

WILSON READY TO MEET SUIT

"My Life Is Open, Nothing to Conceal," His Answer to Threat

SHERN ACT A WEAPON

Ex-Judge Gordon Confers With Rotan, Who Subsequently Meets Penrose

Mayor Smith today declared he was ready to meet any legal action which might be taken against him, charging violation of the Shern law on account of his connections with the Thomas B. Smith Bonding Company, which has bonded city employees for many thousands of dollars.

Former Judge James Gay Gordon and District Attorney Samuel P. Rotan held a conference yesterday and Mr. Rotan was subsequently closeted with Senator Penrose.

With respect to the Mayor and his connection with the bonding of municipal employees, through his relations to the Thomas B. Smith Company, it has been expected that this situation would be brought to the attention of the courts.

Proceedings along this line would be started with a view of determining judicially whether or not the Mayor could hold public office and maintain a financial interest in the bonding business. Some insist that this condition should automatically remove him from office.

In any event, Judge Gordon's sudden entrance into the field, as the representative of anti-Vare elements was taken to mean that this question, among others, finally was to be raised.

Not only is it proposed to investigate charges that officeholders are in politics, but also to prepare for future violations of either the Shern act or the law governing elections. This latter has special reference to such things as using the police illegally at the polls on election days; illegal assistance to voters and, in general, any violation of the election laws in the interests of factionalism.

BOLD LEGAL STROKE PREDICTED. The possible and probable results of the Gordon-Rotan and Penrose-Rotan meetings stirred politicians to the keenest interest, as it was generally and authoritatively accepted as a fact that the bold Penrose-McNichol leadership was preparing for the delivery of a bold legal stroke against the Vare-Smith-Burnham combination in city and county.

It was believed that Mr. Gordon represented the Citizens' Republican League and also the Philadelphia Republican League, the former being conducted by independent leaders, including Senator Penrose, and the latter by the Citizens' Republican League, making similar charges of Shern law violation. He declared that he had a statement with respect to these notwithstanding the rumors that definite action soon was to be taken.

Do you represent any organization or body of citizens? "I am sorry," he answered the question, "the judge replied, 'Anything said will come from the District Attorney.'"

Their conference took place in Mr. Rotan's private office. The District Attorney had before him affidavits of alleged police activity which had been sent to him by David T. Hart, Penrose-McNichol leader in the 13th ward, and also communications from George B. Porter, secretary of the Citizens' Republican League, making similar charges of Shern law violation. He declared that he had a statement with respect to these notwithstanding the rumors that definite action soon was to be taken.

LEAGUE NOT YET FINISHED. The Citizens' Republican League later announced that it had not finished its program of supplying evidence to the District Attorney.

Further evidence of this was disclosed this afternoon when it was announced that another case would be forwarded to District Attorney Penrose. The case was made following the dismissal of Edward Hewlett, chief compare clerk in the Recorder of Deeds office. Hewlett is a member of the Citizens' Republican League, and also of the Citizens' Republican League.

Several attempts made by the Government of the United States to prevail upon Great Britain to declare neutrality, and to accept the principle of international law, failed, because of the flat refusal on the part of England.

SALIENT POINTS IN GERMAN NOTE ON SUBMARINE POLICY

The outstanding features of the German reply defining German attitude on the submarine warfare are: The German Admiralty has issued a new order to submarine commanders (a copy of which is included in the note), by which no more merchant ships shall be sunk without first being visited and searched and that all persons on board the merchant ships shall be given a chance to escape.

Germany declares that unless the United States compels England to cease violating the rules of international law, a new situation will arise in which the German Government "must reserve for itself complete liberty of decision."

Germany declares that: The United States has discriminated against her in favor of the Allies; The German people have become aroused by the attitude of the United States; The German Government is determined not to give up its most effective weapon (the submarine), although a restriction of its use will be allowed.

The United States is expected to co-operate with Germany in "restoring the freedom of the seas." The German Government wishes to prevent a break with the United States; The German Government seeks to confine fighting to belligerent nations, and to extend the blockade to countries now at peace;

The United States will be held responsible if the German armies are defeated through the "starvation policy" laid down by England in her blockade.

