reaching the line of their long prepared positions.

Despite the weather and slowing up of the German fight, the British nevertheless, progressed considerably, the dispatches said. The Paris official statement of today indicated a similar slowing up between Avre and the Oise of the German retreat and likewise remarked on the bad weather. The Berlin statement revealed a number of engagements along the whole of this front and likewise gave indication of the new character of the fighting developed there after two and a half years of trench warfare.

The forces engaged in this theatre of the war are now fighting in open ranks. The maneuvering is swiftly done. Cavalry has been called into use here for the first time in concentrated attack since the early days of the war.

Military experts have been predicting for some days a slowing up in the German flight, due to the approach of the retreating troops to the new "Hindenburg line," where positions have been prepared for months. It may be that the present fighting is merely the prelude to a general engagement along this front. Such an engagement, due to the length of the front, the preparations made by all belligerents and the approach of warmer weather will bring the greatest battle in the world's history.

Alleged Loss Severe. Berlin, via Sayville wireless, Mar. 20.—"Heavy losses to our adversaries" were detailed in today's official report as the result of several engagements of infantry and cavalry detachments in the district abandoned to occupation by the enemy on both sides of the Somme and the Oise.

Preparation of the field of the engagement selected in the district made it militarily useless," the statement continued, "which means everything has been made unserviceable which later could be of advantage to the enemy for his operations."

In the Ypres bend our reconnoitering troops brought in 12 Englishmen from the position. On the left bank of the Meuse the French in the afternoon and night directed violent attacks against positions gained by us March 18. They were everywhere repulsed.

Depot in Texas Made Salemite Homesick

G. W. Baynard, an adopted Oregonian, is making a visit to Mississippi and Texas after an absence of 44 years. He writes that when it comes to real country, there is no comparison anywhere with Oregon. In southern Texas he found the boll weevil had set the farmers back for several years. In Mississippi the cattle could not be compared to the Oregon breed. Then another thing Mr. Baynard did not like about the south was the cold weather and rain. He writes they had more of each in southern Texas than he was accustomed to in Oregon.

At Richmond, Texas, he saw a depot constructed on exactly the same style as the Southern Pacific at Salem and it made him homesick. Taking everything into consideration, Mr. Baynard thinks Oregon is good enough for him and he hopes to once more breathe the pure Oregon ozone about the first of May.

MAIL BAGS SEARCHED

New York, Mar. 20.—Twenty-six mail-filled sacks aboard the Sunard liner Saxonia, which reached here today from Liverpool, were slit open and their contents searched some time last Thursday. The pouches contained mail for the British embassy and for the American government. Captain Benson reported by wireless and postal inspectors boarded the ship at quarantine.

TEN ESCAPED FROM INTERNED VESSELS

Result of Attempt by German Sympathizers To Liberate Interned Men

Philadelphia, Mar. 20.—Ten German sailors from the interned German boats in the League Island navy yard are today at large, according to the belief of police here. By patching up conflicting stories of four recaptured men the police were led to believe that 14 tried to swim their way to liberty in icy waters last night.

Police here believe the attempt to get away was not confined to the men themselves, nor even to the captains of the crews, but that it was part of a general movement on the part of the scores of Philadelphia Germans or German sympathizers to liberate the men.

This belief is supported by the fact that a number of names were found on the four men who were recaptured and who are detained in the barracks of the navy yard today, suffering from exposure.

The name of Richard Stein was found on one of the captured sailors. The names of five other Philadelphia men, five German-Americans in Jersey City and nine in Hoboken were also found on the captured men. It is believed by local officers that these addresses were given the would-be fugitives to indicate places of refuge. These names and addresses, kept secret by the navy yard officials, will be turned over to government agents, who will investigate the suspects.

An investigation is also being made today of the cutting of a trolley feed wire near the navy yard. This was done shortly after the men made their escape. The broken wire prevented trolleys from League Island moving. A feed wire which furnished the light to a restaurant just outside the navy yard was also mysteriously cut.

DECISION PERMITS GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT STRIKES

Claim Made by Railroad Managers Decision Makes This Plain

PRESIDENT STATED THIS VIEW IN SPEECH

One Effect of Law Will Be Speeding Up of All Freight Trains

New York, Mar. 20.—The Adamson law decision clearly establishes the right of the government to prevent strikes, railroad managers contend, in a statement issued today. A sharp cleavage of opinion has developed over this question, brotherhood chiefs contending that the ruling of the supreme court does not give the government such power.

The Switchmen's Union of North America, which was awarded 10 hour pay for a nine hour day by an arbitration board recently, "will be taken care of" when their present contract, signed for one year, expires, according to another statement from the managers' office.

The managers' office authorized the following statement in regard to the strike issue: "The chief thing that the company has gained out of this decision is that it establishes beyond doubt that the government, through congress, has full power to prevent railroad strikes. The opinion as read by Chief Justice White makes it plain that employees of interstate carriers, because of the public character of the railroads, are affected with a public interest that they have no more right to strike and tie up the commerce of the country, than have soldiers and sailors."

This same opinion was recently expressed by Judge Clements, member of the interstate commerce commission, when he said that railroad employes are affected with a public interest that they can no more ignore than can the carriers.

Wilson Suggested It. "The same idea was expressed by President Wilson in a speech made at Shadow Lawn during the campaign, in which he said: "America is never going to say to its individuals you must work whether you want to or not, but it is privileged to say to an organization of persons, you must not interrupt the national life without consulting us."

One part of the law specifically states the right possessed by the public interest, and as to which the power to regulate commerce by congress, applied, is "necessarily subject to limitations."

William G. Lee, trainmen chief, declared he does not believe this section prohibits strikes. "We are public servants," he said. "But we are government employees. Therefore, I see nothing in the supreme court's decision that would prevent striking."

Eight hundred separate agreements are to be effected today. The brotherhood chiefs are to meet the railway managers' conference committee in Grand Central Terminal today to take up this work.

CITY WILL PAY \$5 DAY TOWARD FREE FERRY

\$1,000 Taken From Fire Fund and \$250 From Band for This Use

A free ferry, a city band, and the question of reducing the pay of the assistant city engineer were the problems that occupied the attention of the council at its regular meeting last night and resulted in some pepper being scattered about somewhat promiscuously.

The free ferry was the first brought up on the courtesy of the floor was granted to D. J. Fry, who spoke on the progress of the matter. He said that at the meeting of the Commercial club a short time ago about 200 business men attended and discussed the matter. At that time, a committee composed of F. G. Deckerbach, Fred Steusloff and D. J. Fry was appointed to interview the Polk county court concerning the installation of a free ferry.

Mr. Fry said they visited the Polk county court, which promised \$150 a month or \$5 a day. The committee interviewed the manager of the Salem ferry regarding purchase or lease of the equipment but had nothing definite to report as yet. He said Marion was willing to do its share and he asked the city to appropriate funds to help.

THE WEATHER

Oregon: To-night and Wednesday occasional rain west, partly cloudy east; possibly southerly winds.

