

WILSON SERVES NOTICE ON BERLIN

War on Merchant Ships Must Stop.

NOTE THREATENS RUPTURE

President Notifies Congress of Step Taken By Him.

WAR NOW DEEMED PROBABLE

Germany Must Decide if Break is To Result—Failure To Meet Views of the United States Will End Friendly Relations.

President Wilson has delivered an ultimatum to Germany. Unless the German government immediately and completely abandons the present method of submarine warfare against passenger and freight ships, diplomatic relations will be severed and Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, will be handed his passports. The American note presenting this demand to the German government has been sent to Berlin. President Wilson's patience is exhausted, and he will wait only the least possible period for the German answer. The note that went forward Wednesday was the twentieth note sent by this government to the German government, protesting against the long list of submarine attacks. It is the last.

Washington—Sharply inditing Germany for its use of submarines against merchant vessels, President Woodrow Wilson, in a joint session of Congress, issued public notice to the world that unless that government changes its methods the United States will have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations.

The "history in the making" was witnessed by one of the largest gatherings that has ever been jammed into the historic chamber of the House of Representatives. Every single available inch of space was utilized while literally thousands were turned away. There was no questioning the seriousness of the President's position. His voice, somewhat husky, penetrated every corner of the room and the message was emphasized with an expression that showed its author was fearful of the outcome. That seriousness was shared by the audience, the usual applause given the President's utterances being absent.

Following is the complete text of the President's address: "Gentlemen of the Congress: A situation has arisen in the foreign relations of the country of which it is my plain duty to inform you very frankly.

"It will be recalled that in February, 1915, the Imperial German Government announced its intention to treat the waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland as embraced within the zone of war and to destroy all merchant ships owned by its enemies that might be found within any part of that portion of the high seas, and that it warned all vessels, of neutral as well as of belligerent ownership, to keep out of the waters it had thus prescribed or else enter them at their peril.

Protest By U. S.

"The government of the United States earnestly protested. It took the position that such a policy could not be pursued without the practical certainty of gross and palpable violations of the law of nations, particularly of submarine warfare, were to be employed as its instruments, inasmuch as the rules prescribed by that law, rules founded upon principles of humanity and established for the protection of the lives of non-combatants at sea, could not in the nature of the case be observed by such vessels. It based its protest on the ground that persons of neutral nationality and vessels of neutral ownership would be exposed to extreme and intolerable risks, and that no right to close any part of the high seas against their use or to expose them to such risks could lawfully be asserted by any belligerent government. The law of nations in these matters, upon which the government of the United States based its protest, is not of recent origin or founded upon merely arbitrary principles set up by convention. It is based, on the contrary, upon manifest and imperative principles of humanity and has long been established with the approval and by the express assent of all civilized nations.

German Assurance.

"Notwithstanding the earnest protest of our government, the Imperial German Government at once proceeded to carry out the policy it had announced. It expressed the hope that the dangers involved, at any rate, the dangers to neutral vessels, would be reduced to a minimum by the instructions which it had issued to its submarine commanders, and assured the government of the United States that it would take every possible precaution both to respect the rights of neutrals and to safeguard the lives of non-combatants.

AMERICANS FLEEING MEXICO.

Threatening Conditions Cause Them To Head For Border.

Washington.—Consul Alger at Mazatlan, Mexico, reported to the State Department that practically the entire American colony in that vicinity is fleeing from Mexico because of threatening conditions. Alger reported that the natives were under no governmental control, being free to loot as they please. They are especially directing their robberies against Americans, he reported.

"What has actually happened in the year which has since elapsed has shown that those hopes were not fulfilled, those assurances insusceptible of being fulfilled.

In pursuance of the policy of submarine warfare against the commerce of its adversaries, thus announced and entered upon by the Imperial German Government in despite of the solemn protest of this government, the commander of German under-sea vessels have attacked merchant ships with greater and greater activity, not only upon the high seas surrounding Great Britain and Ireland, but wherever they could encounter them, in a way that has grown more and more ruthless, more and more discriminate as the months have gone by, less and less observant of restraints of any kind; and have delivered their attacks without compunction against vessels of every nationality and bound upon every sort of errand.

Sank Neutral Ships.

Even vessels of neutral ownership bound from neutral port to neutral port, have been destroyed along with vessels of belligerent ownership in constantly increasing numbers. Sometimes the merchantman attacked has been warned and summoned to surrender before being fired on or torpedoed, sometimes passengers or crews have been condescended the poor security of being allowed to take to the ship's boats before she was sent to the bottom. But again and again no warning has been given, no escape even to the ship's boats allowed to those on board. What this government foresaw must happen has happened.

