



WILSON ASKS CONGRESS TO PLACE U. S. IN STATE OF "ARMED NEUTRALITY"

NEXT STEP TOWARD WAR IS TAKEN

Continued Invasion of Plain Rights of Neutrals on High Seas, Further Sacrifices of American Lives and Ships, the Intolerable Blockade of American Commerce Take Place of Dreaded "Overt Act" and Force President to Go Before Congress.

ASKS POWER TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY IN CRISIS

U. S. Ships Will Either Be Armed or Convoyed Across Sea by War Vessels; Wants Peace But Not at Price of American Lives or Rights; Grim-Faced Body of Senators and Representatives Hear Plea of Chief Executive in Grave Silence.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before Congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace.

Continued invasion of the plain rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effectual as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act" which was expected to shock the world—and have forced the President into the next step toward war.

Congress Will Back Him

President Wilson, asking to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary which includes the arming of ships, the convoying of merchantmen by war vessels or what other steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights or by driving the American flag from the seas.

Congress is expected not only to authorize the President to use the armed forces of the country but also to provide money.

Once before, in the infancy of the republic a state of armed neutrality was proclaimed to check "predatory violence" upon American rights, in the war between France and England, but it did not result actually in war for the United States.

May Mean War

Whether another armed neutrality will mean war depends on whether Germany realizes that the United States is ready to protect its neutral rights by whatever means are necessary.

With a full realization of the solemnity of the occasion, the President took his action to-day with the calm confidence that Congress and the country will stand behind him.

The grim-faced body of Senators and Representatives who less than a month ago heard the President pronounce the words which announced a severance of diplomatic relations with Germany—an act which in all the history of first class nations always has led to war—heard to-day in tense si-

lence and grave attention the words which carry the American republic a step further in its stand against ruthless sacrifice of neutral rights and a step nearer war, if it must be.

Immediately after the President left the Capitol a meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee was called and Chairman Stone, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said his committee would be called together later this afternoon.

Need \$500,000,000

Senator Simmons, chairman of the Finance Committee, said he believed \$500,000,000 would be sufficient at this time and that it might be provided by an amendment to the revenue bill now before the Senate.

Some Republican Senators declared that they did not "want to sign a blank check" for the President and predicted a filibuster against the legislation he requests for the purpose of forcing an extra session of Congress.

Those Republicans expressed a view that the President's attitude was not sufficiently definite. They would not say, however, that an extra session, which they regarded as imperative, would be used to fight the legislation the President requested.

The view taken by Democrats is that the President has made no unreasonable request.

President Wilson arrived at the Capitol just before 1 o'clock and promptly at that hour stepped up to the clerk's desk in the hall of the House where both branches of Congress, meeting in special joint session, were assembled before him. He spoke as follows:

CONGRESS HEARS TEXT OF SPEECH

"Gentlemen of the Congress:

"I have again asked the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical times during which it seems to me to be my duty to keep in close touch with the Houses of Congress so that neither counsel nor action shall run at cross purposes between us.

"On the third of February I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the Imperial German government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to this government in April last and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce, whether of belligerents or of neutrals, that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe, or the harbors of the eastern Mediterranean and to conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice, without regard to any considerations of humanity even which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice. It has now been in active execution for nearly four weeks.

"Its practical results are not fully disclosed. The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely, but not, perhaps very much more severely than it was already suffering before the first of February, when the new policy of the Imperial government was put into operation. We have asked the co-operation of the other neutral governments to prevent these depredations, but I fear none of them has thought it wise to join us in any common course of action. Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering, rather

in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timidly keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk.

Two U. S. Ships Sunk

"Two American vessels have been sunk, the Housatonic and the Lyman M. Law. The case of the Housatonic which was carrying foodstuffs consigned to a London firm, was essentially like the case of the Frye in which it will be recalled, the German government admitted its liability for damage, and the lives of the crew, as in the case of the Frye, were safeguarded with reasonable care.

