

# GERARD SCORES HOSTAGE THREAT

## Berlin Is Told Correspondents Won't "Be Sandbagged"

### ENVOY NOW IN SWITZERLAND

Kaiser's Foreign Office Made Demand That Germans Be Unhindered in Event of War.

The Germans' attitude in endeavoring to induce Ambassador Gerard to sign a protocol reaffirming the old-time treaties with the United States regarding mutual protection of nationals in case of hostilities and the hints of possible detention of American newspaper men as hostages was undoubtedly influenced by alarmist dispatches from the United States regarding treatment of German citizens and property there, a correspondent from Berlin who has reached Copenhagen is able to state.

The protocol which Count Montenegro, head of the American department of the German foreign office, submitted to Ambassador Gerard on the part of Foreign Secretary Zimmermann, contained besides a formal re-affirmation of the treaty provisions of 1799 and 1828 regarding mutual treatment of nationals caught in a belligerent country in case of war, a number of important additions and expansions. It provided that merchants should be allowed to continue their businesses and retain their residences until the end of the war unmolested; that no law affecting the validity of contracts should be applied to Germans in America or to Americans in Germany and that all patents should be inviolate—a question of importance in view of the high value of the indispensable of certain German patents in the manufacture of munitions and explosives.

Quite as trenchant in its bearing on the pending problems was the provision of an instrument which Ambassador Gerard was asked to sign specifying explicitly that not only enemy property as such should be exempt from seizure or restrictions in its use beyond those applying to all property, but that enemy ships in ports of the opponent should not be seized during the war nor forced to leave port unless to sail under safe conduct and guarantee of exemption from seizure by the allied belligerents for a home port. Provision also was made for a safe conduct when it was necessary to move ships from one port to another in the same country. The protocol forbade explicitly any internment or restrictions upon the liberty or movement of enemy nationals within the limits of the opponent country and for confirmation of certain articles of The Hague convention, particularly as to treatment of the personnel of enemy merchant ships captured or caught within an opponent country.

Ambassador Gerard's refusal to sign the treaty after he had ceased to perform his ambassadorial functions or to telegraph for instructions unless he was permitted to use code led Count Montenegro to hint that a refusal to sign the protocol might materially affect the status of Americans in Germany and their privilege of departure. He mentioned specifically the American correspondents whom Ambassador Gerard desired to take out with him and whose fate was apparently thought to carry particular weight in American public opinion.

This intimation of the possibility of detaining Americans even under the status of a rupture of diplomatic relations, not war, and the use of newspaper representatives as supposedly important pieces upon the diplomatic chessboard, caused Mr. Gerard to declare roundly that he doubted whether any of the newspapermen could be "sandbagged" or be influenced in any way by considerations of personal safety or convenience, and that he must persist in his earlier expressed standpoint regarding these negotiations.

### NO SEIZURE OF DEPOSITS

Washington Issues Statement to Calm Foreigners.

The statement, giving assurance that the government has no intention of seizing bank deposits or other property belonging to any foreign subject—even in the event of war—was issued by the state department with the approval of President Wilson.

The statement was prompted by the anxiety of German subjects in some sections regarding savings deposited and by the many reports in circulation regarding the intention of the government concerning war-bound vessels in American ports. It makes no specific reference to the Prussian-American treaty of 1828, which provides for the immunity of such property, but which has been regarded as of doubtful validity, saying merely that the government will in no circumstances take advantage of a state of war to take possession of property to which international understanding and the recognized law of the land give it no just claim.

The decision is understood to be in furtherance of President Wilson's determination that there shall be nothing in the conduct of the United States to warrant criticism, rather than indicative of any specific inclination to acknowledge the validity of disputed provisions of the old treaty.

# TO PROTECT LIVES IS WILSON'S PLAN



Photo by American Press Association. ADMIRAL SCHEER.