Germany intends to continue her submarine warfare. Frequent references are made in the note to "the German people" as apart from the German Government.

The note intimates that responsibility for a break would rest with the United States and the note plainly indicates that a further exchange of representations is desired before certain elements of the submarine controversy are cleared up.

BERLIN OFFERS CONCESSIONS TO UNITED STATES DEMANDS

Continued from Page One greater part of the accidents that American citizens have met with. In the meantime, the German Government still stands by its offer to come to an agreement along these lines.

The German Government has repeatedly declared it cannot dispense with the use of the submarine weapon in the conduct of warfare against enemy trade.

DECIDES TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. The German Government, however, has now decided to make further concessions, adapting the methods of submarine warfare to the interests of neutrals. In reaching this decision the German Government was actuated by considerations which are above the level of the questions in dispute.

The German Government attaches no less importance to the sacred principles of humanity than the Government of the United States. Again, it fully takes into account the fact that both governments (German and American) have for years co-operated in developing international law in conformity with these principles (of humanity). The object has been always to confine warfare on both sea and land to armed forces of belligerents and safeguard as far as possible non-combatants against the horrors of war.

But, while these considerations are of great weight, they alone, under the present circumstances, would not by themselves have determined the attitude of the German Government.

PITS BLAME ON BRITAIN. 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 one special reference to such things as using the police illegally at the polls on election days; illegal assistance to voters and, in general, any violation of the election laws in the interests of factionalism.

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Moreover, the German people know that the United States is supplied with all kinds of war materials from the United States.

"DOOM THREATENS WORLD." It will therefore be understood that the appeal made by the Government of the United States to the principles of humanity and the principles of international law cannot meet with the same hearty response from the German people as such an appeal would otherwise always certainly find here.

If the German Government nevertheless resolved to go to the utmost limits of concession, it would also be guided by the friendship which exists between the two great nations for more than 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 is conscious of Germany's strength. Twice within the last few months (we) announced before the world our readiness to make peace on a basis safeguarding Germany's vital interests, thus indicating that it is not Germany's fault if peace is withheld from the nations of Europe."

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PHILADELPHIANS SEE GERMAN DESIRE TO MEET U. S. HALFWAY

Value of Friendship Chief Cause of Concessions on U-Boat Warfare, Says John Frederick Lewis

"Stand by President," Says Governor McCall, Here in Interest of Preparedness

Philadelphians generally expressed themselves today as seeing in the reply of the German Government in the U-boat controversy a disposition on the part of Berlin diplomats to "meet half way" the demands of the United States. Several persons whose acquaintance with international law gives prominence to their views on the subjects involved in the controversy are quoted below.

The value of the friendship of the United States is regarded as highly by Germany as to be the chief cause for the concessions indicated in the U-boat reply received today. Such was the interpretation placed upon the latest note by John Frederick Lewis, authority on international questions.

Mr. Lewis, however, said he could "not quite understand the German reply." He said in substance I gather that the German Government has concluded to make further concessions and will adopt its methods of submarine warfare more to the interests of neutrals than heretofore. This seems to be clear. The reply states that in reaching this decision the German Government is actuated not only by friendship, but also by the thought of the great doom which threatens the entire civilized world should the war be extended and prolonged.

"Germany evidently desires to keep the friendship of the United States. In fact, I do not well see how she can do otherwise," he earnestly hopes that the nature of her concessions may be made already communicated to the Government of the United States or will be promptly communicated and that they may be regarded as satisfactory.

FRANCIS FISHER KANE. United States Attorney Francis Fisher Kane, in commenting on the German note, said:

"I think the President's stand in the present controversy has been admirable throughout. He has handled the situation in the best possible manner. I have often heard him hold him to admit that he is wrong, and the victory is just that much greater."

