

# Final Work Under Way as Members Begin to Arrive

## ORGANIZATION FIGHT OFF

### Compromises to Be Made by Both Sides in Face of National Crisis

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Congressmen began mobilizing in Washington today for the "war Congress" which will convene on April 2. A vast amount of preliminary detail work must be worked out before the historic session actually begins, and those who began arriving today promise to have their time well taken up.

Speaker Champ Clark will reach the capital late tonight or tomorrow morning. Majority Leader Claude Kitchin is expected about the same time from his North Carolina home.

Considerable doubt exists as to the whereabouts of James H. Mann, the majority leader. Mann and Representative William W. McKinley, of Illinois, left for the West Indies soon after the last session closed. Vigorous efforts were being made today to locate them. It is believed they will be here by April 1.

The extreme gravity of the situation has produced anything like a bitter fight for control of the new House. If the Democrats can muster the strength they will organize a caucus. If the Republicans can organize they will do so. But before any fight will be permitted both sides will get together and effect a compromise in which the organizing party will make certain large concessions to the other.

As the situation stands today the opening of the next House will see 214 Democrats and 214 Republicans. Five chairs independent. The balance of power, however, are to be held in the Fifteenth New York District and in the First New Hampshire District.

Adding to the uncertainty of the situation is the serious illness of at least half a dozen members of the next House; Representative Lee, of Georgia, Democrat; Representative Hill, of Connecticut, Republican; Representative Cooper, of West Virginia, Republican, and Representative-elect Lee, of California, Democrat, are reported in messages reaching leaders here to be ill. The last-named had sent word that he would try to be on hand for the caucus of March 30.

Other Representatives-elect in various parts of the country are reported ill. Curiously enough, both sides are claiming a majority of the five so-called independents. The Democrats claim London, of New York, Socialist; Randall, of California, Progressive; Martin, of Louisiana, a Progressive-Protector; and Schell, of Minnesota, a Progressive. Republicans claim Fuller, of Massachusetts, and in addition claim Schell and Martin, and Representative-elect Kelly, of Pennsylvania. Two hundred and eighty men will give either side the power of organization.

# Nation Masses Forces for War on Germany

Continued from Page One

ably will be July before the first, if any, real strides toward peace are registered.

The Russian situation is being watched with real concern now that the United States is on the verge of actual war.

For many months there have been elements at work in Russia of which the United States was aware, and which, had they been successful, would have created almost insurmountable difficulties in the path of this country's entrance to the war.

The revolution disposed of these sinister elements, but fear is held now that there may be still further unrest among the more radical revolutionists, joined perhaps by those influences which were working for a separate peace before.

The arrest of the Czar has created uneasiness here, but full recognition was accorded the new Russian Government as soon as it is established beyond a doubt upon a sound foundation.

# NAVY NEEDS 74,500 MEN AS GERMAN WAR NEARS

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The navy needs 74,500 men—and needs them now to meet Germany's war challenge.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels sounded an unofficial call for that number today in an appeal to the press to stimulate recruiting.

One of the first requests on Congress when the April 2 session begins will be that 100,000 men—the navy maximum—be authorized as an increase to the navy.

Naval recruits are being rushed through the naval training stations post haste for immediate duty with the fleet. The Navy Department announced today that it had suspended the requirements for five months' training for naval recruits in order to man the fleets with all possible speed.

Although recruiting is on the upgrade there must be more of it, and quickly, the department announced.

Daniels' figures show the possible enlisted strength of the navy at 61,000 men on March 14, of which 5454 have enlisted since January 1. The net gain for the last month was 1947.

The department today emphasized the latitude of the naval service, pointing out particularly that under the new regulations governing entrance at Annapolis 100 enlisted men are eligible for appointment each year at the academy.

Daniels said chances of promotion were "very high at the present time." Furthermore the enlistment period is only for four years.

Naval, military, economic, industrial and financial preparedness plans, as formulated by the National Defense Council and carried out by the Government departments, are said to be as advanced as could be expected at this time.

