

GERMANY YIELDS CONDITIONALLY

Concessions Proposed May Avert Rupture.

TO RESTRICT USE OF U-BOATS

Promises Submarines Will Not Sink Merchant Ships Except in Accordance With Law of Visit and Search; But Expects United States To Compel Enemies To Conform To Recognized Rules of War.

The German government has assured President Wilson that merchant vessels shall not be sunk without warning, or without visit and search, and that human lives shall be saved unless the ship attempts to escape or to offer resistance.

In effect, this is a compliance with the demand made by President Wilson in his vigorous note to Germany sent to Berlin three weeks ago last Wednesday.

President Wilson will accept the assurance of Germany in good faith that the German government will abandon the present method of submarine warfare, torpedoing defenseless ships with out warning, and that he will regard the German pledge as an acceptable compliance with the American demand.

In such case, the United States might not reply to the note and would await evidence of the actual abandonment of Germany's present practice of submarine warfare which is declared.

Berlin (By Wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—Following is the text of the note of the German Government in reply to the American note respecting submarine warfare, delivered by Gottlieb von Jagow, the Foreign Secretary, to Ambassador Gerard:

"The undersigned, on behalf of the Imperial German Government, has the honor to present to His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States, Mr. James W. Gerard, the following reply to the note of April 20 regarding the conduct of German submarine warfare.

"The German Government handed over to the proper naval authorities for early investigation the evidence concerning the Sussex as communicated by the Government of the United States.

"Identical With Sussex. "Judging by the results that the investigation has hitherto yielded, the German Government is alive to the possibility that the ship mentioned in the note of April 10 as having been torpedoed by a German submarine is actually identical with the Sussex.

"The German Government begs to reserve further communication on the matter until certain points are ascertained which are of decisive importance for establishing the facts of the case. Should it turn out that the commander was wrong in assuming the vessel to be a man-of-war, the German Government will not fail to draw the consequences resulting therefrom.

"U. S. Charges Repudiated. "In connection with the case of the Sussex the Government of the United States made a series of statements, the gist of which is the assertion that the incident is to be considered but one instance of a deliberate method of indiscriminate destruction of vessels of all sorts, nationalities and destinations by German submarine commanders.

"The German Government must emphatically repudiate the assertion. The German Government, however, thinks it of little avail to enter into details in the present stage of affairs, more particularly as the Government of the United States omitted to substantiate the assertion by reference to concrete facts.

"Has Imposed Restraints. "The German Government will only state that it has imposed far-reaching restraints upon the use of the submarine weapon, solely in consideration of neutrals' interests, in spite of the fact that these restrictions are necessarily of advantage to Germany's enemies. No such consideration has ever been shown neutrals by Great Britain and her allies.

"The German submarine forces have had, in fact, orders to conduct the submarine warfare in accordance with the general principles of visit and search and the destruction of merchant vessels recognized by international law, the sole exception being the conduct of warfare against enemy trade carried on enemy freight ships encountered in the war zone surrounding Great Britain. With regard to these no assurances have ever been given to the Government of the United States. No such assurances are contained in the declaration of February 8, 1916.

"Executed In Good Faith. "The German Government cannot admit any doubt that these orders were given or are executed in good faith. Errors actually occurred. They can in no kind of warfare be avoided altogether. Allowance must be made in the conduct of naval warfare against an enemy resorting to all kinds of ruses, whether permissible or illicit.

"But apart from the possibility of

errors, naval warfare, just like warfare on land, implies unavoidable dangers for neutral persons and goods entering the fighting zone. Even in cases where the naval action is confined to ordinary forms of cruiser warfare neutral persons and goods repeatedly come to grief.

Mine Danger Pointed Out. "The German Government has repeatedly and explicitly pointed out the dangers from mines that have led to the loss of numerous ships.

"The German Government has made several proposals to the Government of the United States in order to reduce to a minimum for American travelers and goods the inherent dangers of naval warfare. Unfortunately the Government of the United States decided not to accept the proposals. Had it accepted the Government of the United States would have been instrumental in preventing the greater part of the accidents that American citizens have met with in the meantime.