GVERNOR MCCALL. Governor Samuel W. McCall, of Massachusetts, here in connection with the preparedness movement, said: "I don't think it is the privilege of any man to hold public positions to comment on the German reply to the President's note, because they may something that would embarrass the President. He is the only one to say what he thinks of the reply. We must all stand behind President Wilson in this situation. He has a tremendous responsibility resting on his shoulders, and it is not his fault if peace is withheld from the nations of Europe."

PROF. WILLIAM J. HULL. "We ought not to go against Germany with England," said Professor William J. Hull, of the chair of history and international relations at Swarthmore College. "Germany has offered concessions and just what we should do in the future should be determined by the nature of the concessions. I believe that we should insist upon the recognition of neutral rights, but insist that England recognize them as well as Germany. If we fight, we should fight for the United States and not for England."

THOMAS RAEBURN WHITE. "Until I have seen the text of the note, I cannot comment on it," said Thomas Raeburn White, attorney and an authority on international law.

Being a Democrat and in sympathy with President Wilson and the men associated with him who have charge of the matter, and for whose intelligence and judgment I have great faith, whatever decision they arrive at will have my hearty support."

RESTORES ABSTRACTED FUNDS AND ASKS IMMUNITY. Ex-Director of Poor in Germantown Makes Restitution of \$804

Matthew Adam, who was director of the poor in Germantown until six months ago when he disappeared with \$804 of the organization funds, has returned he entire sum to the board of directors. It was learned today.

The return was made through a friend, whose name is being kept secret, and with it came the request that the proceedings against him be dropped. There are 36 indictments pending against him.

The sentiment on his board is about evenly divided. Half are willing to forego the prosecution, the other half think Adam ought to be made to suffer for what he did, regardless of the fact that he has made restitution.

Kaiser's Views of Peace as Expressed in Note

"If the German Government nevertheless resolved to go to the utmost limit of concessions, it has not alone been guided by the friendship connecting the two great nations for more than 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."

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PEACEFUL OUTCOME OF U-BOAT DISPUTE IN SIGHT TEN DAYS AGO

Dispatches From Berlin and Washington Then Indicated That Basis for Mutual Concessions Had Been Laid by Kaiser and His Advisers

That a solution of the U-boat controversy between this country and Germany, satisfying to the United States, was in sight ten days ago was clearly indicated by dispatches printed in the EVENING LEADER on April 2. Under prominent headlines, reading "U-Boat Danger Point Past; Captains Get New Orders," appeared a cable dispatch from Carl W. Ackerman, in Berlin, in which the following language was used:

The crisis in the German-American situation growing out of the submarine controversy has virtually passed. There will be no break of diplomatic relations predicated on any developments to date. This statement is made today on most excellent authority.

Pending negotiations for a complete settlement of the U-boat controversy, GERMAN SUBMARINE COMMANDERS WILL BE UNDER CERTAIN EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE ADMIRALTY.

In another column was printed a dispatch from Washington, indicating strongly that a basis for a peaceful solution of the dispute had been laid through the medium of a memorandum by the State Department setting forth the attitude of the United States toward arms transportation. The memorandum was quoted as follows:

In the event that merchant ships of belligerent nationality are armed and under commission or orders to attack in all circumstances certain classes of enemy vessels for the purpose of destroying them, and are entitled to receive prize money for such services from their Government, or are liable to a penalty for failure to obey the orders given, such merchant vessels are to be treated as legitimate merchant ships and are to a limited extent incorporated in the naval forces of their Government, even though it is not their sole occupation to conduct hostile operations.

It should, therefore, be considered as an armed public vessel and receive the treatment of a warship by an enemy and be entitled as such to a vessel cannot escape immunity other than that accorded persons who are on board a warship.

The Washington dispatch also added: The position taken by this Government is regarded as favorable to the German contentions, and the announcement is considered to have been an important bearing on the controversy between the United States and Germany.

The memorandum was prepared in March by direction of President Wilson and was originally intended as a circular note to the various Governments. Its publication yesterday, it is understood, is the direct result of a suggestion from Ambassador Gerard.

The statement is the first official declaration of this Government on the subject since September 19, 1914, when it announced that merchant vessels might carry guns up to six inches in calibre for purposes of defense.

