

DANGER OF WAR TO AMERICA FORCED WILSON TO DEMAND A SHOWDOWN, LANSING SAYS

Continued Invasion of U. S. Rights Prompted Call to Belligerents to Declare Intentions, Secretary of State Explains.

FIRST DEVELOPMENTS IN WILSON MESSAGE TO WARRING NATIONS

Official and diplomatic circles in Washington express hopeful views that President Wilson's communication will open the way for a peace conference. Secretary of State Lansing explains that the note was made necessary in self-defense, as the defiance of our rights by all belligerents was forcing the United States closer and closer toward war.

Private messages received here today stated that the men high in British Government councils had openly expressed the most intense indignation at the action of President Wilson in addressing his peace message to the belligerents.

German Ambassador von Bernstorff, when told of Secretary Lansing's statement on the President's note, was obviously and plainly disturbed. For the first time in months he would not offer a comment either for publication or privately on war developments.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A number of Ambassadors from belligerent countries called on Lansing today, presumably to receive and discuss the note forwarded to their nations.

When informed by your correspondent of Secretary Lansing's declaration that the United States is in an "intolerable position," Representative Kahn, of California, sitting with the House Military Committee, rose and said dramatically: "Gentlemen of the committee, make haste! Our country is on the crest of a volcano."

Plainly hinting that there is danger of the United States being drawn into the war, Secretary of State Lansing today said this was the real reason behind President Wilson's message to the belligerents.

The situation of the United States, as a neutral, is rapidly becoming intolerable, he said. Therefore, the President has demanded a showdown. The Secretary added:

Our rights have been invaded and the situation is becoming so intolerable that it cannot go on long. More and more our rights are invaded by the belligerents on both sides, so that the situation is becoming increasingly critical. I mean by that that we are growing nearer to the verge of war and, therefore, are entitled to know what each belligerent seeks in order that we can regulate our conduct in the future.

It was not our material interests that were considered when we said that the situation might become intolerable. We have prospered by the war, but our rights have been invaded. Lansing emphasized positively that the German peace proposal and the Lloyd George speech had nothing to do with the dispatch of the Wilson note except possibly to delay sending it.

On this point he authorized quotation as follows: No nation has been sounded on this matter, and we did not know in advance what Lloyd George would say. And there was no consideration of German overtures or the speech of Lloyd George in connection with the formation of this note.

The only thing the German overtures did was possibly to delay the note a few days. It was not finally decided to send until Monday. (The note was sent Monday night and Tuesday morning.)

The difficulty that faced the President was that the note might be construed as a movement for peace and in aid of the German overtures. He specifically denies that that was a factor in the communication itself.

Previous to authorizing this statement, Lansing had talked more freely than usual and in the same tone.

It had been suggested to him that the United States really was in no position to stop the war unless the belligerents themselves desired to end it. To this he replied that if the United States were to enter the war it would turn the scale definitely, and he emphasized that there was a feeling of danger that the country would be drawn in.

He had also said that there was in the Administration's mind no purpose to suggest peace in any way.

On the contrary, he explained that what he generally interpreted as a desire to learn the peace terms of both sides was in reality an effort to ascertain "what would satisfy the belligerents as to ending the war" but with the viewpoint of rendering the position of neutrals less intolerable.

Lansing's whole talk here down on the lines that "we will have to do something" if American rights are further invaded, and if both sides continue infractions of international law which involve American lives, property and rights.

A number of Ambassadors from belligerent countries called on Secretary Lansing today, presumably to receive and discuss the note.

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THE WEATHER FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Unsettled, with possibly some light rain or snow tonight; Friday generally fair, with a few showers; Saturday, with about 45 degrees; Sunday, with a few showers and variable winds.

The Rapid Transit Proposal An Authoritative Analysis

The EVENING LEDGER has made a careful analysis of the proposed agreement between the city and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company which has resulted from numerous and prolonged conferences between the officials of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company and former Director A. Merritt Taylor, who has thus continued his indefatigable efforts in behalf of Philadelphians as a private citizen.

This analysis develops most interesting facts with which every citizen should be familiar. In brief, they are as follows:

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company accepts the Taylor plan and agrees to equip and operate all of the high-speed lines included therein, together with extensions thereto and additional high-speed lines which may hereafter be built by the city.