### KAISER MAY MODIFY U-WAR; CALLS COUNCIL

An important conference has been called by Emperor William presumably to discuss the submarine question, says the London Exchange Telegraph company's Amsterdam correspondent. The Exchange Telegraph company's Amsterdam correspondent.

### SUBMARINES DESTROY SHIPS AT RAPID RATE

Million Tons a Month Being Sunk—In Four Years Seas Would Be Clear of Vessels.

Germany's U-boat warfare continued with the success of the first four days would destroy within a short time a great part of the world's merchant tonnage. Officials estimated that vessels were being sunk at the rate of nearly 1,000,000 tons a month, the amount German naval authorities set as necessary to starve the British Isles.

At that rate it would take just four years to destroy the tonnage of the entire world's merchant fleet. At that rate the world's ships ventured into the war zone.

### TWO OHIO GUARDS KILLED

Two Others in Critical Condition; Express Hits Truck in Texas.

Private Charles Eaton of Company L, Fifth Ohio Infantry, and Sergeant Karl Eisenhart of Company K, Fifth Ohio Infantry, were killed when the "Golden State Limited" on the Rock Island, from Chicago, struck a motor truck in which they were riding to El Paso, Tex., Private Eaton was from Connecticut, O., and Sergeant Eisenhart from Cleveland.

Private Rudolph J. Smith of Company K, Fifth Ohio Infantry, and Private Dan N. Toomey of Company L, Fifth Ohio Infantry, were so badly injured that they were reported to be in a dying condition following the accident. Ten others were slightly injured.

### GERMAN-AMERICANS READY

3,000,000 Pledge Loyalty to U. S. Through National Alliance.

Resolutions endorsing the action of President Wilson in severing diplomatic relations with Germany and pledging its loyalty to the United States were adopted by the German-American National Alliance at a meeting in Philadelphia.

It was also decided that in case of hostilities to form regiments of German-Americans and to turn over to the "American Red Cross" funds for which the alliance has been collecting for German war relief. The meeting, which was held behind closed doors, was attended by delegates from twenty-eight states, hastily called by Dr. Charles J. Hexamer, the president. The alliance is said to have a membership of 3,000,000.

### French Wheat Crop Large

There is reason to hope that the wheat crop of France is not so poor as was first feared. The large acreage planted in the autumn and the propaganda of the ministry of commerce have materially improved the situation. It is also believed that good crops will be produced from the sowing of spring wheat.

# HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED OFFICIAL NAVY CENSOR

## Armed Forces of Country Will Be Used If Needed

### NO WAR DECLARATION STEP

President and Cabinet Decide Definitely on Action if "Overt Act" is Committed by Germany.

President Wilson has framed a definite course to be pursued in case Germany commits the "overt act" mentioned in his address to congress. He will not ask congress for a declaration of war, but will do just what he promised in the address—ask that he be allowed to use whatever measures he deems necessary to protect American seamen and travelers.

It was learned definitely after the cabinet meeting that the president has not decided that it will be necessary for him to take this step, although officials generally believe Germany already has proved conclusively that she will proceed with her program of ruthless submarine warfare in spite of the warning of the president.

In the event of an attack upon an American ship or upon any ship upon which American lives are wantonly sacrificed, the president, it was learned, will go before congress and demand that military and naval forces of the United States be employed immediately in the protection of American lives and property. This would result in a state of war, but would place upon Berlin responsibility for an actual declaration of war.

The last cabinet meeting revealed that President Wilson's ministers are well satisfied with the progress made toward placing the nation in a state of preparedness for every eventuality. All reports that the work, planned months ago, is going forward with the utmost co-ordination. Immediately after the cabinet meeting President Wilson made arrangements to go to the capitol. With the car at the White House door, however, he suddenly changed his mind and called Senator Shafer of Colorado over the phone. Then he abandoned his trip.

President Wilson plans to visit the capitol and executive departments frequently from now on whenever he desires information quickly or wants to take any steps in connection with legislation.