Can't Dispense With U-Boat. "The German Government still stands by its offer to come to an agreement along these lines.

"As the German Government repeatedly declared, it cannot dispense with the use of the submarine weapon in the conduct of warfare against enemy trade. The German Government, however, has now decided to make a further concession, adapting methods of submarine war to the interests of neutrals.

"In reaching this decision the German Government is actuated by considerations which are above the level of the disputed question.

Sacred Principles of Humanity. "The German Government attaches no less importance to the sacred principles of humanity than the Government of the United States. It again fully takes into account that both Governments for many years co-operated in developing international law in conformity with these principles, the ultimate object of which has always been to confine warfare on sea and land to armed forces of belligerents and safeguard as far as possible non-combatants against the horrors of war. But although these considerations are of great weight, they alone would not, under present circumstances, have determined the attitude of the German Government; for in answer to the appeal by the Government of the United States on behalf of the sacred principles of humanity and international law the German Government must repeat once more, with all emphasis, that it was not the German but the British Government which ignored all accepted rules of international law and extended this terrible war to the lives and property of non-combatants, having no regard whatever for the interests and rights of neutrals and non-combatants that through this method of warfare have been severely injured.

Adopted In Self-Defense. "In self-defense against the illegal conduct of British warfare, while fighting a bitter struggle for national existence, Germany had to resort to the hard but effective weapon of submarine warfare.

"As matters stand, the German Government cannot but reiterate regret that the sentiments of humanity which the Government of the United States extends with such fervor to the unhappy victims of submarine warfare are not extended with the same warmth of feeling to many millions of women and children, who, according to the avowed intention of the British Government, shall be starved, and who by sufferings shall force the victorious armies of the Central Powers into ignominious capitulation. The German Government, in agreement with the German people, fails to understand this discrimination, all the more as it has repeatedly and explicitly declared itself ready to use the submarine weapon in strict conformity with the rules of international law as recognized before the outbreak of the war if Great Britain likewise was ready to adapt the conduct of warfare to these rules.

Great Britain Refused. "Several attempts made by the Government of the United States to prevail upon the British Government to act accordingly failed because of flat refusal on the part of the British Government.

"Moreover, Great Britain again and again has violated international law, surpassing all bounds in outraging neutral rights. The latest measure adopted by Great Britain, declaring German bunker coal contraband and establishing conditions under which English bunker coal alone is supplied to neutrals, is nothing but an unheard-of attempt in the way of exaction by force of neutral tonnage for the service of British trade war."

Not Fair To Germany. "The German people know that the Government of the United States has the power to confine the war to armed forces of the belligerent countries in the interest of humanity and maintenance of international law. The Government of the United States would have been certain of attaining this end had it been determined to insist against Great Britain, on the incontrovertible rights to freedom of the seas. But as matters stand the German people are under the impression that the Government of the United States, while demanding that Germany, struggling for existence, shall restrain the use of an effective weapon, and while making compliance with these demands a condition for maintenance of relations with Germany, confines itself to protests

against illegal methods adopted by Germany's enemies.

Supplies Arms To Enemy. "Moreover, the German people know to what considerable extent their enemies are supplied with all kinds of war material from the United States. "It will, therefore, be understood that the appeal made by the Government of the United States to sentiments of humanity and principles of international law cannot under the circumstances meet the same hearty response from the German people which such an appeal otherwise always is certain to find here. If the German Government, nevertheless, is resolved to go to the utmost limit of concessions, it has been guided not alone by the friendship connecting the two great nations for over 100 years but also by the thought of the great doom which threatens the entire civilized world should the cruel and sanguinary war be extended and prolonged."

"The German Government, conscious of Germany's strength, twice within the last few months announced before the world its readiness to make peace on a basis safeguarding Germany's vital interests, thus indicating that it is not Germany's fault if peace is still withheld from the nations of Europe.