The high-speed lines included in the Taylor plan are the Frankford elevated, the Broad street subway with branches and delivery loop, the Woodland avenue elevated and the Parkway-North Twenty-ninth street-Henry avenue subway-elevated.

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company agrees to operate the city-owned, high-speed lines in conjunction with the Philadelphia Rapid Transit system; also to substitute free transfers for the present exchange tickets at all points outside of the business district, bounded by Arch and Walnut streets and the two rivers, at once, and to substitute free transfers for the present exchange tickets at all points in the aforesaid business district upon completion of the subway delivery loop under Arch, Eighth and Locust streets.

REMODELING OF NINETEENTH STREET STATION

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company further agrees immediately to proceed with such alterations in Nineteenth street subway station as are necessary to enable the high-speed trains operated in Market street subway to receive and discharge passengers at that station. Immediately upon completion of these alterations the high-speed trains in the Market street subway will receive and discharge passengers at the Nineteenth and Market street station in the subway, and such passengers will be enabled to transfer free between the high-speed trains in the subway and the Nineteenth and Twentieth streets surface lines. Such passengers will be entitled to an additional transfer on any line intersecting the Nineteenth and Twentieth streets surface lines in either North Philadelphia or South Philadelphia (outside of the business district), and will thus be enabled to travel between West Philadelphia and any point in South Philadelphia or any point in North Philadelphia for one five-cent fare, pending the completion of the Broad street subway and delivery loop.

BENEFITS TO CROSS-TOWN PASSENGERS

The aforesaid arrangements will enable passengers in North or South Philadelphia to take an east and west surface line leading to their destination in the delivery district or beyond, and at such point of intersection to transfer free to destination. It will also enable passengers bound from North or South Philadelphia to West Philadelphia to take an east and west surface line to a point where it intersects the Nineteenth and Twentieth streets surface lines and to transfer free at that point on the Nineteenth and Twentieth streets surface lines to Nineteenth street station of the Market street subway, there transfer free again on the Market street subway trains to destination in West Philadelphia. Passengers bound from West Philadelphia to either North or South Philadelphia will be enabled to make reverse movement by the same route above described at the same cost; namely, five cents.

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company further agrees to the establishment of free transfers as recommended by the Director of the Department of City Transit in the 1915 report.

The result of the foregoing arrangements is that the people of Philadelphia have gained the right to travel in a forward direction by way of the surface system, by way of the high-speed system or by joint use of the surface and high-speed facilities from any point to any other point in Philadelphia for one five-cent fare, and the district tributary to Nineteenth and Market streets has gained the advantages which will result from the opening of a high-speed station at that point.

Third, The P. R. T. Company, which is now earning nearly eight per cent on its \$20,000,000 of capital stock, agrees to accept an assured five per cent thereon and to turn over to the city all of the remaining net income resultant from the operation of the surface system and of the city's high-speed lines, excepting ten per cent thereof.

As an example, when the net income resultant from the operation of the surface system combined with the city's high-speed lines in the future amounts to \$3,000,000 over the fixed return of five per cent on the P. R. T. stock, of that amount the city will be entitled to receive \$2,700,000 and the P. R. T. Company will be entitled to receive \$300,000, or an amount equal to an additional one per cent on its capital stock over and above the five per cent assured.

PREMIUM ON EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

As the net income increases in the future, during the term of the contract, the P. R. T. Company receives ten per cent thereof and the city ninety per cent thereof. This provision places a premium upon efficient management, which will redound to the financial benefit of the city.

The P. R. T. Company is today earning nearly \$900,000 in excess of the five per cent which is assured to its stockholders under the arrangement with the city, and if the P. R. T. Company continues to make this favorable showing or increases the amount thereof, the aforesaid \$900,000 and any increase in that amount will be immediately available to the city on the opening of the first high-speed line, as an offset to, or a contribution toward, the charges which the city is required to meet.

This great contribution in relief of the city's charges is an item of great importance. The plan provides that any surplus in the treasury of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company on July 1, 1916, in excess of the two per cent dividend recently declared, and any surplus earned from July 1, 1916, over and above five per cent on Philadelphia Rapid Transit stock up to the time of the opening of the first high-speed line, will be retained in the treasury of the company as working capital, and its position will thus be strengthened.