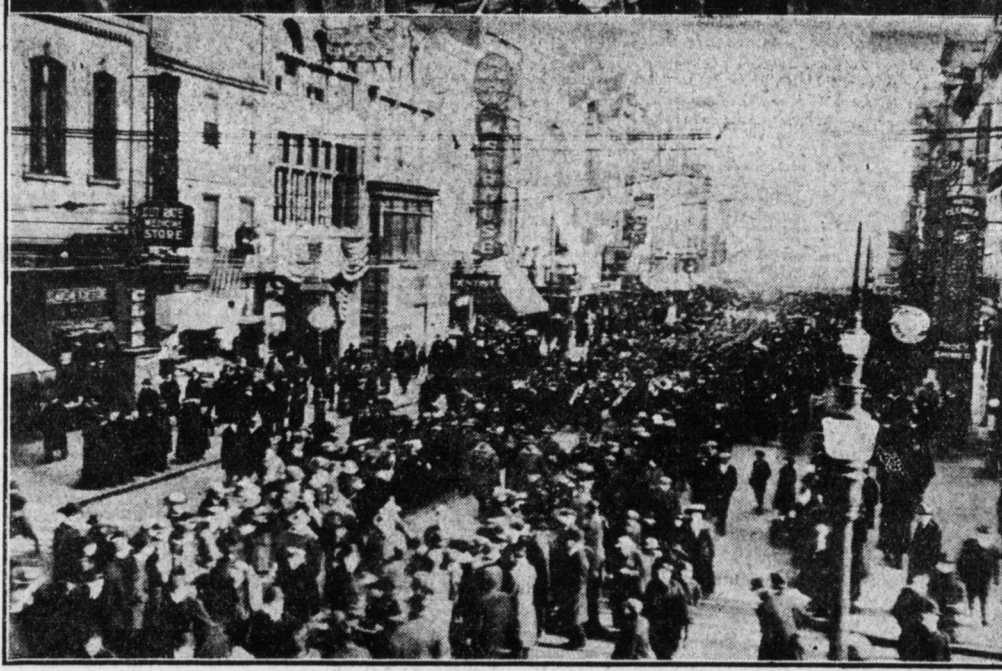
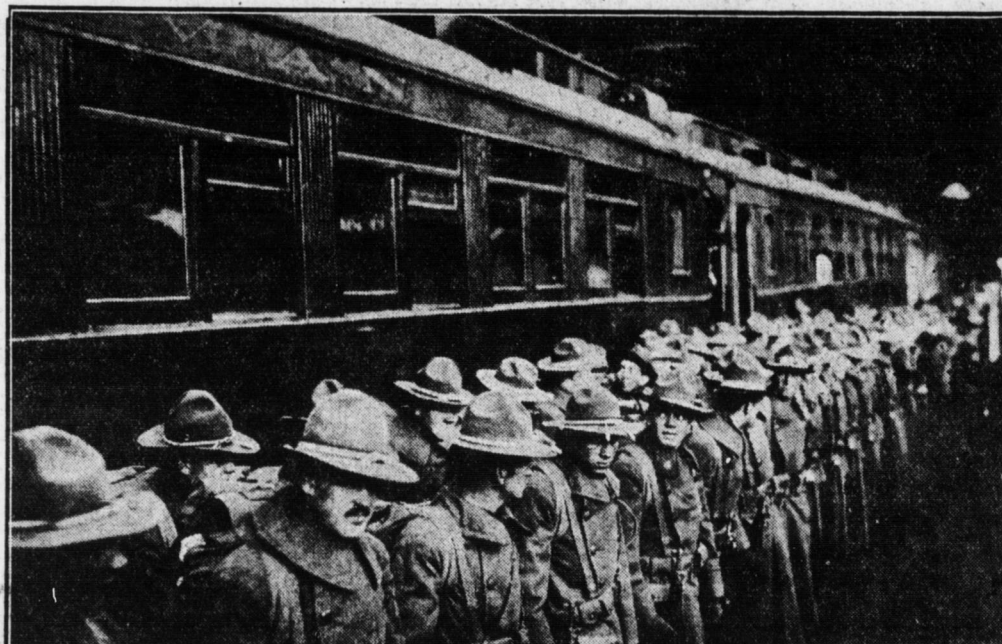
"The case of the Law which was carrying lemon box staves to Palermo disclosed a ruthlessness of method which deserves grave condemnation, and was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time in connection with the use of the submarine against merchantmen as the German government has used it.

"Overt Act" Not Necessary

"In sum, therefore, the situation we find ourselves in with regard to the actual conduct of the German submarine warfare against commerce and its effects upon our own ships and people is substantially the same that it was when I addressed you on the third of February, except for the tying up of our shipping in our own ports because of the unwillingness of our ship own-

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MUSTERING OUT OF HARRISBURG TROOPS ALREADY UNDER WAY



FROM TRAIN TO ARMORY

Photographs snapped by the Telegraph photographer tell the story of the welcome given the returned guardsmen from the train to the Armory at Second and Forster streets. The first picture shows the troops as they are trained; the second the great throng watching the parade in Market street.

Two United States Army Officers Arrive to Transfer Men From Uncle Sam's to State's Service; Supply Company First to be Examined; Regimental Band to be Located Here Under Reorganization; 50,000 People in Streets to Welcome Men in Khaki; Great Throngs Cheer From Station to Armory; Home Committee to Give Banquet and Dance to Troopers March 5

Mustering out of the Harrisburg companies of the Eight Regiment, who yesterday returned home amid the cheers of more than 50,000 people, began to-day. Before the end of this week most of the details of the mustering out should be completed and the city's soldiers will again be members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The mustering out of the Supply Company from the United States service began at 8.30 this morning at the Armory, Second and Forster streets. Captain Edward H. Schell with thirty-two members of the company were the first to receive the customary physical examination.

Lieutenant Colonel Guy H. Preston, Second United States Cavalry, Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, and Captain Samuel J. Turnbull, surgeon at Fort Greble, Newport, Rhode Island, have been detained to do the mustering out work. They arrived in the city this morning. Due to the fact that clearance papers and other details were attended to before the troops left the border, the work of transferring the Harrisburg companies from the United States army to the National Guard will be soon completed, it is believed.

