

AMERICANS CALLED HOME AS CONFLICT THREATENS

KILLING OF BALTIMORE SAILOR ILLEGAL; BERLIN MAY DECLARE WAR ON U.S. IN ANSWER TODAY

Reply to Notice of Diplomatic Break Expected to Be Formal Order for Hostilities—Bernstorff Threat Recalled at Capital

Slaying of Negro Seaman, Fleeing in Lifeboat. Held Unjustifiable Act—All Branches of Government Busy Marshaling Forces for Conflict. Navy Speedily Re-enforced

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 6.—Captain Frank Helfer, of the Hamburg-American freighter Saxon; Captain Johannes Wohlert, of the German sailing ship Steinbek, and twelve other German officers and sailors are under arrest here today, charged by Government officials with having destroyed the Saxon's engines while the vessel was lying interned in Eagle Harbor.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—All Americans have been advised to leave Germany. It was learned today that instructions forwarded to Ambassador Gerard and American consuls in Germany Saturday were to give them this advice and to assist them in leaving, wherever possible.

The killing of Richard Wallace, a negro sailor from Baltimore, by submarine shellfire when the British Eavestone was sunk, renders America's situation acute. Wallace was fleeing the ship in a lifeboat when slain. This act is a violation of all international law, whether or not the sailor's craft was an enemy war craft.

America interprets this act to mean Germany has thrown down the gauntlet. Germany will answer America's notice of a break in diplomatic relations today. This reply, defending her ruthless sea campaign, is expected to be a formal declaration of war.

Count von Bernstorff last spring said a diplomatic break would be followed by a war declaration by Germany. Hence, this course is expected in Washington official circles.

President Wilson's call to neutrals for a concerted pressure on Germany is expected to be Berlin's excuse for a declaration of hostilities.

Every branch of the Government increased its efforts preparatory to actual hostilities. Work is being rushed, especially in strengthening the navy.

The attitude of other neutrals is as follows: Spain will send her reply to Germany's threat today. The reply will constitute either a direct break of diplomatic relations or a strong protest and a threat of a break.

Brazil will confine her answer to a vigorous protest against unbridled U-boat activity. All Brazilian shipping has been suspended.

Switzerland will again proclaim her neutrality.

Holland and the Scandinavian countries are likely to delay action until actual hostilities between the United States and Germany.

SHELLING OF LIFEBOATS VIOLATES LAW, CAPITAL OFFICIALS SAY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. Apparent proof that Germany intends to wage her war of "ruthlessness" on the seas, as evidenced by the Eavestone case, made war a closer certainty today.

The State Department's official word on the destruction of the Eavestone with the loss of an American negro sailor's life indicated to officials that Germany has cast caution overboard, for the report said that the men were shelled after taking to lifeboats.

The United States hereafter will use its own judgment on submarine cases. The State Department declared today that there was virtually no chance that Germany would attempt, or be given the chance, to discuss any of the cases, as in the past. Moreover, it declared that the Eavestone case, involving the killing of one American, apparently hinges on the question of shelling an open boat.

"You had better wait," was the counsel of an official as to passing judgment as to whether the incident would involve war or be passed over as justifiable.

The fact that the American negro killed was employed on a British provisional collier made him virtually a member of Great Britain's armed forces and the fact that the vessel was a provisional collier apparently gave her the status of a warship, subject to unwarned attack.

Nothing in international law, however, excuses the shelling of a lifeboat.

Officials pointed out, however, that while this Government might have the right to protest against the apparently wanton killing of an American citizen who happened to be employed in the British naval forces, there probably would be no cause for more than protest now and perhaps settlement of the matter at some future date.

In the meantime dispatches were immediately prepared, requesting American representatives to rush affidavits containing details from any who may have been saved from the Eavestone. These must be in hand at the State Department and White House before a final decision is reached.

Confirmation of the killing of Richard Wallace, the negro seaman, reached the State Department today in a cablegram from Consul Frost at Queenstown.

The message showed Wallace was killed in the shelling of the boats after the crew had left the provisional British collier.

The message said: Provisional British collier Eavestone sunk by shellfire of German submarine in vicinity of Fastnet yesterday (February 4). American negro, Able Seaman Richard Wallace, of Baltimore, killed during shelling of boats after they had just left the Eavestone. Details not yet available.

LONDON, Feb. 6.—The American Consul at the port where the survivors of the British steamship Eavestone were landed today telegraphed American Ambassador Walter Hines Page a full report of the sinking of that vessel by a German submarine.

Page declined to make the report public, but instructed the Consul to investigate further and report from the survivors, first, whether the Eavestone was warned by the U-boat; second, whether she offered resistance, and, third, whether she attempted to escape.

Whether America would find a cause for war in the killing of the American sailor aboard the Eavestone was the all-absorbing topic of discussion here today.