PROVISION FOR READJUSTMENT

It also stipulates that provision shall be made for such readjustments of fare at any time during the term of the contract as may be necessary to protect and secure the return to the company, or as may be necessary and advisable in the interest of the city for any unforeseen reason or contingency. The object of this provision is to insure the taxpayers of Philadelphia against a remote contingency which might arise and become burdensome to them. For instance, if the city

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QUICK NEWS

AUSTRIAN ENVOY SEEKS FRENCH CONSENT

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Count Tarnowski, the new Austrian Ambassador to the United States, has decided not to leave for Washington until France as well as Great Britain has granted him a safe conduct, says a dispatch from Vienna today.

LANSING GOES TO CONFER WITH PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon Secretary Lansing went to the White House to confer with the President, presumably on the matter of the "peace note" sent to all the belligerents.

BOARD OF VIEWERS HEARS CLAIMS

The Board of Viewers today heard claims of ten owners of plots of ground comprised in the plot of twenty acres along the bank of the Wissahickon in the vicinity of Abraham Hittenshouse road and New road near the Walnut lane bridge, extending about 400 feet back on Henry street, which is desired by the city for inclusion in Fairmount Park. The claims averaged in value from \$5000 to \$7000 an acre, making a total valuation for the plot of \$120,000. Assistant City Solicitor E. J. Rotan gave his opinion that no more than \$4000 an acre would be paid by the city.

EARLE TO HEAD NAVAL ORDNANCE BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The nomination of Commander Ralph Earle to be chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, with the rank of rear admiral, was sent to the Senate today.

BERNSTORFF AND SPRING-RICE MEET—AND PASS BY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, and Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British Ambassador, today met face to face in a corridor of the State Department. It was their first meeting since the outbreak of the war. Neither spoke. Before the war they were the closest of friends. Von Bernstorff said it was too dark for him to see whom he was passing.

\$250,000 FIRE IN NEW CASTLE, PA.

NEW CASTLE, Pa., Dec. 21.—Damage exceeding \$250,000 resulted when a fire today destroyed the J. N. Euer Sons' department store, the Brown & Hamilton department store, the Knox block, the Woolworth five-and-ten-cent store and the J. W. Knox grocery. Four firemen were injured.

WALL STREET KNEW OF WILSON PEACE MOVE, IS CHARGE

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Reports were current in Wall street today that the contents of President Wilson's peace note were known to a few "insiders" three days ago. This was held to be the reason for the last three days' extremely "bearish" market, which has wiped out scores of million fortunes and made larger ones for the few who knew about it. Hundreds of thousands of shares of war stocks have been dumped into the whirlpool on the floor this week, and almost every stock has suffered severe reverses. It was reported in the Street today that an investigation would be started to determine how the news leaked out.

QUICK VOTE EXPECTED IN LANDSTING ON SALE OF ISLES

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—An immediate vote is expected in the Landsting upon the proposal to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States for \$25,000,000. On the preliminary canvass it was indicated that the vote would be in favor of the sale, thus giving it final ratification. The ratifying of the bill was passed yesterday by the Folkething by 99 to 14.

TABERNACLE WITH BATH FOR BILLY SUNDAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A tabernacle which will seat 30,000 persons and provided with a private bath will be built here for "Billy" Sunday's revival meetings, which begin April 1. The structure will cost \$50,000 and will be the largest ever built in New York for a public meeting.

FORGER BEGINS WORK AT \$60 A MONTH TO REPAY VICTIMS

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—At sixty-two, James C. O'Connor, master forger, whose worthless paper aggregated \$250,000, today began work in an office at \$60 a month in an effort to repay those who suffered through him. He was released from Joliet prison on parole yesterday after serving three years of an indeterminate sentence.

23,000 CHICAGO WORKERS GET \$3,500,000 IN BONUSES

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Approximately 23,000 persons, employed by three companies, will profit by extra compensations totaling \$3,500,000 as Christmas gifts, according to announcements today. The Crane Company will give its employees ten per cent on their earnings during the year, about \$1,000,000. The Western Electric Company will pay two weeks' wages to those who have been employed by it for six months and four weeks' pay to those who have been in its service a year. The amounts will be given in ten monthly payments. Ten months of their yearly salary will be given to all employees of Andres & Co., stock brokers, several hundred in number.