MINERS AND OPERATORS SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH AVERTS STRIKE

Under Its Terms 180,000 Men Will Receive Wage Increase Aggregating \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000

EFFECT ON COAL PRICES. Points in Agreement That Averts Coal Strike

One hundred and eighty thousand men receive aggregate wage increase of between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000.

Neither operators nor miners admit further boost on price of coal will result. Miners hail agreement as a victory.

Eight-hour work day is extended to company men paid by day or hour. They also receive a 3 per cent. increase. Those working more than nine hours receive a 7 per cent. increase.

Minimum wage established for machine workers. Hoisting engineers get 7 per cent. increase, but will continue to work nine hours.

By the terms of an agreement signed between committees of the anthracite operators and the United Mine Workers of America in the office of W. J. Richards, president of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal Company, shortly after 12 o'clock today, a strike was averted and 180,000 men will receive approximate aggregate wages of \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000.

If the increase will mean a boosting of the price of coal, neither operators nor miners would admit it. John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America, said he had consumed so much energy getting the agreement from the operators that he did not feel as if he ought to discuss this phase of the matter now. John T. Dempsey, president of district No. 1, at Scranton, said with a laugh: "You've got to put that question to the operators." And Mr. Richards wouldn't talk.

"You'll have to excuse me, my boy," is all that he would say as he went from his own office to that of the secretary.

Besides Mr. Richards, appearing for the operators were Alvin Markle, of Scranton, chairman of the operators' committee; Samuel D. Warner, president of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company; Morris Williams, president of the Susquehanna Coal Company, and W. L. Connell, president of the Green Ridge Coal Company.

The miners were late in arriving, and for this reason the conference was continued past the 11 o'clock hour, which was originally set as the time for the signing of the agreement.

The miners were represented by Thomas Kennedy, president of District No. 7, at Hazleton; James Mathews, president of District No. 9, at Shamokin, and James A. German, secretary of the union. Besides President White and Mr. Dempsey, this morning's agreement followed weeks of discussion. At times it seemed that a compromise between the employers and the men would be impossible, and it was only after an agreement was reached, and it was hailed as a victory for the miners. It is to remain in effect until March 31, 1920, some of the more important provisions are:

Contract rates at each colliery shall be increased 7 per cent.

An eight, instead of nine-hour, working day is established with a 1 per cent. increase for company men paid by day or hour. Company men already on an eight-hour day are to receive a 7 per cent. increase.

Hoisting engineers will continue to work nine hours, but will receive a 7 per cent. increase. The same ratio increase will apply to men working a daily basis of more than nine hours.

The minimum wage for a machine miner is to be \$3.20 a day; for machine miner, \$2.70 a day; and for machine miner helper, each \$2.24 per day.

Decisions upon grievances referred to the Board of Conciliation shall be made within 10 days from the date of reference. In default of a decision, the grievance is to go to the umpire.

The present prices of powder and mine supplies as established at the several collieries shall be continued without change.

MISSING GEMS RECOVERED. Jewelry and Other Articles Alleged to Have Been Stolen Found

Detectives Fisher and McDermott have recovered in loss office jewelry and other articles valued at \$800, which they say, Mrs. Ethel Harcourt stole from the home of Mrs. Mary Graham, of 1943 Rhawn street, last week ago. Mrs. Harcourt has been held in \$400 bail for court by Magistrate Pennock.

At the hearing, Mrs. Graham said Mrs. Harcourt told her that her brother and her two children were killed in a submarine attack while on their way to this country. She is alleged to have told Mrs. Graham her husband was a captain in the English army, and she borrowed some money and the jewelry with which to defray the expenses of the litigation, which was being shipped to her from abroad.

CARRANZA TAKES UP BANDIT CHASE IN NEW U. S. PORT

Wilson Gives First Official Chance to Make Good Power Claims

VILLA AGAIN LOCATED. General Pershing Reports on Law Somewhere in Durango State

EL PASO, May 5.—On the eve of concluding the diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Mexico, the American army has again definitely located Pancho Villa. General Pershing, from his headquarters near Namiquipa, today wired General Funston that he had information which he regards as reliable that Villa is hiding in Durango. In the message to Funston, it is understood General Pershing gave details as to the bandit's hiding place.