Officials accepted it as a foregone conclusion that America will eventually be drawn into a European war.

WAR REFERENDUM PLEA OF HEXAMER

German-American Alliance Leader Starts Campaign to Get Vote

URGES POPULAR APPEAL

Hexamer's Broadcast Plea for U. S. War Referendum

HERE is Dr. Charles J. Hexamer's appeal for a popular vote on this country's entering the war, sent to seventy friends throughout the country and signed for the EVENING LEDGER:

"Arrange peace meetings, adopting resolutions requesting Congress to submit question of declaring war to a referendum and send resolutions to members of Congress by wire and letter."

C. J. Hexamer

A plea for a referendum in the United States before the country is plunged into a war was issued today by Dr. Charles J. Hexamer, president of the National German-American Alliance and generally regarded as the spokesman of 2,000,000 German-American voters.

It was Doctor Hexamer's first public statement since President Wilson broke diplomatic relations with Germany Saturday.

Doctor Hexamer today sent seventy messages to personal friends throughout the country, urging them to arrange meetings to adopt and send to Congress resolutions asking that body to submit the question of declaring war to a popular vote. The message read:

"Arrange peace meetings adopting resolutions requesting Congress to submit the question of declaring war to a referendum and send resolutions to members of Congress by wire and letter."

It was signed by Doctor Hexamer as a private citizen.

SHOULD SET EXAMPLE

Seeing a terrible warning in the spectacle of the warring nations of Europe engulfed in war "without the consent of the people," Doctor Hexamer declared that this Government should set the example by submitting the question of entering the war to a popular vote.

"Should the vote decide in favor of war, he added, he would be the first man on earth to hold the nation back from war."

"I would give my last drop of blood to defend the United States," said Doctor Hexamer. "But before war is inevitable I would feel that I had shirked a sacred duty if I did not express my earnest conviction at this time. In case of sudden attack by another country, calling for instant action, a referendum is, of course, impossible. But for a country deliberately to enter into war without allowing the people the opportunity"

Continued on Page Two, Column Six

BRAZIL SCORES U-BOAT WAR IN NOTE TO BERLIN

Denounces Violation of International Law in Ruthless Campaign

REPLY TO U. S. UNCERTAIN

Will Await Germany's Answer Before Acting on Wilson's Suggestion

By H. D. ROBERTSON

Special Cable Service of the Evening Ledger, Rio Janeiro, Feb. 6.

Brazil has sent, or is about to send, to Germany a formal note protesting against violation of international conventions in the German submarine policy, and declaring it "imperils the lives of Brazilian citizens and is a blow at Brazilian interests."

Announcement of this effect was made today. Foreign Minister Laura Muller, discussing the ministerial conference which last night decided on this policy, remarked: "If the storm strikes us we must bear it, but we need not run to meet it."

What answer Brazil shall return to the formal request of the United States for joint action by neutrals in breaking off relations with Germany has not yet been determined by the cabinet.

For the present, it is stated, Brazil will

Concluded on Page Four, Column Three

QUICK NEWS

FORMER U. S. CONSUL FORMS GERMAN-IRISH CLUB.

BERLIN, Feb. 6.—Former American Consul General St. John Gaffney, who was born in Ireland, is one of the founders of a "German-Irish Association" reported organized in Berlin by the official news bureau today.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE PLEDGES AID TO WILSON

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 6.—The Illinois Legislature in joint session today adopted a resolution pledging its support to President Wilson. Governor F. O. Lowden, Republican, sent a message to the Legislature, urging the action taken. Fifty-six years ago, said Governor Lowden, a State Senator, addressed a similar resolution which was adopted supporting Abraham Lincoln.

U. S. PATRIOT QUITS CONGRESS SEAT

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 6.—Declaring that he will not neglect the nation's business in the midst of a crisis for any person's considerations, William H. Coleman, Republican, today withdrew his contest for the Thirtieth Pennsylvania District seat in Congress. M. Clyde Kelly, Democrat, thus gets the seat without further opposition. He was elected on the face of returns in November.

OPENING BIDS FOR DELIVERY LOOP CONTRACTS

Director Twining, of the Department of City Transit, before members of his department, at noon, opened the bids for the contracts of the subway delivery loop around the central section of the city. There will be three distinct contracts awarded for a total of from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000.



Director Twining, of the Department of City Transit, before members of his department, at noon, opened the bids for the contracts of the subway delivery loop around the central section of the city. There will be three distinct contracts awarded for a total of from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000.

FIERCE BATTLE IN MESOPOTAMIA

Bloodiest Fighting of War in Asiatic Theatre Now Raging

2000 BRITISH KILLED

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 6.