It was said officially today that no surprise or alarm need be felt if the president suddenly goes to the capitol at any hour of the day or visits any member of his cabinet. So many pending questions have to be taken up that the president has found it too slow to call to the White House all the men he desires to see.

There was a lull in the rush of war-time activity in Washington today. The routine emergency preparations at the war and navy departments continued, but there was no undue excitement apparent. Secretaries Baker and Daniels did not visit their offices during Sunday. Counselor Polk of the state department went over the department dispatches, but said that the Manola report from Consul Frost was the only matter of importance received.

Administration leaders made ready for a preparedness drive on congress during this week, when the navy and army appropriation bills, the administration emergency bill and minor preparedness measures will be taken up. Congressional leaders plan to rush consideration of all these measures to meet any emergency which may develop. The same speeding up sentiment will prevail at the war and navy departments, where minor construction and repair matters have been entirely sidetracked to concentrate the government energies on direct and immediate preparedness construction.

Meanwhile peace propagandists throughout the country have begun a well-organized campaign directed toward influencing the administration and congress to prevent actual hostilities. Following the lead of William Jennings Bryan, many peace organizations have started "write to your congressman" campaigns, and a flood of peace petitions and letters suggesting means of avoiding war is deluging congress and the White House.

A local committee representing the National Emergency Peace Federation today announced a mass meeting to night to discuss a peace measure. The announcement of the meeting set forth the following program:

"To urge congress to defer until the war is over the settlement of international disputes which cannot be solved by peaceful means.

"To warn Americans out of danger zones.

"To submit the question of a declaration of war to a referendum vote of the people."

### CHECKING UP FOOD SUPPLY

Government Agents in Middle West

Government agents in the middle west are taking an inventory of the nation's food supply. The agents are being made ready for mobilization of the reserve food supply of the country's bread basket—the middle west. This was learned when it became known government agents have been keeping in close touch with Chicago packers, commission men and wholesalers the past week.

# HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED OFFICIAL NAVY CENSOR



Photo by American Press Association. LIEUT. COM. BELKNAP.

The navy department now has an official censor. He is Lieutenant Commander Charles E. Belknap, Jr. A desk has been given to him in one of the offices in the suit of Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations, and he is present with Secretary Daniels whenever the latter is interviewed by the newspaper men.

# A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR

A British torpedo boat destroyer of an older type, the British admiralty announced, struck a mine in the English channel Thursday night and sank.

The British troops have captured Sully-Saillies, on the Somme front in France, according to an official British communication.

British troops have captured German trenches on a front of more than three-quarters of a mile in the Somme line, constituting what is characterized as a "strong system" lying north of Beaumont Hamel.

An attack was made on the Italian lines east of Gorizia, the Rome war office announced. The Austrians were repulsed at nearly all points, and such portions of the front lines as have not yet been recaptured by the Italians have been held under heavy fire, it is declared. Two enemy seaplanes were brought down in the vicinity of Schano, Albania.

German troops attacked and penetrated Russian trenches near Stanislau, Galicia, but were ejected by a counter attack delivered by Russian reserves, the Petrograd war office announced.

On the Black sea three enemy schooners loaded with corn were sunk by a Russian vessel near the Anatolian coast, the statement says.

### UNION SWITCH TO REBUILD

New Shops to Replace Burned Building—Loss Nearly \$5,000,000.

It was officially announced that rebuilding of the fire-swept plant of the Union Switch and Signal company at Swissvale, near Pittsburgh, would begin at once. The loss by the fire is estimated to be nearly \$5,000,000. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

The Union Switch and Signal company was acquired by the Westinghouse interests recently. Mr. Humphrey becoming president. Mr. Humphrey emphasized that there is no ground for rumors circulated which the fire was in progress, that persons of German extraction of sympathies, influenced by the present international crisis, had become involved in the starting of the blaze.

"The fire was due, I believe, to a spontaneous combustion, and there is no reason for any theory of incendiarism," said Mr. Humphrey. "We have not been manufacturing munitions for several months, and never in the shops destroyed. Our munitions plant was separated from the machine shop group."

