



PRESIDENT TO KEEP HIS POLICY SECRET UNTIL CONGRESS MEETS

Chief Executive and Cabinet Members Agree Without Division on Course Nation Will Pursue in War

BEGINS WORK ON HIS CONGRESSIONAL ADDRESS

Provisions Worked Out For Raising an Army of 1,000,000 Men If Need For Them Comes

Washington, March 31.— President Wilson, having decided fully with his cabinet upon a course of action to meet the national emergency, to-day set about the task of reducing the conclusions to writing.

Exactly what these conclusions are will be disclosed officially when the President appears before Congress next week to deliver his momentous message.

Indications to-day, however, were that a formal recognition of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany would result.

The disclosure that a definite decision had been reached, was made following a final conference between

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Those 18 Submarines Were Only Harmless Naval Targets in Tow

New York, March 31.—The mystery of the eighteen submarines reported captured by an American warship, in an anonymous cable message from Panama said to have been seen by passengers on the steamship Advance off Watling Island was cleared to-day by the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas E. Condon of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, passengers on the steamship Carrillo, from Panama.

The clergyman said the reported U-Boats were merely a procession of harmless naval targets in tow of seven warships, each warship having lines attached to two or three targets.

The Carrillo, bound for New York, passed the "captured submarines" off San Salvador about the time the Advance was steaming southward, did likewise.

Directors Approve Final Plans For Penn Harris; Will Award Contract Soon

Final plans for the new Penn-Harris Hotel were approved this afternoon by the directors of the Harrisburg Hotel Company, which will erect the million dollar structure at Third and Walnut streets. Contracts for construction of the big building will be awarded soon.

Incidental to the meeting this afternoon of the directors it is interesting to note that the United Hotels Company, which will manage the Harrisburg hotel, is already operating an important chain, including the following: The Ten Eyck, Albany, N. Y.; Hotel Utica, Utica, N. Y.; The Onondaga, Syracuse, N. Y.; The Nonotuck, Holyoke, Mass.; The Jefferson, Worcester, Mass.; The Jefferson, Peoria, Ill.; The Lawrence, Erie, Pa.; The Portage, Akron, Ohio; The Tutwiler, Birmingham, Ala.; Royal Connaught, Hamilton, Ont.; and The Robert Treat, Newark, N. J.

The company is also committed under contract to the operation of the Penn-Harris in this city, and the Devonshire, at Toronto. It is also interested in the company owning the Seneca, at Rochester, N. Y., and has other projects under consideration.

TAFT URGES ARMY IN EUROPE

Kansas City, March 31.—Actual participation with the entente allies in fighting Germany was advocated yesterday by William Howard Taft, former President, in addressing the Chamber of Commerce at its noon luncheon.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Partly cloudy, probably showers to-night and Sunday; warmer to-night and Sunday; warmer to-night, with lowest temperature about 45 degrees; slightly colder Sunday.

AMERICANS LOSE LIVES WHEN TWO SHIPS ARE SUNK BY SUBMARINES

Both Freighters Badly Damaged by Torpedoes and Shell Fire Before Sighting German U-Boats in Atlantic

NO TIME GIVEN TO USE GUNS ON DECK

Scores of United States Citizens on Board Vessels As Members of Crews; Many Reported Saved

Washington, D. C., March 31.—Two British steamers, the Norwich Rance and the Both liner Crispin, both with Americans aboard, of whom a number are unaccounted for, were reported to the State Department to-day to have been sunk without warning by a submarine.

On the Crispin the torpedo, which struck the engine room, killed five men, two of whom are believed to have been Americans.

A dispatch from Swansea said the collector of customs there reported that forty-nine Americans from the British cattle steamer Crispin had been landed at Milford Haven. No additional details of the sinking of the Crispin were given.

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Word From United States Consul

Consul Frost, at Queenstown, reporting the loss of the freight liner Crispin, said:

"The Crispin, 2,488 tons, Newport News to Liverpool, 688 horses, torpedoed without warning fourteen miles off Hook Head, 7.15 p. m., 29th. Sixty-eight out of ship's complement of 112 were Americans. Two boats missing, not improbably lost.

"Torpedo struck engine room, started fire, and ship was abandoned. (Continued on Page 2)

Lad Drowns When Swift Current Overtakes Canoe; Companion Escapes

Howar Landis, aged 15, 525 Emerald street, was drowned at 1.30 o'clock this afternoon when his canoe upset off Maclay street. His companion, Albert Michaels, 550 Camp street, escaped.

