

U. S. FACES CRISIS WITH TWO NATIONS ON WAR QUESTIONS

Course Pursued by Great Britain in Interfering With Rights of Shipping on the High Seas and Germany's Attitude Relative to Foreign Consuls in Belgium Present Grave Problems for Diplomatic Action.

Protest to English Government Against Violations of Maritime Freedom to Be Followed by Demand for Full Financial Compensation—Kaiser's Policy in Conquered Kingdom Involves Neutral Position of Washington Administration.

The United States Government today faces two crises in its international relations, one with Great Britain and the other with Germany.

American shipping has been seriously hampered by British seizures and detention. This has occasioned a strong protest, and President Wilson announces determination to hold Great Britain to a strict accountability.

Germany has demanded that all Consuls to Belgium receive the official approval of Germany, as conqueror of Belgium. Reports from Washington are to the effect that the American Government will not recognize Germany as the ruling power in Belgium, at least not until the war is ended. To do so would involve the neutrality of the United States, it is pointed out. Officially, it is said, the matter has not been brought to the attention of the President.

Diplomatic relations hinge upon the settlement of the two questions: What will be Great Britain's reply to America's stern demand? and what will be America's attitude toward Germany's ruling governing United States Consuls?

Apparently recognizing the gravity of the action in thus warning Great Britain and, inferentially, the other powers engaged in the war, the White House today authorized an informal and unofficial explanation. This laid most of the blame for violation of the laws of neutrality on American shippers. The explanation was phrased about as follows:

"The President stated that the great embarrassment to the Government in dealing with this whole matter was that some shippers had concealed contraband under cargoes of noncontraband articles, for example, under a cargo of cotton.

"So long as there are any instances of this kind, suspicion is cast upon every shipment and all cargoes are liable to doubt and search. This Government can deal confidently with this subject only if supported by absolutely honest merchants."

U. S. TO EXACT PAYMENT FOR STOPPING OF SHIPS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—This Government intends, after the war, to hold Great Britain to strict monetary account for any violation of rights to American shipping. President Wilson made this emphatically evident today in discussing the dispatch of a blanket protest to England against transgression of America's maritime rights. Financial restitution will be demanded.

He held that this note was not a threat to Great Britain. He insisted that it was merely putting the shoe on the other foot, in other words, only applying the rules Great Britain has heretofore insisted on in times of war when her own trade was affected.

The note today stands unanswered, the President said. It summarizes in comprehensive form, he explained, a series of complaints, although each individual case has been the subject of a concrete protest.

OFFENDING NATION MUST PAY.

That this protest is the basis for a demand for damages after the war was evident from the President's explanation that, wherever a Government wrongs the maritime rights of a neutral, the offending nation eventually has to pay for its transgressions. From this statement it was inferred that, as in other conflicts, the alleged injured neutral—America, in this instance—expects to ask millions of dollars in reparation.

The President contended that this sweeping document is only a question of the rules of international law. It does not hinge on precedents of the War of 1812 or other past conflicts with England, although precedents drawn from past experience give a basis for the international law rules, the President explained.

Moreover, he emphatically asserted that as far as theory is concerned there is no debating America's position in the situation. The protest represents our position fully, the Executive asserted. England herself, he said, had taken a similar position in former wars.

Yet there is no threat, actual or implied, in the note, he insisted. It is merely a demand of America for her rights on the seas—and for monetary reparation should England's seizure, search, and detention of United States vessels be proved beyond English rights.

CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT.

Administration officials expect that the exchange of notes will result in British regulations freeing American commerce from British interference to a great extent. This expectation is based principally on the ground that Great Britain is extremely anxious to possess the moral support and friendship, not only of the Administration, but of the American public.

In diplomatic circles opinion prevailed that the negotiations over the American note would cover a considerable period. Couched most carefully to avoid offering offense to England—even to the extent of changes in phraseology by President Wilson himself—the United States note is expected to be given lengthy consideration by Sir Edward Grey before a reply, as carefully drawn, is made.

Secretary of State Bryan refused to make the note public. Also, at present, its contents will be kept secret from other foreign powers. Notes of similar tenor to England from other neutral countries are expected to follow the lead taken by the United States, however.

The preparation of this governmental note was begun fully a month ago by Solicitor General Johnson, Counselor Robert Lansing and Secretary of State Bryan. After passing through their hands its phraseology was changed with minute care by President Wilson.