In spite of Mr. Humphrey's theory of spontaneous combustion, special agents of the department of justice and United States Marshal Joseph Howley announced that an investigation probably would be instituted.

### China Backs United States

The Chinese cabinet has endorsed the American U-boat action against Germany. The cabinet has assured the American minister, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, that China associates herself firmly with the United States. The Chinese government has advised the German government that China will break off diplomatic relations if the new submarine measures are pursued.

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### KEYSTONE PARAGRAPHS

Carnegie Steel company officials are taking chances of damage to their property in the Braddock district since the severance of relations with Germany. The Union railroad bridge, spanning the Monongahela river from the plant of the Edgar Thomson works on the north bank of the river to the south bank, has been brilliantly illuminated with hundreds of incandescent lights and guards have been placed at each end and are patrolling the bridge. No one without business is allowed to pass over the bridge.

Fire in the Fort Pitt plant of the Aetna Chemical company, near Walkers Mills, again wrecked the "T N A" drying department, destroyed by a fatal explosion two months ago, and burned to death Joseph McDermott, aged forty-eight, a wealthy oil man who went to work at the plant as guard merely "to have something to do." Two other men in the building with McDermott escaped. The damage was several thousand dollars.

The Sproul investigation resolution, which provides for a probe of the Brunbaugh administration, was called up in the state senate on final passage and was opposed by Senators Burke, Snyder and Vane and advocated by Senators Leiby and Snyder. Schuyler, who denied the resolution was aimed at any particular person. The resolution was adopted on final passage by the senate by 29 yeas and 19 nays.

Negotiations are under way for the purchase by J. V. Thompson, reputed agent for the H. C. Frick Coke company, of 242 acres of coal land and surface, one-half mile south of Rice's Landing, to be used as one of two openings to the 12,000-acre tract taken over by Frick from the Thompson interests within the last few months. The option price is \$50,000.

A police surgeon in Philadelphia has made another examination of Harry K. Thaw, who cut his throat four weeks ago, and reported to detective headquarters that Thaw is not yet in condition to be removed from the hospital. According to his physician Thaw is improving slowly and may be in the hospital for a couple more weeks.

Colonel George C. Rickards has issued orders to all captains of the Sixteenth infantry, national guard of Pennsylvania, to recruit their companies up to 100 men. He stated that recruiting had already been actively begun. Colonel Rickards said that no state or federal orders had been received, but that he was acting on his own initiative.

Fire destroyed the Schellhammer annex in the Exchange hotel, Warren, with a loss of \$25,000. Firemen fought the blaze in a temperature of 12 degrees below zero. A fire wall prevented the blaze from sweeping the block. Frozen hydrants caused a delay in getting water. A score of guests had to flee into the bitter cold scantily attired.

President E. J. Hickson of the Pittsburgh Hickson Bed company at East Butler received a telegram from Secretary of War Newton D. Baker accepting the company's offer of assistance of the plant to the government. The plant is capable of turning out 1,000 steel hospital beds a day and can increase the capacity if needed.

George Fritz, aged five, son of George Fritz of Canonsburg, was drowned in Chartiers creek when he broke through the ice. Companions with whom he was playing ran away frightened and did not tell of the accident. The body was recovered.

Food thieves entered two business houses on the Northside, Pittsburgh.

While gold is now the standard of value throughout the world, in the days of old Greece gold and silver were commonly used in the decoration of buildings when the Greeks and the rest of the world had not yet discovered the art.

On the island of Crete is a tree trunk chimney which was part of a sugar mill long since gone to ruin. The chimney has remained intact, and a tree has grown up through the center and pushed its branches through the top.

Love. (Twenty love is a rosy dream, at thirty it is a thrilling reality, at forty it is a calm contentment, and at fifty it is a reminiscence.

Food thieves entered two business houses on the Northside, Pittsburgh.