Colonel Maurice E. Finney and staff and the headquarters company of the Eighth Regiment will next receive the attention of the mustering officers, according to plans outlined to-day. Companies D and I and the

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START CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION AGAINST PRICES

Children in New York Distributing Circulars Urging Boycott

Washington, Feb. 26.—Appropriation of \$6,000,000 for federal relief in the present food situation and further investigation to devise better marketing and distribution methods was proposed in a resolution introduced to-day by Senator Borah, of Idaho. Action was deferred.

Expenditure of the money at the discretion of the President was proposed by Senator Borah, who had his resolution left on the table to be called up later.

It would authorize the President to spend any part of the sum "to give aid to local authorities in furnishing food and clothing to those now actually suffering, and for such general action as the President may deem necessary to relieve "want or hunger" now existing.

Investigation of the causes of rising prices and whether violation of the antitrust laws is involved, is proposed.

New York, Feb. 26.—A campaign of education against high food prices was extended to-day through several avenues. This plan was adopted by the Board of Health, after an investigation to ascertain just how much

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LACONIA, OF 18,099 TONS, TORPEDOED

Great Cunard Liner With Ten Americans Among 100 Passengers Aboard Sent to Bottom.

SURVIVORS ARE SAID TO NUMBER 270; WILL BE LANDED TONIGHT

Largest Vessel Sunk Since Opening of U-Boat Campaign; President Gets Word as He Is Enroute to Congress.

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The Cunard Line steamship Laconia, of 18,099 tons gross, which sailed from New York, February 18, for Liverpool has been sunk. The survivors of the Laconia are said to number 270. They will be landed to-night.

Torpedoed Without Warning

London, Feb. 26.—It is stated authentically that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning. Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, telegraphed the American embassy here to-day:

"Cunarder Laconia torpedoed 10.50 Sunday night. Two hundred and seventy-eight survivors landed. Details lacking but known some missing, one dead."

New York, Feb. 26.—The Cunard liner Laconia sailed from New York on February 18 with 100 passengers among whom were ten or more Americans.

The Laconia was one of the largest vessels of the Cunard fleet and the largest thus far sunk since the new German submarine warfare was commenced. She registered 18,099 tons, was 600 feet long, 71 feet beam and 40 feet depth. She was built in 1911 at New Castle.

Twenty Americans, all native born, were members of the crew of the Laconia. Americans in first class cabins on the Laconia included:

Miss Phyllis Barker, New York; Arthur T. Kirby, Bainbridge, N. J.; Mrs. F. E. Harris, New York; P. P. Gibbons, of the Chicago Tribune; Mary Ed. Hoy, and Miss Elizabeth of Chicago. There was also one American in the second class cabin, the Rev. James Wareing, of New York, making a total of seven.

Five thousand sacks of United States mail were carried by the Laconia, of which 1,300 were transferred from the American liner St. Louis when it was decided to hold the latter vessel in port. Many valuable securities and documents sent by American business firms were supposed to be in the St. Louis mail bags.

GERMANS BOMBARD ENGLISH CITIES LONDON, FEB. 26.—GERMAN DESTROYERS BOMBARDED BROADSTAIRS AND MARGATE EARLY THIS MORNING. ONE WOMAN AND ONE CHILD WERE KILLED AND TWO PERSONS WERE INJURED, TWO HOUSES WERE DAMAGED. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO-DAY BY SIR EDWARD CARSON, FIRST LORD OF ADMIRALTY. TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING. LONDON, FEB. 26.—IT IS STATED AUTHENTICALLY THAT THE LACONIA WAS TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING. BURLINGAME TRUSTEE NAMED Harrisburg.—G. R. Hurd, was appointed trustee in the bankruptcy proceedings against Gayle Burlingame, Harrisburg, at a meeting of the creditors held in the office of Referee John T. Olmsted this afternoon. Mr. Burlingame placed his assets at \$875 and his liabilities at \$1,734.83. COUNCIL MEETS SOLICITOR Members of City Council went into a conference with City Solicitor John E. Fox, at the latter's home, 224 North Front street, at 4 o'clock, this afternoon. The question of how to insure the city's workmen's compensation risk was discussed. FIND MURDERED MAN Hershey, Pa., Feb. 26.—The body of an Austrian known as "Allentown Scotty," was found in the road near here early this morning. He had been shot in the stomach evidently last night by an unknown man. Coroner Eckinger is investigating. CITY COUNCIL WANTS ASH SURVEY That City Council plan immediately for a survey of the ash and garbage situation is the recommendation that will put before City Council to-morrow by David E. Tracy, president of the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce, at the instance of the board of directors. MARRIAGE LICENSES Frank Y. Rittsow and Anna E. Smeight, city. Edward F. Shandow and Sarah E. Mount, city. Zaphie Di Martini and Annie T. Folli, city. James D. O'Neil and Anna R. Steck, Hookersville. Ray W. Miller, Mechanicsburg, and Beulah I. Phillips, Camp Hill.