ADDRESSED TO ENTIRETY.

Though addressed to Great Britain, the note is virtually a statement to all of the Powers now composing the Triple Entente. France has abstained virtually the same degree on contraband as has Great Britain, and a change in the policy of England would undoubtedly mean a change in the policy of France.

One of the major purposes in the

U. S. BALKS AT GERMAN "O. K." FOR ITS CONSULS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The United States has no intention of recognizing any political status of the Germans in Belgium territory so long as the war continues.

This was emphatically stated following the receipt at the State Department of a note from the German government informing the United States that Germany would not recognize exequaturs issued by the Belgian government to American consular officers in territory now controlled by the German forces.

It is hoped and believed here that the American consuls in the Belgian districts now occupied by the Germans can continue to exercise their consular functions through temporary informal permits granted them by the German de facto authorities. This would not involve any recognition of a political status of the Germans in Belgium. It is not believed that Germany has any intention of forcing the issue of recognition at this time.

But it may be stated that if Germany should press this issue, the United States would withdraw its consuls from Belgian territory rather than grant such recognition to the conquerors.

When consuls are sent to foreign countries their governments make application of the foreign office of the government to which they are being sent for exequaturs or commissions authorizing them to exercise consular functions in a specified district of that country. A formal request for such exequaturs in the present case of Germany in Belgium, would involve recognition by the United States of the political control of Germany over that part of Belgium which its forces occupy as distinguished from a merely temporary military control.

The news reports of the German announcement regarding Consuls in Belgium to neutral countries other than the United States state that Germany has specifically informed them that they must apply for new exequaturs to the German Foreign Office. But no such request is contained in the note presented to the State Department. Germany informs the United States that it will not recognize exequaturs of the Belgian Government, but it is not understood from the note that it wants to replace them with German exequaturs. It is thought that it will readily agree to an informal arrangement avoiding the question of recognition.

It is generally believed here that Germany intends soon to proclaim civil control over the occupied Belgian districts. It would be understood for the United States to recognize such a step until the war is ended.

document states that feeling has been aroused on the subject to such an extent that the American Government feels compelled to ask for definite information as to Great Britain's attitude in order that it may "take such measures as will protect American citizens in their right."

The United States, it points out, was patient at first, realizing that the unexpected outbreak of hostilities had heaped a mass of burdens on the British Government and thinking an early clearing of the air would prove. Five months have now elapsed, the note asserts, with no improvement in the situation.

COMPLAINT REGARDING COPPER.

A conspicuous complaint cited in the note is against the treatment by Great Britain of American cargoes of copper. It is flatly charged that Great Britain is discriminating against the American trade in copper in favor of the Scandinavian copper interests, as to commerce in this product between the United States and Italy. Even though the Italian Government, the note declares, has proclaimed an embargo on the exportation of copper from Italy to belligerent nations similar to the embargo in force in Norway, Denmark and Sweden, the consignments of copper from the United States are to be kept up while those of the Scandinavian countries pass unimpeded.

Taking up the subject of the detention of American ships on the high seas, the Washington Government emphatically states that it cannot tolerate undue delays in examining them or in conveying such ships to British ports for detailed examination. It argues that proof of the destination of the cargo must be in evidence at the time of such search at sea.

document states that feeling has been aroused on the subject to such an extent that the American Government feels compelled to ask for definite information as to Great Britain's attitude in order that it may "take such measures as will protect American citizens in their right."

The United States, it points out, was patient at first, realizing that the unexpected outbreak of hostilities had heaped a mass of burdens on the British Government and thinking an early clearing of the air would prove. Five months have now elapsed, the note asserts, with no improvement in the situation.

GROUP OF DELEGATES WHO ARE ATTENDING SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION HERE



From left to right, Dr. R. B. Dixon, H. J. Spinder, Miss H. Boas, Miss R. A. Lowie, Dr. Truman Michelson and Robert H. Lowie are shown standing on the steps at Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania.

FOOD AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN FIXING SEX IN ANIMALS

Scientist Tells His Fellows of Influence as Seen in Lower Orders—Plea for Merchant Marine.

Food as an influence in controlling sex in certain animals, merchant marine and "the web of treaties" were three important subjects discussed today by eminent men at the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Food has an influence in controlling sex in rotifers who live, eat and sleep in the dirty pools of water in barnyards of Philadelphia. There are hundreds of such pools in this city where only females can be found.