The two boys started about 12.30 to take a short trip up the river. All went well until they attempted to effect landing at Maclay street. Caught in an eddy and then swirled by the current, the canoe was out of their control in an instant. When it overturned Landis fell from the right side. He attempted to grab hold of the overturned boat, but his weight turned the canoe in a circle.

Michaels attempted to reach him before he was forced to let go his hold. Landis called once for help and sank before Michaels could aid him. He did not come to the surface again. With the exception of an old man and a couple of children, no one witnessed the accident.

It is said by his companion that Landis could not swim. Michaels was swept several hundred yards before he reached shore.

10,000 Postmasters Put on Civil Service List by President Wilson

Washington, March 31.—More than ten thousand first, second and third class postmasters were placed under civil service to-day by executive order of President Wilson.

Present incumbents of office are not affected but in the future when vacancies occur as the result of death, resignation or removal the civil service commission will hold open competitive examinations. The name of the highest eligible candidate will then be submitted to the President. Although the order is framed to remove postmasters from politics the Senate, however, has the right to reject the President's appointees.

Railroads Ask Public Service Commission to Approve Rate Increase

Philadelphia, March 31.—The Pennsylvania Public Service Commission was to-day asked by the railroads operating in Pennsylvania to consent to a flat increase of 15 per cent. in freight rates within the state. Officials representing the Pennsylvania, Reading and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Companies appeared before members of the commission and urged immediate and favorable action. Rates on coal, coke and ore are excepted in the petition.

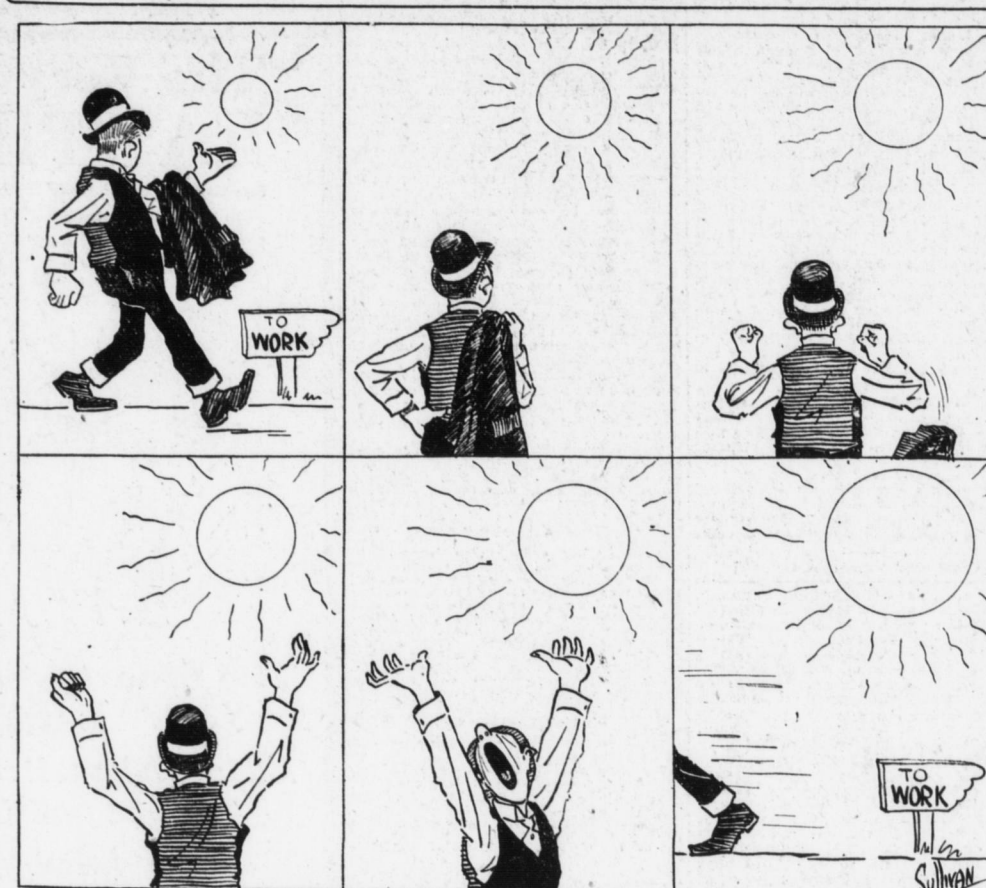
Commissioners Say City Will Carry Own Insurance

Council will notify the State within the next few days that after April 1 to-morrow it will carry its own insurance for city employes as required by the women's compensation act.