MEXICO CITY, May 5.—Carranza has accepted the United States proposal in principle as it was outlined at the Scott-Oregon conference, it was announced by Carranza's secretary today.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—President Wilson has given General Carranza another opportunity to demonstrate his ability to control affairs in Mexico.

This is the interpretation in official circles of the agreement reached at the conferences between General Scott and Funston and General Oregon, Carranza's Minister to the United States.

General Scott already has been authorized to ratify the agreement with Carranza. The official announcement of President Wilson that the agreement "evidences cordial co-operation between the two Governments in respecting the common purpose" taken to forestall the acquiescence of the Washington Government in Carranza's demand of April 12 for the withdrawal of the American troops from the border.

It is expected that an official statement to this effect shortly will be forthcoming from the White House.

REPLY ALLAYS FEARS OF WILSON'S CABINET. Continued from Page One

against Germany on this point complete. Senator Hughes, of New Jersey, an early critic of the White House, after reading the note, said that he was pleasantly surprised.

"We ought to accept it," he said. "I THINK U. S. SHOULD ACCEPT. A high Government official, in intimate touch with German-American negotiations, said, after a careful perusal of the note, that he was not surprised.

"Germany appears to have made great concessions. I cannot see where there is anything that would, at the present, justify a break. Germany has gone much further than earlier reports which reached us indicated."

There was an unanimity of opinion among others who called at the White House that the President should accept the offer of the German Government as given in good faith.

"DEMANDS MET." America's demands have been "measurably met," in the opinion of Senator Walsh, Montana.

"While I hesitate to express any final opinion, I believe that the Secretary of War has made a very good job of it. We demand two things—a declaration of change of methods, and that this change be put into effect. I would regard it difficult for this country to break relations under the circumstances."

Opinion in some German-American headquarters was not over optimistic as to solution of the submarine controversy. It was thought by some that a permanent settlement depended too much on this Government's obtaining concessions from England, and little hope was felt by those speaking that this could be done.

GERMAN OPINIONS. On the other hand in German diplomatic circles the belief was expressed that the "reservation" paragraph of the note was a real reason for his reservation. The note was put in the note to offset criticism of the German Government at home. The action of Germany in meeting the American demands was thus made a real reason for his reservation" paragraph enabling the German Government to meet the possible charge that it has committed itself beyond recall.

BERLIN FEARS CONCESSIONS TO U. S. MAY ANGER PUBLIC. BERLIN, May 5.—The reply to the American note on submarine warfare was handed to Ambassador Gerard when he called on Herr von Jagow, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday afternoon. Considerable participation is expressed over the effect which concessions may have on public opinion here.

PEOPLE WITH HOLLOWEG. Doctor von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, undoubtedly will have the great masses of the people with him in a desire to avoid a breach in the diplomatic relations with the United States so far as can be done without sacrificing the principle enunciated in the German manifesto of February 4.

The Chancellor, with Admiral von Holtzendorff, head of the Naval General Staff, Dr. Karl Helfferich, the Secretary of the Treasury, and other participants in the cabinet, returned to Berlin early this morning.

The note, with its explanation of the German attitude toward the British "starvation" policy, will be one of the longest diplomatic documents of the war. It will be released for publication here, in all probability, on Friday morning.

The Bourne had a fresh access of optimism upon the question of the German-American note. Some indications were especially strong.

It is reported that Doctor von Bethmann-Hollweg will make a visit to the Budget Committee within a few days of Germany's reply.

BERNSTORFF AWAY; GERMAN EMBASSY SILENT ON REPLY. Officials Have Not Received All of Note

WASHINGTON, May 5.—In the absence of Count von Bernstorff, German Embassy officials today refused to comment upon the reply to the United States ultimatum. They are receiving a copy, but have not yet obtained all of it.

The complete note will be received by the time the Ambassador returns from New York. The Ambassador returned from New York on the evening of the 4th.

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