Scientists today pictured the life of a rotifer, which is as small as a fly.

According to Dr. David D. Whitney, of Wesleyan University, of Middletown, Conn., the female rotifers seem happy and contented as suffragettes.

Many of the female rotifers produce female children, none of whom ever had a father. And the scientists who followed Doctor Whitney insisted that every one of the fair daughters always grew up to maturity and in turn produced healthy female children.

DIET AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.

Laboratory experiments which were produced today showed that the diet of these animals was an important factor in controlling sex.

If the grandmothers and mothers confine themselves to a constant diet of a little colorless water animal, they produce exclusively females. If, however, the diet of these animals is suddenly changed to a little green water animal, nearly all of the children who follow are males.

Statistics brought forth today showed that 40 grandmothers recently suddenly changed their diet. They had been living on the food which produced females. They changed to eating little green water animals. The result was that males were born.

PLEA FOR MERCHANT MARINE.

Charles H. Sherrill, former United States Minister to Argentina, made a plea for a merchant marine. He spoke on "A message from the country on foreign trade." Mr. Sherrill drew from the present conditions the world over a series of moral texts and preached to his auditors the need of cleaning our national house, our personal hearts and minds and awakening to the needs as well as the opportunities afforded by the present time. He said there had never been given to this land a message so potent of need and opportunity as that which now "comes down the field." He was free to say that in the last decade wonders of advancement had been accomplished in this land, but he emphasized the fact that there is so much more to be done that none can afford to waste a minute least the opportunity that knocks but once at a nation's door as well as at the door of the individual he lost.

The speaker dwelt with great emphasis upon the need of a merchant marine, and thought it was the solution of our greatest problem so far as concerns our food crops and their disposal to the markets of the world. He said in part:

"Everybody wants our merchant marine assisted—it was promised by all parties in the campaign of 1912. What happened after the election? The Democratic party, in control of both branches of the Congress and of the executive, enacted the tariff law of October 3, 1913, and in it put a section granting 5 per cent reduction in duties to goods carried in American bottoms.

"Sundry foreign Governments promptly filed protests with the State Department. These foreign Governments had long been planning to prevent any return by us to the laws which succeeded so brilliantly in the early days of our Republic.

NEW FREEDOM WANTED.

"Chief among these governmental aids to enterprising exporters abroad is reduced railroad rates to the seaboard given for exports, and the encouragement for firms which are competitors in the same market to band together for foreign trade.

"Their competition at home keeps down the home prices, but once across their national frontiers they fight only foreign and not domestic competitors with a lower preferential rate on railroads to export articles in relation to the domestic Commerce Act and the results of its enactment, while

the Sherman Act interferes with combinations for foreign trade.

"The foregoing is known to the organized activity of business men consulting these great commercial organizations. They have done everything possible to help themselves, but now they realize that governmental action is necessary to liberate our merchant marine from its present trammels, to release the overregulated railroads from those regulations which prevent their assisting our exporters, and to free our producers to make such combinations in foreign fields as they like.

"Give us this new freedom for our foreign trade, and American brains and energy will soon get for American labor and capital what the best so long going to foreign labor and capital."

SAVANT GIVES WARNING.

American vitality, as compared with British vitality, is waning, according to Dr. Eugene L. Fisk, Director of Hygiene of the Life Extension Institute of New York.

The death rate in the United States, said Doctor Fisk, is on the increase, while in Great Britain there has been an improvement at every age up to 65. In Germany there had been an improvement at every age during the last 20 years.

"There is evidence that American vitality as compared with British vitality is waning. Recent health examinations of thousands of insurance policyholders and of employes show the encroachment of degenerative diseases of the heart, blood vessels and kidneys. A group of some thousands of employes who were examined by the institute, with an average age of 30, showed 13 per cent with arteriosclerosis and more than 50 per cent sufficiently impaired to be sent to their physicians for treatment."

DEATH AND INJURY IN ACCIDENTS DUE TO ICE ON STREETS

Kick by Falling Horse Kills Man While Scores of Pedestrians Slip on Sidewalks.

One man is dead and hundreds were injured today in accidents on the ice-covered streets. Many suffered broken arms, sprained ankles and lacerated hands and faces from sudden tumbles on the glassy sidewalks.