Because of the tangle which resulted when ordinances were introduced to change from insuring in the State fund to a private stock company, this decision has been reached, commissioners said to-day.

The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, of Baltimore, will be paid \$1,000 for insuring the city for the first quarter of the year. Beginning to-morrow the same plan will be followed as last year.

PUZZLE PICTURE—CAN YOU TELL WHAT AILS THIS MAN



FRENCH LAUNCH NEW THRUST FOR FURTHER GAINS

Gen. Nivelle Pushes German Line Back Three-and-a-Half Miles

French troops in northern France continue to push back the Germans along the southern end of the German field of retreat.

A new thrust was delivered by General Nivelle's forces last night north-east of Soissons, forcing the hostile line back on a three and one-half-mile front between Neuville and Vregny. The French forged ahead east of this line, making important progress and capturing several points of

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HEARS ONE CAN GET ANYTHING UNDER SUN AT RUMMAGE SALE SO TRIES TO BUY WIFE FOR \$100

Wildly Waves Yellowbacks as He Works Way Through Crowd in Search For Mate; Meets With Failure but Gets Extensive Line of Winter Clothes Instead

"Who would ever think of going to a rummage sale to get a wife? And one marked down to \$100! Isn't it perfectly ridiculous? The crazy thing was in earnest about it, too."

So ran the conversation of two indignant young salesladies as a reporter caught a few quips of it in the vicinity of the notion department of the big sale this morning.

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BIG BUILDING IN MARKET ST. CHANGES HANDS

Structure at Market and Court Streets Purchased by J. C. Soutter

John C. Soutter, owner of Soutter's 1-cent-to-25-cent department store, has taken over the property at 215 Market street, occupied by the store. The transfer was made through Miller Bros. & Co. from the John, Graham estate, Newville, Pa. No consideration was given.

GERMAN CONSUL TO COME HERE

Amor, China, March 31.—The German consul and his family sailed yesterday from Shanghai on board the Chinese steamer Taishun. They will return to Germany by way of America.

GREAT AMOUNT OF IMPROVEMENT WORK IS NEEDED

Three Commissioners Shouldering Work of Four; Parks Demand Attention

Through the death of Commissioner Harry F. Bowman and the serious illness of Mayor Meals, the management of the several municipal departments of Harrisburg now devolve upon three men—Commissioners Gargas, Lynch and Gross. These are the days when plans for the year are going actively forward. Much is to be done especially in the out door departments.

Fortunately for Commissioner Gross the recent secondary flood in the Sus-

76-YEAR OLD PATRIOT KEENLY DISAPPOINTED WHEN HE IS REFUSED AFTER PASSING TEST

Philip Laney, Eager For Service Goes Through Army Examinations With Perfect Marks But Age Is Against Him; Expresses Desire to Fight

Not only are young men responding to the call to Old Glory, but those of advanced years are anxious to enter the service.

This morning Philip Laney, aged 76, of 1929 North Sixth street, applied at the Army recruiting office for enlistment. He told the officer in charge that he wanted to see real service and wanted to fight. He put a great deal of emphasis on the fight.

PROVISIONS OF ESCHEAT LAW ARE UPHELD BY COURT

Judge Kunkel Renders Opinion That May Net Millions For the State

Ruling that the Commonwealth has the right under the "escheat" law of 1915 to require a report of property presumptively escheatable, President Judge George Kunkel to-day handed down three important opinions in which he dissolved preliminary injunctions and dismissed bills of complaints which three banks in Pennsylvania had filed against Auditor General A. W. Powell.

PHILADELPHIANS PLEDGED LOYALTY TO UNITED STATES

Patriotic Citizens Reconsecrate Themselves Before Historic Independence Hall

Philadelphia, March 31.—Patriotic citizens of Philadelphia turned their faces toward Independence Hall to-day to reconsecrate themselves to their country and to pledge loyal support to the national government in

TOO MUCH HEART BALM

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 31.—A new trial was granted yesterday in the famous heart balm suit of Miss Nettie M. Richardson, of Mount Washington, against Henry Denton, the Switzvale recluse, whose wealth is estimated at \$2,000,000. The verdict for \$170,000 damages for breach of promise to marry—the largest ever granted to a woman in this country—awarded by the jury which heard the evidence, was set aside by Judge Evans, who presided at the trial of the case. The Court held that the verdict was excessive.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

John Kreider Curry, Swatara, and Edith Longenecker Shenk, Derry township, Martin Garrett, Himmelflowtown, and Sarah Elizabeth Shell-Diegel, Steelton, William Dinefer, Harrisburg, and Sarah Jane Diegel, Steelton, John Stover Miller and Annie Virginia Mills, Rockville, Frank Alysona Reker and Florence Eva Hiner, Lancaster, Frank Earl Dufery and Margaret Celia Fulson, Harrisburg, Robert Wallace and Helen Marie Cookley, Steelton.