"Tragedy followed tragedy on the seas in such fashion, with such attendant circumstances as to make it grossly evident that warfare of such a sort, if warfare it be, cannot be carried on without the most palpable violation of the dictates alike of right and of humanity. Whatever the disposition and intention of the Imperial government, it has manifestly proved impossible for it to keep such methods of attack upon the commerce of its enemies within the bounds set by either the reason or the heart of mankind.

"In February of the present year the Imperial German Government informed this government and the other neutral governments of the world that it had reason to believe that the government of Great Britain had armed all merchant vessels of British ownership and had given them secret orders to attack any submarine of the enemy they might encounter upon the seas, and that the Imperial German Government felt justified in the circumstances in treating all armed merchantmen of belligerent ownership as auxiliary vessels of war, which it would have the right to destroy without warning.

Stand On Armed Ships.

"The law of nations has long recognized the right of merchantmen to carry arms for protection and to use them to repel attack, though to use them in such circumstances as their own risk; but the Imperial German Government claimed the right to set these understandings aside in circumstances which it deemed extraordinary. Even the terms in which it announced its purpose still further to relax the restraints it had previously professed its willingness and desire to put upon the operations of its submarines, carried the plain implication that at least vessels which were not armed without warning and that personal safety would be accorded their passengers and crews; but even that limitation, if it was ever practicable to observe it, has in fact constituted no check at all upon the destruction of ships of every sort.

"Again and again the Imperial German Government has given this government its solemn assurances that at least passenger ships would not be thus dealt with, and yet it has again and again permitted its under-sea commanders to disregard those assurances with entire impunity. Great liners like the Lusitania and the Arabic and mere ferryboats like the Sussex have been attacked without a moment's warning, sometimes before they were in the presence of an armed vessel of the enemy, and the lives of non-combatants, passengers and crew, have been sacrificed wholesale in a manner which the government of the United States cannot but regard as wanton and without the slightest color of justification. No limit of any kind has, in fact, been set to the indiscriminate pursuit and destruction of merchantmen of all kinds and nationalities within the waters, constantly extending in area, where these operations have been carried on; and the roll of Americans who have lost their lives on ships thus attacked and destroyed has grown month by month until the ominous toll has mounted into the hundreds.

Sussex Destruction.

"One of the latest and most shocking instances of this method of warfare was that of the destruction of the French cross Channel steamer Sussex. It must stand forth, as the sinking of the steamer Lusitania did, as so singularly tragic and unjustifiable as to constitute a truly terrible example of the inhumanity of submarine warfare as the commanders of German vessels have for the past 12 months been conducting it. If this instance stood alone, some explanation, some disavowal by the German government, some evidence of criminal mistake or willful disobedience on the part of the commander of the vessel that fired the torpedo might be sought or entertained; but, unhappily, it does not stand alone.

MUNITIONS PLANT DESTROYED.

Fire At Heidelberg, Pa., Followed By Explosions.

Hillsburg.—An explosion in the Heidelberg plant of the Aetna Chemical Company, near here, was followed by a fire which destroyed two buildings. Fearing additional explosions the entire population of the village moved out until the flames had been subdued. The explosion caused a loss of \$50,000.

Andre Dahl found the dahlias in Peru.

Recent events make the conclusion inevitable that it is only one instance, even though it be one of the most extreme and distressing instances, of the spirit and method of warfare which the Imperial German Government has mistakenly adopted, and which from the first expose that government to the reproach of thrusting all neutral right aside in pursuit of its immediate objects.

"The government of the United States has been very patient. At every stage of this distressing experience of tragedy after tragedy in which its own citizens were involved it has sought to be restrained from any extreme course of action or of protest by a thoughtful consideration of the extraordinary circumstances of this unprecedented war, and actuated in all that it said or did by the sentiments of genuine friendship which the people of the United States have always entertained and continue to entertain towards the German nation.

"It has, of course, accepted the successive explanations and assurances of the Imperial German Government as given in entire sincerity and good faith and has hoped, even against hope, that it would prove to be possible for the German government so to order and control the acts of its naval commanders as to square its policy with the principles of humanity as embodied in the law of nations. It has been willing to wait until the significance of the facts has become absolutely unmistakable and susceptible of but one interpretation.

But One Interpretation.