FRANCE HAS CUBA HUNT U-BOAT BASE

HAVANA, Dec. 21.—At the behest of the French Government, Cuban vessels today began a careful search of the keys at the eastern end of the island for a suspected German submarine base. France, it was stated, has reason to suspect that the Germans have a base in the vicinity, and the Cuban Minister to France was requested to ask his Government to make a search.

30,000 STRIKING GARMENT WORKERS WILL RESUME JOBS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Nearly 30,000 striking garment workers here will resume work immediately as the result of settlements with fifty manufacturing firms, announced today by the strikers' committee.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS FOR WHITE HOUSE EMPLOYEES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—There'll be a nice fat Christmas turkey in the home of every White House attaché. Following a custom he adopted when he came to the White House, President Wilson has ordered a bird for each of his employes—125 in all.

BUYS NAVY SHIP TO BE USED AS FREIGHTER

The United States ship Severn, a three-masted schooner formerly used for training midshipmen, has been bought from the Navy Department by Francis J. McDonald, president of the Philadelphia Ship Repair Company, Mifflin street and the Delaware River. The Severn, built in 1885, was then called the Chesapeake. The ship, in low of two tugs, is expected to arrive here tomorrow from Norfolk. She will be rebuilt and used as a freight vessel. The price paid for the ship is said to have been \$40,000.

U. S. MAY TEST BATTLE CRUISER BUILDING HERE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The construction of one of the four authorized battle cruisers, the first built for the United States navy at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, is under consideration by Secretary Daniels today. Following a conference with ship-builders who submitted bids agreeing to construct the ship at cost, plus ten and fifteen per cent profit, no award was made, the Secretary believing it might be well for the Government to build one battle cruiser to learn just what such ships ought to cost.

BRITISH SHIP, AMERICANS ABOARD, SUNK; NO WARNING

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The American consul at Mainz reported to the State Department that the British steamship St. Oswald had been torpedoed on the 12th without warning, with six Americans aboard, though none were killed.

WEIGH TRANSIT OFFER, MAYOR URGES PEOPLE

Will Not Act Until P. R. T. Proposal Is Studied Closely

A. MERRITT TAYLOR GIVES HIS APPROVAL

Matter Referred to Director Twining and Will Go to Councils

DETAILS OF PROPOSITION

Merger With City and Granting of Free Transfers Features of Program

The proposal of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company to equip and operate the city-built high-speed system on a basis outlined by it yesterday will not be acted upon by Councils until every phase of the company's plan has been thrown open to the fullest public discussion and Director Twining has completed a detailed analysis of the program for the Mayor.

This was announced by Mayor Smith today following a special conference with City Solicitor Connelly and Transit Director Twining. The Mayor made it plain that the administration heads felt the project was too big and too important to be rushed through without mature consideration and careful deliberation. Just how long it would be before any further development can be expected he would not indicate.

Although no objections to the details of the company's proposal have been offered or protests registered, so far as the Mayor knows, some delay is justified, he feels, in order that no mistake may be made which would be costly to the city and the taxpayers in the future.

TO WEIGH MEASURE

The Mayor expressed his views and the results of the conference as follows:

The Mayor will have no statement to make regarding the attitude of the administration on the proposed transit lease in advance of his message to Councils on this subject. The matter is of such vast importance to the people of Philadelphia that the administration will investigate every phase of it before making any recommendations.

The proposal submitted by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company has been referred to the Transit Department. The Transit Director has been instructed to make a report to the Mayor, who, in the meanwhile, will give careful consideration to every point involved in order that the people and their representatives in Councils may be fully informed as to the responsibility involved in the undertaking both by the city and the company.

Neither Director Twining nor City Solicitor Connelly would make any comment following the conference. Both referred all questions to the Mayor.

APPROVED BY TAYLOR

That the approval of the people will be given without qualification seems to be the view of the Mayor. The hearty endorsement given the plan by former Transit Director A. Merritt Taylor, he believes, will facilitate its ratification, because the people have the fullest confidence in the judgment of Mr. Taylor. Immediately after the plan was made public yesterday the former Transit Director made the following statement:

The proposition submitted to the city by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company is just and fair to all parties in interest. It meets with my unqualified approval. The provision contained therein are the result of many conferences attended by Messrs. Stotesbury, Mitten, Lloyd, Ballard and myself. It gives me great pleasure to state that all participants in these conferences considered and

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AUTOTRUCKS COLLIDE; HELPER ON ONE KILLED

Both Drivers Held for Death and Two Riders Detained as Material Witnesses

Henry Wilvert, sixteen years old, 813 Stala street, a helper on an automobile delivery truck, was killed almost instantly today when the vehicle collided with another heavy autotruck at Eighteenth street and Girard avenue. Marcus Roggenburger, 2807 North Eighteenth street, the driver with Wilvert, was slightly injured.