The bloodiest fighting that has taken place in Mesopotamia since the war began is now raging between Turkish and British armies. Two thousand British were killed in one thunderbolt of fighting, the Turkish War Office announced today. At one point south of the Tigris river, the British succeeded in penetrating a Turkish position, but were soon thrust out by the Turks.

On January 21, the report adds, four hostile (probably Russian) ships were sighted north of Haifa in the Black Sea. There was an explosion on board one of them, after which it sank.

PARIS, Feb. 6.

Successful reconnaissance raids in Alsace, in which German lines were penetrated at three points and their dugouts destroyed, without loss to the raiders, were announced in today's official statement.

On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front), the statement said, two enemy raids around Louvemont and Eparges were repulsed. Elsewhere it was calm.

BERLIN, Feb. 6.

Artillery duels between the Aene and Somme rivers and reconnoitering raids on other parts of the western front were reported by the War Office today. In the Somme sector, on the Meuse River and on the frontier of Lorraine German raiding detachments captured more than thirty prisoners and some machine guns. Fox has interfered with artillery and aerial activities.

On the Macedonian front there has been lively firing temporarily in the bend of the Cerna River and on the Struma lowlands. On the eastern front and in Rumania there have been no events of importance, the War Office said.

Fire in School Promptly Extinguished

Fire in the Fox Chase public school, Rhawn and D streets, was discovered early this morning by the janitor, William Driscoll. In time to save the building. He found flames pouring out of a register in a first-floor room and ran to signal company No. 28 nearby and gave an alarm. The fire was extinguished with chemicals.

VARES GO AFTER SUBWAY CONTRACT

Company Backed by Senator Bids for Work on Delivery Loop

McNICHOL A COMPETITOR

When bids were opened this afternoon by Transit Director Twining for the construction of the subway delivery loop it was discovered that a brand-new company in which Senator Edwin H. Vare is said to be the dominant figure was among the bidders. This concern is known as the Philadelphia Subway Construction Company. Its headquarters are in the office of the Vares in the Lincoln Building. George D. Grover, a Vares engineer, is one of the incorporators.

Norman C. Degnon, another one of the incorporators of the Philadelphia Construction Company, is head of the Degnon Construction Company, of New York, which built more subways than any other concern in Manhattan.

The work on the loop will be divided into three distinct contracts and will total nearly \$7,000,000.

The Keystone State Construction Company, Senator McNichol's concern, which now has the contracts under City Hall was among the bidders for the loop contracts.

The contracts on which they bid are numbered 201, 202 and 203. Contract No. 201 calls for a two-track subway and two stations in Arch street between Broad and Eighth. For this there were six bidders.

Contract No. 202 includes a two-track subway and one station on Eighth street between Arch and Locust. There were five bidders for the work.

No. 203 provides for a two-track subway on Locust between Eighth and Broad streets. Six contractors submitted bids. The ordinance covering the loop provides \$7,000,000 for the work.

Ten days after the contracts are awarded the contractor will be allowed ten days to get their contracts in legal form. Each contractor must be ready to begin work on thirty days' notice and is allowed thirty-three months from the time the work is started to complete the job.

ROCKEFELLER'S \$311,000,000 UNTAXED IN CUYAHOGA

CINCINNATI, O., Feb. 6.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals decided today the Treasurer of Cuyahoga County cannot collect taxes on \$311,000,000 worth of bonds and other property of John D. Rockefeller.

DELAWARE PLEDGES RESOURCES TO PRESIDENT

DOVER, Del., Feb. 6.—The House, acting under suspension of rules, this morning unanimously adopted the Senate joint resolution commending President Wilson for his action in severing diplomatic relations with Germany. Upon motion of Representative Connelly, a telegram was sent to President Wilson pledging Delaware's loyal support and combined resources in the case of war.

GALLERY CLEARED AS SENATE ROWS OVER GRAYSON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The Senate became embroiled in such a furious row today over the President's nomination of his personal physician, Dr. Cary T. Grayson, to be naval medical director, with rank of rear admiral, that Vice President Marshall, on motion of Senator Pittman, of Nevada, ordered the galleries cleared and the doors barred.

SAILING OF ST. LOUIS STILL INDEFINITE

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—The date for the sailing of the American liner St. Louis, originally scheduled to leave this port last week for Liverpool, today was just as indefinite as before. She has been announced as ready to depart tomorrow, but officials of the line said there was nothing certain in the announcement. It is believed here the line's owners are endeavoring to persuade the Government to send a naval convoy, inasmuch as she will carry United States mail.

FOUR FACE TRIAL FOR PLOT TO KILL LOYD GEORGE

DERBY, Eng., Feb. 6.—Formal commitment for trial of the four alleged conspirators in the poison plot against Premier David Lloyd George and Minister Arthur Henderson was ordered today. The four—Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, Miss Harriet Wheeldon and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mason—pleaded not guilty to the charge of "conspiracy to kill."