"That point has now unhappily been reached. The facts are susceptible of but one interpretation. The Imperial German Government has been unable to put any limits or restraints upon its warfare against either freight or passenger ships. It has therefore become painfully evident that the position which this government took at the very outset is inevitable, namely, that the use of submarines for the destruction of an enemy's commerce is of necessity, because of the very character of the vessels employed and the very methods of attack which their employment, of course, involves, are incompatible with the principles of humanity, the long-established and incontrovertible rights of neutrals and the sacred immunities of non-combatants.

"I have deemed it my duty, therefore, to say to the Imperial German Government that if it is still its purpose to prosecute relentlessly and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines, notwithstanding the now demonstrated impossibility of conducting that warfare in accordance with what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue, and that unless the Imperial German Government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels this government can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the government of the German Empire altogether.

Spokesman For Humanity.

"This decision I have arrived at with the keenest regret; the possibility of the action contemplated I am sure all thoughtful Americans will look forward to with unaffected reluctance. But we cannot forget that we are by the force of circumstances the responsible spokesmen of the rights of humanity, and that we cannot remain silent while those rights seem in process of being swept utterly away in the maelstrom of this terrible war.

"We owe it to a due regard for our own rights as a nation, to our sense of duty as a representative of the rights of mankind to take this stand now with the utmost solemnity and firmness. "I have taken it, and taken it in the confidence that it will meet with your approval and support. All sober-minded men must unite in hoping that the Imperial German Government, which has in other circumstances stood as the champion of all that we are now contending for in the interest of humanity, may recognize the justice of our demands and meet them in the spirit in which they are made."

TELEGRAPH TICKS.

The Army Increase Bill was called up in the House by Chairman Hay, of the Military Committee, and was sent to conference.

The House Naval Subcommittee amended the Naval Bill so as to considerably increase the fighting force of the Navy.

Plans were announced in New York for a \$20,000,000 steamship corporation to be financed by American capital.

Miss Harriet N. Winchell, Chicago's oldest school teacher, died while seated in her automobile in front of her home here.

Giuseppe Archello and Frank Ferrara, convicted in New York of the murder of Bernard Hoff, the poultry dealer, were sentenced to death.

The former president and vice-president of the defunct State Bank of Little Rock were sentenced to prison for misapplication of funds.

A street car on the Allegheny Valley division of the West Penn Traction Company's lines, where a strike has been in progress for eight months, was attacked by a mob and almost demolished.

BERLIN SHOWS NO SIGN OF YIELDING

Officials Against Weakening Submarine Campaign.

NO TIME SET FOR REPLY

Refusal Likely To Be Sent United States—Chance Of Maintaining Friendly Relations Apparently Small.

Berlin, via London.—Nothing has yet developed as a result of the receipt of the American note to Germany concerning Germany's submarine warfare. No expression of opinion is obtainable from the Foreign Office, where absolute reticence is maintained. Neither the note nor any reference to it has been published in Germany and there is no intimation as yet when the note will be made public.

Ministers Study Note.

The Ministers and other officials who were entitled to it received a copy of the note and were engaged during the day in studying the document. The note probably will be answered some time this week, after serious consideration has been given the American contention, but there is little hope that any answer can go to the length demanded by the Washington Government, despite the fact that the Government desires to maintain good relations with the United States.

The sentiment is against further weakening of Germany's submarine campaign, to say nothing of an abandonment of it.

Delivered By Gerard.

It was delivered to Foreign Minister von Jagow in the usual manner, with no attendant circumstances to mark the unusual importance of the occasion. Owing to the length of the note and appendix and to the delayed arrival of one section of the note, it was not ready for presentation until 7.30 P. M. Ambassador Gerard then rolled the document in a magazine, to protect it from a slight rain which was falling, and walked across the square to the Foreign Office.

No Time Set For Reply.

Washington.—Ambassador Gerard at Berlin cabled the State Department that he had delivered the American note on submarine warfare to the German Foreign Office. Secretary Lansing said later he had not been advised just when a reply might be forthcoming. Other officials, however, indicated they expected it by the middle of next week.

NEW USE FOR AEROPLANES.

Coast Guard Service Will Locate Vessels In Distress.

Washington.—Within a week the Coast Guard Service will utilize aeroplanes to pick up steamers in distress. Assistant Secretary to the Treasury Newton, returning from a trip to Glenn Curtiss' Aviation School at Newport News, Va., announced that aeroplanes will be used experimentally at the Norfolk station.

Curtiss will have in a few days a seaplane adapted to coast guard work. When the Coast Guard is notified of a vessel in distress word will be sent to the Curtiss station.

A coast guard lieutenant is at the station studying aviation. An aeroplane will find the vessel, fly back and tell a cutter its location. Then the aeroplane will convoy the cutter to the scene.