Roggenburger and John Smith, driver of the second truck, were arrested by the police of the Nineteenth and Oxford streets station on charges of involuntary manslaughter, and they will have hearings in Central Police Court. Daniel Summa, 414 South Van Pelt street, and Charles Williams, 814 Lombard street, who were in the delivery truck, were held as material witnesses.

AGED MAN FOUND DEAD IN BED

Revolver Discovered in Room, but There is No Wound

Conrad Shindler, eighty-one years old, of 2123 North 7th street, was found dead in bed by a member of the family.

Deputy Coroner Greenhalgh found a revolver under a bed in Shindler's room. Although one shell in the weapon was discharged, residue of the shell was not to be seen in the fire. No bullet wound was found on the body.

MURDERS YOUNG BRIDE; ATTEMPTS TO END LIFE

Day's Quarrel Ends When Du Pont Worker Here Kills Woman

One of the most gruesome murders in police annals was that today of Marie Elsevier by her husband, Francisco.

The police are not quite sure of the name. They got it from bill heads in the couple's room at 1201 South Thirteenth street, and could not verify it because the landlady and the neighbors were too excited to talk intelligently.

The husband cut his wife to death and then wounded himself so badly that his death at St. Agnes's Hospital is believed near.

All day Francisco and Marie quarreled, and shortly after noon the man began to beat his wife. Some one finally sent a call to the Fifteenth and Snyder avenue police station, and Policemen Osterholt, Smith and O'Leagan responded. They climbed to the third floor back where they heard the man's curses. The door was locked and when they started to break it in they heard the man inside shouting gleefully:

"You can't have her; I've killed her and I'll kill myself before you can get in."

By the time they broke the door down the man gave unconscious, bleeding to death from knife wounds in the throat and chest, from knife wounds across his wife's body. She was prostrate across his wife's body. She was dead from more than twenty wounds.

TRADERS CHUCK STOCKS ON DECLINING MARKET

Wild Selling Forced by Menacing International Crisis—War Securities Slaughtered

Peace Proposals Show Sharp Effect in War Stocks

The following table gives the closing prices of a few war stocks on December 21, the day before the German peace proposals were issued, the final price of yesterday and today's low mark:

Table with 4 columns: Stock Name, Price Dec 21, Price Dec 20, Price Dec 21. Includes Amer Car & Fdr, Amer Loco, Bethlehem Steel, etc.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Wall street was virtually "up in the air" today. No one in the Street knew exactly what to do in view of international developments. When trading started there were losses ranging from 2 to 12 points, brought about by the peace suggestions advanced to the belligerents by President Wilson. Traders threw their stocks over without much regard as to what they would bring in the open market, their only desire being to sell.

Some support was met at the low levels of the morning, and there was a small rally.

The street was just about getting the word that the peace proposals were being issued when a wave of prosperity.

BIG SHOPPING RUSH AS MERCURY DROPS

Stores Crowded on Shortest Day in the Year—May Rain Tonight

This is the shortest day in the year, and Christmas shoppers seemed to have this fact in mind in beginning their activities early today. They took advantage of the mild temperature and the pleasant overhead weather and crowded the central section of the city as early as 9 o'clock.

Although eight snowfalls have been recorded in Philadelphia, winter, as the scientists think of it, will not begin until one minute before 11 o'clock tonight. The sun will have reached its lowest altitude of the year by tomorrow, in crossing the Philadelphia meridian.

A temperature of thirty-nine degrees was recorded at noon, and a similar condition for the rest of the day is predicted by the local office of the United States Weather Bureau. The temperature at 3 o'clock was thirty-eight degrees, which was warmer than at any hour for several days.

Tonight, according to the Weather Bureau, there is a strong possibility of snow or rain.

This is St. Thomas's Day. In former years it was an occasion upon which the poverty-stricken called upon their wealthy friends and relatives for Christmas provisions. But that custom did not prevail today. On the contrary, members of all classes were in the stores buying their own supplies and tramping through the streets with air of prosperity.

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