"The German Government feels all the more justified in declaring that responsibility could not be borne before the forum of mankind and in history if after 21 months of the war's duration the submarine question under discussion between the German Government and the Government of the United States were to take a turn seriously threatening maintenance of peace between the two nations.

Would Limit Operations. "As far as lies with the German Government, it wishes to prevent things from taking such a course. The German Government, moreover, is prepared to do its utmost to confine operations of the war for the rest of its duration to the fighting forces of the belligerents, thereby also insuring freedom of the seas, a principle upon which the German Government believes, now as before, that it is in agreement with the Government of the United States.

Order To Naval Forces. "The German Government, guided by this idea, notifies the Government of the United States that German naval forces have received the following orders: "In accordance with the general principles of visit and search and the destruction of merchant vessels recognized by international law as such vessels, both within and without the area declared a naval war zone, shall not be sunk without warning and without saving human lives unless the ship attempt to escape or offer resistance."

ARMED MERCHANTMEN AS WARSHIPS

Germany's Contentment In Her Former Memorandum and Her Warning To Neutrals.

The German memorandum of February 8, was addressed to neutral nations and declared that after February 29, Germany would consider all armed merchantmen belonging to countries at war with Germany as warships, and that such vessels would be treated accordingly and sunk without warning.

It is charged that before the outbreak of the war the British government had given British shipping companies an opportunity to arm merchantmen with guns for protection against dangers "threatening under certain circumstances from auxiliary cruisers of other powers." The British Admiralty, it was added, published in January, 1914, a list showing that 29 steamers of various English lines carried stern guns.

Germany established soon after the outbreak of the war, the memorandum said, that English liners were armed—the steamer La Correntina having been captured carrying two four pound seven-inch stern guns and a German submarine having been fired upon in the channel by an English yacht.

The memorandum said the British government for its own merchantmen had taken the standpoint that armed merchantmen maintained the character of peaceful mercantile vessels so long as they only carried armament for defensive purposes, but that in the case of armed ships under other flags it had adopted the principle that they were to be treated as warships.

"The German government," the memorandum continued, "has no doubt that merchantmen acquire a belligerent character through arming with cannon, no matter whether the guns shall serve only for defense or for attack. It considers every warlike activity of enemy merchantmen as contrary to international law, although it takes into consideration the opposing views, through the fact that it treats the crews of such ships not as pirates, but as belligerents."

The memorandum said that numerous cases had come to light from reports of the German naval forces, "in which British merchantmen not only offered armed resistance to German warships, but, on their own part, proceeded without further ado to attack them, in which attacks they frequently made use of false colors."

The manifesto was issued in order that the neutral powers might "warn their subjects from further entrusting their persons or property to armed ships of the powers at war with Germany."



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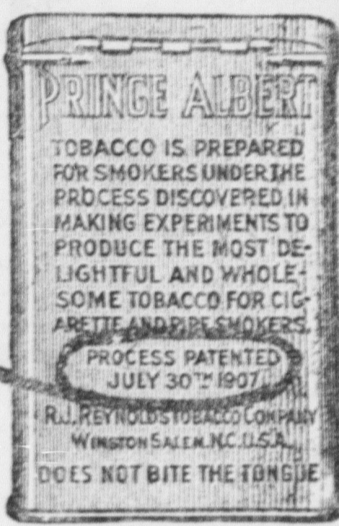
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STATE NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

The Latest Gleanings From All Over the State.

TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

DATES GIVEN FOR N. G. P. CAMPS
First, Third and Fourth Brigades Go To Mount Greta July 7 To 15.

Harrisburg—Tentative dates and places for the encampments of the various organizations of the National Guard this summer were announced in a circular of information issued from the adjutant general's department. The arrangements are subject to changes according to circumstances. The information given out is as follows:

Owing to inefficiency of funds there will be no camp of instruction for officers of infantry held during this year.

The First, Third and Fourth Brigades will encamp at Mount Greta July 7 to 15.

The Second Brigade will encamp at a place to be selected by the brigade commander August 5 to 12.

The First Cavalry will encamp according to action by the War Department.