SAYS CRISIS KILLS HYPHEN.

Barthold Declares German-Americans Will Stick To U. S.

St. Louis.—Richard Barthold, former Congressman, apostle of peace and, since the European war, protagonist of the German cause in America, declared that the present crisis dehyphenated German-Americans. He was asked what the Germans in the United States would do in case of war between the countries.

"There is no excuse for such a question," he said. "History has shown that the Germans always were the most loyal citizens of the United States in time of war. In this crisis there are no German-Americans. We are all Americans."

WAITE HELD TO BE SANE.

Allenists Find Confessed Murderer "Somewhat Abnormal."

New York.—Allenists who spent more than an hour examining Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, confessed slayer of his father-in-law, John E. Peck, a wealthy drug manufacturer of Grand Rapids, Mich., reported to District Attorney Swann that in their opinion Waite is sane, but somewhat abnormal. While being returned to the Tombs from the District Attorney's office, Waite is alleged to have declared to detectives that he was anxious to pay the penalty for his crime "and have it over with as soon as possible."

FOR LARGER COMMERCE BOARD.

House Passes Adams Bill and Sends It To Senate.

Washington.—The Adams bill to enlarge the Interstate Commerce Commission to nine commissioners at \$10,000, with authority to subdivide the commission into three or more sections for distribution of its work, was passed by the House and went to the Senate. The bill was argued by President Wilson on account of the increased business of the commission.

TREASURE SEEKERS



GEN. SCOTT TO SEE GEN. OBREGON FOR THE ARMY

To Discuss Villa Hunt With Carranza Minister.

MAY REMOVE THE SNAGS TO UTILIZE SCHOOLBOYS

Carranza's Request For Withdrawal Of American Force To Be Discussed By Full Cabinet.

Washington.—Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, and Gen. Alvaro Obregon, minister of war of the Carranza de facto government, will meet to discuss the military aspects of the American government's punitive expedition into Mexico against Villa.

It is understood that efforts to arrange such a conference are being made through State Department channels and that the meeting of the ranking military officers of the two governments will take place somewhere on Mexican soil. Whether the conference will be held at Juarez or at some point farther south below the border, has not been determined because details of the plan for the meeting have not been perfected.

Negotiations Wait.

Diplomatic negotiations with General Carranza; as well as the pursuit of Villa by American soldiers, apparently are at a standstill while President Wilson awaits full advice as to the military problems the troops have encountered in Mexico.

VON PAPAN BRAINS OF PLOT.

Former German Attaché Indicted For Conspiracy.

New York.—Captain Franz von Papan, recalled military attaché to the German Embassy, at Washington, was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury here as the organizer and financier of an alleged conspiracy to blow up the Welland Canal in Canada. With him also were indicted Capt. Hans Tauscher, alleged agent of the Krupps in the United States and husband of Mme. Johanna Gadske, the prima donna; Constantine Govani, Alfred J. Fritzen, and another man whose name has not been revealed. It was learned from reliable sources that the last-named is a prominent German, whose name has been mentioned frequently in connection with German propaganda.

Federal officials do not expect to bring Von Papan to trial. While he is no longer immune from prosecution by the United States civil authorities, since he ceased to be a member of the German Embassy staff, the offense with which he is charged is not extraditable under any treaty with a foreign government.

SANTIAGO GREETES AMERICANS.

Entire Press Welcomes International High Commission.

Santiago, Chile.—William G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and the other members of the delegation to the International High Commission, arrived here from Buenos Aires. The entire press of Chile has united in welcoming the delegation, the hope being generally expressed that the visit will result in strengthening the friendly understanding between the two countries.

BODY NOT THAT OF VILLA.

American Authorities In Mexico Unable To Verify Report.

Field Headquarters of General Pershing by wire to Columbus, N. M.—American military authorities detailed to investigate the report that the body recently discovered at San Francisco Borja was that of Francisco Villa reported they were unable to obtain confirmation.

L-3 DELIVERED TO GOVERNMENT.

Largest Submersible One Of Seven Ready By July 1.

Boston.—The submarine L-3, one of the largest submersibles in the United States Navy, was formally delivered to the Government by her builders, the Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, at the Charleston Navy Yard and immediately placed in commission. The seven vessels of this class, each with a cruising radius of 5,500 miles, will be in service by July 1, the builders stated.

GREATEST OF ALL BATTLES

Ninth Week of Conflict at Verdun.