The Navy Department is crowding its recruiting, filling up its various reserves. The influx of men under the stimulus of a patriotic wave gratifies officials in charge of the work.

Likewise regular army recruiting is on the increase.

# HITCH IN RECRUITING

The War Department is prepared to follow out with vigor any course Congress may take, although proposals of universal military training fear that their schemes will be blunted in case of a call for volunteers, inasmuch as a double system—voluntary and compulsory—cannot be operated at the same time. They believe that there would be a gigantic response to a call for volunteers—such a response in fact, as will still demand for universal service.

The Navy will bear the main burden of the call, and while an army undoubtedly will be raised, military men say that this will be an overseas army.

The Navy is pushing contractors to the limit and for the most part is receiving the most earnest co-operation.

Buyer bids will be opened Saturday, and the balance of the scheduled time.

The Navy is pushing contracts to be awarded by others next week, and meantime Sunday's bids will be kept secret so that new groups—largely western concerns—will have the advantage of advance knowledge of the eastern prices.

Attention is being given to air-raid protection. A meeting to discuss the subject was booked for the War Department last night.

The best of 5000 standard aircraft are to be sent to augment the present force of the United States in a national advisory committee.

# Manufacturers Signified their Willingness to Co-operate with the Government in the Present Emergency, and a Committee consisting of three manufacturers and four members of the advisory committee was named to draft plans for the most modern types of aeroplanes.

The work will be distributed among the manufacturers of the country in a manner which the committee will determine most advantageous.

## AIR PREPAREDNESS

The proposition calls for the construction of 6000 powerful air fighters, which will mean an addition of 1000 aviators to the present air force of the country. For every aviator there is kept in reserve three aeroplanes, while the board figures that one airplane will be destroyed in training an aviator.

The fleet will be used to guard the coasts against attacks from enemy flyers, and may also in the event of hostilities participate in active warfare, according to a member of the board.

This States, five years prior to 1918 the army ordered fifty-nine aeroplanes and received fifty-four, while in 1916 the Government ordered 266 and only sixty-four were delivered.

This, according to Dr. Charles D. Walcott, chairman of the executive committee of the advisory committee, falls far below the aerial preparedness needs of the country.

Joint control of aviation has been arranged between the army and navy, and training of aviators will be undertaken chiefly along the coasts, so as to furnish both land and water work.

# MUNITIONS STANDARDS

Another subject of grave importance now coming to the fore is standardization of munitions. The standards at present there is no uniformity in guns or ammunition supplied by the many American munition firms.

Up to date there had been no actual call for mobilization of naval militia or of the Atlantic fleet, but there were increasing signs that such must soon be accomplished.

Moreover, apparently the Government is now proceeding with plans for co-operation between its navy and the Allied fleets.

Admittedly there must be some sort of working agreement so that there will be no interferences between the two groups, though the American navy will probably pay its chief attention to service against Germany in areas not far beyond the United States coast.

Navy Department officials believe Germany will send a swarm of big U-boats to these shores to terrorize shipping and perhaps attempt seaport and coastal raids similar to those made against British seaports and coast towns.

# CALL TO GUARDS

The first natural step in a land-defense plan, according to military experts, would be a call for the National Guard. The second step would be a call for all men who have received training at the various Federal "Plattsburgs."

Advancement of graduates from West Point, similar to the advancement of the Annapolis naval cadet advancements, and a call for immediate taking of examinations by the hundreds throughout the country who have applied for commissions as reserve officers, were other steps.

These steps taken—it would necessitate a period of several months at least—the United States, experts say, would have immediately available a land force of from 250,000 to 350,000 men, including the present regular force.

Equipment—clothing, supplies, arms, ammunition, excepting, of course, the larger field pieces—experts believe, would be ready as soon as this force of men.

Several thousands of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers would, of course, be held at various posts throughout the country as training corps for the volunteers and recruits who enlisted as guardsmen or reserves.