George Murphy, 57 years old, of 2529 Catharine street, was fatally injured. He tried to cross Race street at 30th before a team of horses hauling a heavy truck. As he stepped beside the team one horse slipped.

As the animal tried to recover its balance a hoof struck Murphy in the head and fractured his skull. He died before reaching the Policlinic Hospital. Joseph Snyder, 238 Wheeler street, the driver, was arrested and taken to City Hall for a hearing. The accident was unavoidable, witnesses said.

All Philadelphia and its suburbs slipped and skidded on its way to the office this morning through a drizzling rain on ice-coated streets. Cars were late and trains made slow time. Horses dragging big trucks managed to fall precisely across the path of belated street cars, while 50 agents for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ran for their lives to try on the ice-coated platform. They were unsuccessful in raising the animals to their feet.

In the suburbs the commuters' daily dash for the station was varied with lively efforts to keep their balance and skidded on its way to the office this morning through a drizzling rain on ice-coated streets. Cars were late and trains made slow time. Horses dragging big trucks managed to fall precisely across the path of belated street cars, while 50 agents for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ran for their lives to try on the ice-coated platform. They were unsuccessful in raising the animals to their feet.

BANKER FIGHTS FIRE

Aids Chauffeur in Extinguishing Flames in Garage.

W. J. Sewell, Jr., a banker, who lives on St. Martin's lane, Chestnut Hill, and his chauffeur, fought a fire which started in the garage near the home of the banker early this morning and damaged an automobile to the extent of \$100.

The blaze in the garage was discovered by Bernard McEster, the chauffeur, who sleeps over the garage. He then aroused Mr. Sewell, and the two men fought the flames. They destroyed the motorcar and garage. The origin of the fire is unknown.

BOY SCOUTS BRING MESSAGE

Scranton Troop Greets Mayor Blankenburg for Mayor Jermyn.

A message of greeting to Mayor Blankenburg from Edmund B. Jermyn, Mayor of Scranton, Pa., was delivered at the Mayor's office this morning by 39 Boy Scouts from Scranton.

Blankenburg shook hands with the Scouts and expressed his pleasure at the visit. He dictated a reply to Mayor Jermyn and also a message to the Boy Scouts of Scranton. The visitors will return to Scranton with the two letters Thursday evening.

The Boy Scouts, who compose Troop 9, of Scranton, are in charge of Scoutmaster J. E. Reynolds. They are on a three days' sightseeing tour.

\$22,000 LEFT TO RELATIVES

Will of Late David McCourt Admitted to Probate.

David McCourt, late of 117 Wadsworth avenue, left an estate of \$22,000 to relatives. His will was admitted to probate today.

Other beneficiaries include those of Emily W. Newlin, 1129 Catharine street, \$500; Mary L. B. Harris, 2304 De Lancey place, \$500; Mary J. Kearney, 5815 Warrington avenue, \$500.

Personal property of John Kelly has been appraised at \$329.

Wasp Bitten But After Inquest

Wasp Bitten, 2017 Bodine Street, was held without bail today at the inquest into the death of Thomas Maharski, 39 years old, 2017 North Bodine street, who died as the result of injuries received during a fight at the home of Ignatz Allis, Allis, 2018 Bodine street, who was arrested as a witness, was discharged by the Coroner when he promised to appear if wanted by the police.

Keep Your Skin Soft

by using our Skin Food—a delicate, effective toilet and health requisite, which instantly softens, cleanses, chaps and relieves all roughness due to wind and cold winds. It nourishes and softens. In country local tubes, 25c. "Attractive Jar, 50c. Distributors everywhere.

"Their competition at home keeps down the home prices, but once across their national frontiers they fight only foreign and not domestic competitors with a lower preferential rate on railroads to export articles in relation to the domestic Commerce Act and the results of its enactment, while

SPRAY & PRUNE

your fruit and shade trees and bushes now, they will yield better next year.

You can get a variety of pruners, shears, saws, pruning gloves, etc., for tree trimming, also a complete line of Spray Machinery and spray material here.

MICHELL'S SEED HOUSE

518 Market St., Phila., Pa.

Trousers A Specialty JONES

1116 Walnut Street

AMBLER'S SPEAKER BOOM BACKED IN CHESTER COUNTY

Added Vigor Given by Insurance Commissioner Johnson's Support.