COSTLY GERMAN DRIVE

A Review Of Operations—In Many Respects Without Precedent—400,000 Men Killed, Wounded Or Missing.

The most gigantic conflict in the history of the world, the battle of Verdun, has entered upon its ninth week. It is in many respects without precedent. The enormous scale of the German preparations and execution of the attack, the unparalleled concentration of artillery and the sustained ferocity of the fighting mark the battle as one of the greatest efforts of the war.

Verdun has been rated as one of the strongest fortresses of Europe, a cornerstone of the French defenses against Germany. The evolution of military tactics during the war, however, and particularly the employment by the Germans of long-range howitzers, capable of reducing the greatest forts, have done much to change the character of the Verdun campaign, as compared with the earlier conceptions of what such a struggle might be. Before the battle opened the French partly dismantled their forts around Verdun, and here, as elsewhere on the various fronts, chief reliance for resistance was placed on an elaborate system of trenches.

In no previous battle were the losses so high as those which have been estimated in the fighting around Verdun. These estimates, however, cannot be regarded as conclusive evidence, for neither Germany nor France has announced its casualties.

Nearly 400,000 Eliminated.

The French War Office has declared the Germans have lost 200,000 in killed, wounded and captured. The Germans state semi-officially that the French casualties number 150,000 killed and wounded and that 26,000 unaccounted French prisoners have been taken. If these estimates are approximately correct, nearly 400,000 men have been eliminated as fighting units.

The ground occupied by the Germans after 56 days of offensive operations may be roughly calculated as 199 square miles.

The Verdun drive was begun on February 21 by the German Army, under Crown Prince Frederick William. The Germans are reported to have brought up seven army corps, or about 280,000 men, to reinforce the troops which had been in service there, and subsequently, according to French accounts, other large bodies of reserves were called in.

Within the first 10 days of the battle the French lost Haumont, Samogneux, Brabant, Ornes, Beaumont, Chambrettes, Marmont, Coteleux, Champneuville and numerous other outer positions, including villages, woods, heights and fortified farms, together with the fortified works of Hardsaumont, and Dieppe, Fromesey, Abaucourt and most important of all, Fort Douaumont. These positions lie east of the Meuse and north, northeast and east of Verdun.

Fighting continued intermittently northeast of Verdun during the third week, centering in the struggle for the possession of Fort Vaux. In this week the Germans captured Fresnes, 12 miles southeast of Verdun, making a three-mile advance in this sector.

Meanwhile, a new phase of the battle had developed west of the Meuse. With batteries spaced, according to German correspondents, scarcely 100 yards apart, violent artillery attacks were made against Dead Man's Hill, preceding the long expected offensive from the northwest. Forges, near Dead Man's Hill, was captured early in the third week, after an infantry assault along a front less than three miles long. Positions south of Forges changed hands frequently during the following days.

On Sunday of last week the Germans undertook a general onslaught along a 13-mile front, both west and east of the Meuse, from the Haucourt-Bathcourt sector to Douaumont. A high French military official alluded to this movement as "an attack on the largest scale since the beginning of the offensive." The Germans announced that within a few hours after it was begun Bethincourt and two fortified positions to the southwest were isolated. Trenches in the region of Dead Man's Hill were carried, but at no point was the French line broken through. Toward the end of last week this attack subsided, and there came another pause, followed by French counter-attacks over small sections of the line.

PARADISE PLUMES BURNED.

Were Valued At \$25,000 and Were Seized By Customs Officials.

Laredo, Texas.—Bird of Paradise plumes, valued at \$25,000 and destined to adorn Easter millinery, were burned here. They were seized in baggage which A. Kallman was attempting to take across the border from Mexico. Originally the plumes came from India. Frederick J. Burns ordered that they be burned, together with 527 bird skins, which were confiscated.

YOUNG WOMAN CUTS THROAT.

Miss Flora Dickson Ends Life After Visiting Bristol Friends.

Bristol, Va.—Miss Flora Dickson, daughter of Noah Dickson, formerly a resident of Bristol, committed suicide at Johnson City, Tenn., by slashing her throat with a razor. Her health is given as the cause. Miss Dickson was 25 years old and was popular. She was the guest of friends here a part of the week. Her body was found on the premises of her father's home, with blood flowing from her jugular vein.

FOR AMERICAN "IMMORTALS."

President Signs Bill Creating Arts and Letters Academy.

Washington.—President Wilson signed the bill incorporating the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which includes in its membership Mr. Wilson, former President Roosevelt, and other authors, publicists and artists. The President used an eagle feather pen with which he signed the repeal of the Panama Tolls Exemption act.