NEW GERMAN RAIDER PREYS ON SHIPPING IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

Nine or More Allied Vessels Sent to Bottom by Daring Teuton Commander; Provisions and Munitions For an Eighteen Months' Cruise; 285 Men Saved From Lost Ships Are Landed in Brazil

Rio Janeiro, March 31.—A new German raider, slipping past the British warships on guard in the North Sea, has reached the South Atlantic and sent nine or more merchantmen to the bottom. According to survivors from the sunken vessels the raider is the Seeadler (Sea Eagle) a formidable armed craft operating with the same success and daring as its predecessor, the Moewe, which recently returned to a German port after playing havoc with shipping in the same waters.

News of the activities of the raider was brought to Rio Janeiro by the French bark Cambonne which arrived here yesterday. She had on board 285 men from the crews of vessels sunk by the Seeadler. The Cambonne encountered the raider on March 7 at latitude 21 south, longitude 7 west, a point in the Atlantic almost on a line with Rio Janeiro and about two-thirds of the way to the African coast. After the survivors had been put on the Cambonne she was ordered to proceed to the coast of Brazil, a voyage of 22 days.

Loaded With Mines According to the Jornal do Brazil, the raider was loaded with mines, which explains the destruction of vessels off the coast of Brazil. The commerce destroyer is reported to be armed with two guns of 105 millimeters and sixteen machine guns. The vessel has three masts and is equipped with wireless. Its crew consists of sixty-four men under the command of Count Utker.

According to the refugees, the raider left Germany on December 22 escorted by a submarine. They say that the commander declared that the German emperor and the crown prince alone knew of the expedition. No complaints have been made as to the treatment of the sailors while they were prisoners on board the raider.

They gave the name of the boat as the Seeadler and say that she was provisioned for eighteen months and had a great supply of munitions and explosives. On sighting a merchantman the raider hoisted a Norwegian flag, which was replaced by the German ensign when her prey was within reach of her guns. Among the refugees

Central Empires Still Hope For Peace Meeting

Amsterdam, March 31, via London.—A Vienna dispatch quotes Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, as saying in an interview with the Fremdenblatt that the entente could conclude an honorable peace with the central powers at any time and that the proposal of a peace conference still held good.

OPEN BIDS FOR U-BOAT CHASERS

Washington, March 31.—Fifty more bids for the construction of small patrol boats and submarines chasers were received to-day at the navy department.

I. W. W. CALLS STRIKE

Wilkes-Barre, March 31.—The I. W. W. have called a general strike for Monday in this district as a protest against a declaration of war by Congress. State Police and the Sheriff have made arrangements to prevent disturbances.

FRENCH SCORE AN ADVANCE

Paris, March 31.—French troops last night successfully attacked the German positions South of the Allette river and made important progress Eastward. A number of points were brilliantly captured by the French forces.

RAILROADS ASK FOR AN INCREASE

Philadelphia, March 31.—Railroads operating in Pennsylvania to-day asked the Public Service Commission to consent to a flat increase of 15 per cent. in freight rates within the State. Immediate favorable action was urged.

REPUBLICANS LOSE BY SICKNESS

Washington, March 31.—Democratic organization of the House seemed assured to-day when it became known that illness will prevent the attendance at the opening session of H. T. Helgesen, Republican, from North Dakota, Representative Capstick, of New Jersey, also is on the sick list. With the loss of these two votes the Democrats will have control.

ONE AMERICAN KNOWN TO BE DEAD

Washington, March 31.—A late dispatch from Consul Frost, establishes that at least one American was killed in the sinking of the Crispin by a U-Boat. Others probably have been killed, he said.

Harrisburg—An effort to have Gen. Wood address the patriotic demonstration here next Thursday night when Former Ambassador Gerard will speak, were gotten under way to-day.

London, March 31.—British forces advancing against the German lines in Northern France have captured five important villages.