Batteries A, C and D will encamp at Tobyhanna July 25 to August 4, and Batteries B, E and F at the same place, August 6 to 15.

Field hospitals and ambulance companies at Tobyhanna, August 10 to 20.

Engineer companies at Belvoir, Va., July 5 to 16.

Signal troops with Second Brigade.

The rifle camp of instruction and State matches will be held at Mount Greta August 16 to 25.

Time Extension In Taxation Report.
Auditor General Powell was informed in an opinion given by Deputy Attorney General Hargest, that he had no authority to grant more than one extension of the time for filing corporation reports for State taxation.

The decision was in case of a northwestern company, which had been given an extension of thirty days. The penalty for failure to file after the extension had been granted will be enforced.

Opinions were also given that the premium on the bond for the superintendent of construction of the new buildings at Spring City Hospital must be paid from the funds of the Department of Public-Grounds and Buildings and that prisoners sentenced prior to June 30, 1909, do not come under the parole Act of May 10, 1909.

Order 27 Arrests in Milk Crusade.
Twenty-seven arrests have been ordered by Dairy and Food Commissioner James Foust as the first result of the extensive sampling of milk and cream in eastern and central Pennsylvania counties. The arrests are for sale of milk below the standard in fats. More arrests are likely.

The campaign against "bleached flour" was also started, two arrests being ordered in northwestern counties. Arrests of representatives of a Cleveland firm for sale of linseed oil containing about fifty per cent. of mineral oil were also decided upon.

Scores of prosecutions for sale of adulterated foods are likely because of activity of agents in sampling.

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Guardsmen Get Compensation If Hurt.

All of the National Guardsmen called into State service by Governor Brumbaugh because of the disturbances in Allegheny county are under the workmen's compensation Act, as are the State Police, and should anyone be killed or injured while on such duty the compensation would be the same as though hurt in a manufacturing establishment where the militia-men happened to be employed.

The State's liability is cared for in an appropriation of \$15,000 made by the last Legislature. The Guardsmen come under the compensation law automatically as soon as called into service.

Sue To Test Escheat Act.

The first steps to test the constitutionality of the escheat Act of 1915 were taken when counsel for the Columbia National Bank and Union Trust Company, of Pittsburgh, brought an action in equity to restrain the Auditor General from enforcing the statute. The Attorney General will defend the act, and it is probable that other financial concerns will intervene in the proceedings.

It was estimated when the Legislature passed the law that it would bring thousands of dollars of many unclaimed deposits into the State Treasury.

Charters Granted.

Governor Brumbaugh approved these charters:

- Guaranty Realty Co., Philadelphia, capital, \$5,000; treasurer, Earl T. Kramer.
- The Graves Timing Device Co., Philadelphia; capital, \$35,000; treasurer, C. L. Bundy.
- The Lakewood Realty Co., Mahanoy City; capital, \$30,000; treasurer, D. F. Railroad Men's Building and Loan Association, Altoona; capital, \$1,000,000; treasurer, James A. Doyle, Guinan.
- Jacob Stair Co., store, York; capital, \$40,000; treasurer, Jacob Stair.

Road Material Awards.

Contracts were awarded at the State Highway Department for class "C" bituminous material for use by the maintenance division in the first, third and fourth districts to the Barrett Manufacturing Company, of Philadelphia, at the following prices: First District, 6749 per gallon; third district, 675 per gallon; fourth district, 675 per gallon.

The contract for the second district was awarded to the United Gas Improvement Company, of Philadelphia, at .076 per gallon.

Jitney Lines Approved.

The Public Service Commission approved applications for certificates of convenience for jitney lines in Blair, Cambria, Mifflin, Allegheny and other counties. The commission will likely announce a general ruling relative to jitneys in a short time.

Stock Transfer Tax Declines.
Sales of the new State stock transfer tax stamps are reported to have dropped considerably during April. By the Auditor General's Department. The April sales were \$8,800. Those for January were almost \$22,000, for February \$25,000 and for March \$15,000.