# BERLIN TO DECLARE WAR AT ONCE, SAY OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, March 22.—An immediate declaration of war by Germany against the United States would cause no surprise, officials said today. Such action easily could be predicated on the armament of American merchant ships and mobilization of the navy. It would give Germany the strategic advantage of being able to launch any sort of a U-boat campaign desired without waiting the ten days that the United States must wait before Congress can act to uphold the President's officials, however, say that it is impossible to guess what Germany has in mind at the present time. The German censorship never was so absolute. Not a single confidential word has reached this Government.

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# also authorized to grant subsidies to emigrants in other nations who might desire to return to Russia under the democracy.

Liberation of political prisoners of the old regime goes on throughout Russia.

Word received today from Chitra told of a great celebration there on the arrival of Maria Spiridonova, revolutionary leader, with a number of her associates in banishment in Siberia. All were carried on the shoulders of the crowds, who shouted for joy and paraded, carrying the red flag of the revolutionists while bands played.

According to a German officer taken prisoner by the Russians at the front, German officials are hoping desperately that recent events in Russia will mark the breakdown of the military efficiency of the Russian army.

The Grand Duke Nicholas was given a great ovation at Tiflis when he departed recently, according to dispatches here today. Troops and civilians massed about him cheering.

The Grand Duke made a short speech thanking the crowd for its greeting and concluding:

"After the war I hope as a small land owner to return to my property and live."

Revolutionary police are making a vigorous search for imperialistic conspiracies against the new Government of Russia.

Knowing the dark powers and hidden intrigues of their political enemies, the leaders of the revolutionary movement are taking every precaution to prevent any attempt to overthrow the new regime of liberty before it is fully established and to stamp out activities in behalf of the Romanoff family.

Court favorites who had been given sinecures in government offices and the army by the Romanoff family and their friends are being turned out by the hundreds by the new provisional Government. It was announced today that War Minister Gucheff has begun to rid it of graft and incompetents. A board of experts, similar to that recently created in the United States, is to be named.

Leaders of the reactionary organization known as the "Black Hundred," which was responsible for so many massacres in the days of the autocracy, have been imprisoned. Members of the old "Union of True Russian People" and leaders of the organization of Russian nobility are being watched.

The fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul is crammed with political prisoners of the old regime. In the latest batch to arrive was the hated Governor General Zium, of Finland, whose harsh rule brought him

# Duma to Probe Plot Led by the Czarina

Continued from Page One

fringe to women, granting them a voice in the choice of the form of government.

In session today the ministers decided to grant free railway passes to pardoned prisoners, including the vast number of political prisoners exiled to Siberia by the old Government. Foreign Minister Milukoff was

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# the universal enmity of the people whom he governed.

After a burst of street fighting in Moscow the city is regaining its normal tranquility.

The new Government is sending emissaries to all corners of the nation to explain the change in government and its meaning. So vast is the Russian empire and so scarce are the means of communication in some districts that there are certain regions which do not know as yet that the Czar has been deposed, the imperial power overthrown, and that democracy and civic freedom are in the ascendancy.

These isolated sections are mainly in Siberia and the desert regions of Turkestan.

It develops that the chief supporters of the revolution among the higher army officers were Grand Duke Nicholas, General Alexieff, Russian chief of staff; General Brusiloff, commander of the main group of armies on the western front, and General Ruzsky.

"We must doff a dirty shirt before we can put on a clean one," was the epigrammatic explanation with which Premier Lvoff today described the transition which Russia is experiencing now in the change from autocracy to democracy.

"Troops of the south and western fronts entirely side with the people," he continued. "There were some excesses reported from the northern front, but commissioners sent there found order and restored discipline. The whole Baltic fleet supported the Government."

"Finland is unanimously for the new regime."


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# IRISH PARTY SENDS GREETINGS TO DUM

LONDON, March 22.—The Irish party in Parliament today sent this message to the Russian Duma president:

"We offer to the Russian Duma our heart-felt congratulations on the liberation of the Russian people from autocratic rule and send the Russian nation the heartiest good will of the Irish nation."

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