\$500,000 LOSS IN JERSEY CITY BLAZE

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—Fire of unknown origin starting for the second time within seven hours destroyed the Royal Cocoa Manufacturing plant in Jersey City today. It is estimated the damage will exceed \$500,000. Hundreds of families in adjoining buildings were driven to the street for a good part of the night while the mercury hovered around the zero mark. Firemen were hampered throughout their long battle by the cold.

NEW MEXICO TO VOTE ON STATE PROHIBITION

SANTA FE, N. M., Feb. 6.—Governor De Baca will express his approval by signing today the measure passed yesterday by both houses of the State Legislature providing for the submission to a vote of the people of a constitutional amendment for State-wide prohibition. The measure provides that prohibition in New Mexico shall go into effect October 1, 1918. The question will be voted on next November.

NEUTRALS TO TAKE OVER BELGIAN RELIEF WORK

BERNE, Feb. 6.—An arrangement has been made for Holland, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries jointly to take over American relief work in Belgium.

BILL FOR PROBE OF BRUMBAUGH TO PASS TODAY

Penrose Wins Democrat Senators, Defeating Vare Hopes

THREE-VOTE MARGIN ASSURED TO MEASURE

Minority Party Believes Tompkins Amendment Has Taken Out Teeth

CHANGE AIDS GOVERNOR

Lessens Danger by Requiring Early Report—However, Veto May Be Used

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 6.—The Sprunt resolution, providing for an investigation of the charges that have been made against Governor Brumbaugh and the State administration, will finally pass the Senate when the measure comes up for third reading on a special order at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The Penrose leaders are confident that they will have twenty-nine votes for the resolution, three more than a majority.

The Democratic members agreed today to support the Penrose probe, and nine of the ten Democratic Senators have lined up for the measure.

The Democrats believe the Tompkins amendment, adopted last night, took the teeth out of the resolution and removed the possibility of the proposed commission being used as a club over the heads of the anti-Penrose forces in the campaigns next fall and next year. The amendment required the commission to make its final report to the Legislature not later than June 1 next.

The adoption of the amendment is a signal victory for the Vare-Brumbaugh forces, since it forced the Penrose leaders to back down in urging a Lexow Commission with blanket political powers.

The friends of the State administration admit that they cannot prevent the passage of the resolution this afternoon and are counting upon the Governor's veto to kill the measure.

The Democrats still hold the whip hand in the situation, and leaders of both the Penrose forces and the State administration forces frankly admit that "it all depends how the Democrats line up."

The Penrose people are claiming nine of the ten Democratic Senators, while the Vare-Brumbaugh forces declare no more than six Democrats will vote for the resolution.

The Democrats are making no secret of the fact that they would have lined up solidly for the resolution had not the amendment, offered last night by Senator Washburn, of York, been ruled out upon constitutional grounds.

ROUSE AT PENROSE

Although they forced the Senate to adopt an amendment offered by Senator Tompkins, of Cambria, which provided that the commission should report to the Legislature by June 1 next, they are "sober" at the Penrose forces for refusing to let them have a chance to have the Washburn amendment considered.

As soon as Washburn introduced his amendment, which named the commission and included a clause that would have made any witness testifying falsely before the commission liable to prosecution for perjury, Senator William C. Sprunt, of Delaware County, sponsor of the probe resolution, took a point of order and insisted that the Washburn amendment would be delegating to an outside body powers that belonged only to the Legislature. Lieutenant Governor Frank B. McClain, who was presiding over the stormy session of the Senate, quoted the State Constitution in support of Sprunt, and bowed out the Democratic amendment.

The defeat of the Washburn amendment today was laid to only one source—the liquor interests of the State.

The amendment would have made it possible for a thorough probe of the liquor "stash fund" that helped re-elect Boies Penrose to the United States Senate in 1914.

Public Service Commissioner William A. Magee, of Pittsburgh, is credited with being the author of that part of the amendment that dealt with the "stash fund," but he has refused either to confirm or deny his responsibility in the matter.

Under Section 19, of Article 8 of the State Constitution, any inquisitorial body appointed by act of the General Assembly has the power to compel any witness to testify even against himself in a probe.

Continued on Page Five, Column Three

Skating Information
Guastine Lake—Fair.
Concourse Lake—Good.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST
For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair to night, followed by increasing clouds Wednesday; steadily rising temperature with lowest tonight about 29 degrees moderate westerly winds.

LENGTH OF DAY
Sun rises... 7:04 a. m. Sun sets... 5:52 p. m.
DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES
CHESTNUT STREET
High water... 12:50 a. m. High water... 12:50 a. m.
Low water... 3:00 a. m. Low water... 3:00 a. m.

TEMPERATURE 33