Representative Charles A. Ambler's candidacy for the speakership of the next House is gaining considerable headway. The Chester County delegation is out for the Montgomery County man, and his candidacy is openly allied with the Governor-elect's influence with Insurance Commissioner Charles Johnson's announcement that he will manage the Ambler boom.

The Chester Representatives, Samuel A. Whitaker, Maria M. Hollingsworth and Charles F. Greenwood, are regarded as ardent local optimists and champions of Governor-elect Brumbaugh's platform.

Insurance Commissioner Johnson's active entry into the race was taken as a sure indication of the Governor-elect's support of Ambler's candidacy. Commissioner Johnson, who is treasurer of the Republican State Committee, has announced his candidacy for reappointment as Commissioner of the State Board of Education, and after the interview said that he was still confident of winning out. Baldwin will open his Harrisburg headquarters in the Commonwealth Hotel Friday night. Ambler's headquarters will be opened by Johnson in Harrisburg on Saturday morning.

Governor-elect Brumbaugh went to Harrisburg today, and after attending the meeting of the State Board of Education and addressing the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Teachers' Association, he conferred with Dauphin County leaders regarding legislation. Tomorrow he will go to Pittsburgh and confer with Republican leaders in Allegheny County.

Perry's BIG Reduction Sale in Full Swing This Second Day!

Remember, we reduce prices only at the end of each Season! It is the only time you can get at a price-reduction a Suit or an Overcoat with the Perry Label!

These are the self-same Suits and Overcoats that have been selling steadily these four months past!

\$15 Suits & Overcoats NOW \$10.50 & \$11.50

\$18 Suits & Overcoats NOW \$13.50 & \$15.00

\$20 Suits & Overcoats NOW \$15.00 & \$16.50

\$25 Suits & Overcoats, NOW \$19 and \$20

DREKA STATIONERS

Beautiful Diaries and Engagement Books

Light, Dainty Leathers, for Ladies' Use .50 to \$4.00

Also Substantially Bound for Doctors, Lawyers and Business Men .50 to \$3.50

1121 CHESTNUT STREET

EVERY DAY NOW IS PRECIOUS TO THOSE SEEKING FREE TOUR

Persons Desiring to See Beauty Spots of West Should Enter Contest at Once.

Rapid work is being done by the early entrants in the Public Ledger and Evening Ledger contest which will result in 50 persons being taken absolutely free of charge to the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco and the San Diego Exposition at San Diego. The free tour, which will touch at numerous beauty spots of the great West and the picturesque intermountain country, will start after the conclusion of the contest, May 31, 1915.

Already nearly 100 men and women have filed their names as contestants and have started to work, each determined to outdo all the others. There is still plenty of time to enter, however, but now that the contest has begun every day is valuable.

No time is being wasted by those who first realized what a really great opportunity to see the wonder spots of the United States is being offered by the Evening Ledger and Public Ledger. No such offer ever has been made before, and few persons can afford to overlook it.

The work required of contestants is not difficult and may be accomplished in spare time. The rewards offered are exceedingly liberal in comparison to the work necessary. The entire expense of the trip from Philadelphia to San Francisco and San Diego, with stops at numerous points of interest, including the Grand Canyon of Arizona, will be paid for the 50 leaders in the contest. There will be no discrimination or favoritism. No one will have any advantage. The names and regulations will apply to all.

Employees of the two newspapers are prohibited from entering the contest. Those who will take the tour at the expense of the Evening Ledger and Public Ledger will be given the best of everything without the expenditure of a cent. Full information as to the terms of the contest may be obtained from the Contest Editor by mail or telephone.

\$30, \$35, \$40 Suits; \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50, \$55 Overcoats at Similar Reductions!

Separate Trousers, \$1.50 for \$2.50 trousers; \$2.50 for \$3.50 trousers; \$3 for \$4 and \$4.50 trousers, etc., etc.

PERRY & CO. "N.B.T."

16th & Chestnut Sts.

INTAGLIO PORTRAITS OF GERMANY'S ROYAL FAMILY

Recent photographs of the entire reigning family of the German Empire. Reproduced in the beautiful Intaglio process on a separate sheet of heavy paper, 10 x 15 inches, suitable for framing. Given FREE as a special pictorial supplement to the

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

PUBLIC LEDGER

Order from your dealer TODAY