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WILSON BACKED BY CONGRESS

President Not Yet Ready to Go Before Joint Session

YANKEE SHIPS NEARING ZONE

Order to Arm American Vessels Will Not Be Long Delayed, It Is Said in Capital.

With the German crisis apparently suspended in mid-air, it was officially stated in Washington that President Wilson will not go before congress "at present."

There was no disposition to state, however, that the president has determined not to lay the demands of the international situation before congress some time between now and the expiration of the sixty-fifth congress on March 4.

Despite the clearly defined lessening of the international tension it was apparent in administration circles that the president will not allow the present congress to die without making ample provision to meet any emergency that may grow out of the German crisis.

Leaders today planned to place behind the president all of the power, authority and financial support of the United States in any move that he may deem necessary to meet the German crisis.

The slackening of the German campaign of destructiveness on the high seas and the fact that as yet no "overt act" has been committed involving American lives and American ships brought a general feeling of relief to Washington.

In this connection administration sources today emphasized the fact that the only serious question in dispute between the two countries is the submarine problem. It was stated by an authority close to the state department today that the numerous other matters which have aggravated the break between the two countries, the detention of the Yarrowdale prisoners, the treatment of American citizens in the Teutonic countries and other minor matters of this character were merely collateral issues.

There were no new reports from the war zone at the state department and state department officials noted as somewhat significant the general decline in the German submarine campaign.

The lightest wood known, so far as any evidence attainable is concerned, is balsa wood, which grows extensively in the Central American and northern South American states. It is composed of very thin walled cells, which are barrel shaped, interlaced with each other and are almost devoid of woody fiber. These cells are filled with air, making a natural structure well adapted to prevent the transmission of heat because of the particles of air imprisoned in the material without interconnecting fibers.

The navy department, it was learned today, has practically completed detailed arrangements for arming any American merchant vessel sailing for the war zone. Orders for new guns suitable for use on merchant ships have been ordered rushed by the armament manufacturers and meantime the navy department arranged to use naval guns. Plans have been worked out in detail even to assigning particular guns to individual ships.

There were indications today that the order to arm American vessels will not long be delayed. Administration officials were clearly concerned over the economic results of the German submarine campaign. It was pointed out that the holding up of American ships in various ports by the submarine menace was practically an admission in the German blockade declaration. The president, it was understood, is extremely anxious that American commerce should resume its regular movement as soon as possible.

ALL MILITIA TO GO HOME
53,000 State Troops on Border to Be Disbanded

With the reopening of the American embassy in Mexico the big international question connected with the border on account of bandit activities, will be in prospect of solution. Orders were issued by the war department directing General Frederick Funston to begin immediate demobilization of all guard units remaining in border camps, and it is expected the last troop train will be on its way north by March 7. The number of guardsmen remaining along the border is about 53,000.

General Funston still will have on the border nearly 50,000 troops, all of the regular army, disposed along the line from Brownsville, Tex., to Yuma, Ariz., on plans worked out by the general staff. The command includes all of the troops who were in Mexico under General J. J. Pershing, and their distribution was carried out under the direction of General Eiben Swift.

NAVAL MILITIA STAFF MAN BUSY IN NEW YORK

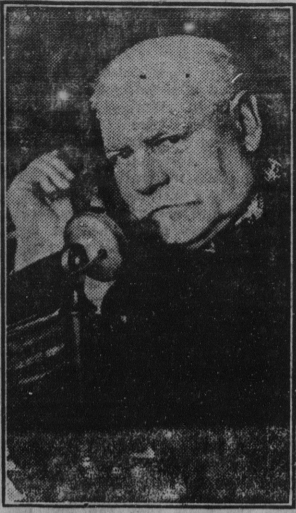


Photo by American Press Association. COMMANDER A. B. FRY.

GERMANY DENIES TALK OF OVERTURES TO U. S.

It is denied in Berlin that Germany, or throughout her mediums, is inviting suggestions for the avoidance of actual war. It is reiterated that the imperial government is not permitting doubts in any quarters regarding the position actively assumed in the U-boat warfare, and that there can be no talk or thought of recession from the program already being carried out.

In view of this, it is declared in authoritative circles, that any further parley or exchange of notes with the United States may be dismissed as unwarranted and improbable. The origin of the report is ascribed to the recent announcement made through the Swiss government that Germany was willing to negotiate respecting the amended treaty of 1799.

REBEL FORCES DEFEATED

Cuban General Willing to Surrender if Life is Spared.

A dispatch from Manzanillo, Cuba, reports the defeat of the rebel forces there under Colonel Maso. The number of casualties is not given. Colonel Maso has offered to surrender at Campeche if a guarantee is given that his life will be spared.

La Discusion publishes a dispatch from Cienfuegos saying an attack on Perdo Barbo planned by rebels under ex-President Jose Miguel Gomez to prevent the holding of re-elections there was frustrated by government troops which, after the passage of military trains, dynamited the railroad bridge at Jatibonico, on the border line of Camaguey and Santa Clara provinces.

Bayamo Manzanillo, sub-secretary of the government of Montalvo, reports that the situation there is much improved.

Heavy fighting occurred between rebels and government troops near Hoyo Colorado, seventeen miles west of Havana. Several rebels were killed.

It is reported the United States government is sending four warships, one each to Santiago de Cuba, Nuevas, Cienfuegos and Havana.

The newspaper La Lucha says that American troops have landed in Santiago de Cuba to guard the American consulate and that they are patrolling streets adjacent to it. The paper says also that it is officially confirmed that Americans have landed elsewhere in Oriente province.

GREEKS EAT GRASS

Famine Stalks Through Country as Result of Blockade.

The Greek legation says in a statement that famine is resulting from the entente blockade of the coast of Greece and the poor classes are living on herbs and grass. It also is declared that despite compliance with the ultimatum of the allies, there has been no relaxation of blockade measures.

The Greek legation has received information to the effect that the results of the blockade of the Greek coasts enforced by the entente since Dec. 8 are of the most gruesome character. The statement reads: "Ten deaths from starvation have been reported from the province of Jannina, one in Laurium, ten in Acarnania, two in the province of Precezo, one in Eubia and one in Messina. The poor classes have begun to live on herbs and grass. Epidemics are rapidly spreading in the country."

Score Railroad Pact.

Chicago board of trade members who have been seeking to move millions of bushels of grain to the east complained of the "gentlemen's agreement" entered into by eastern railroads to embargo export shipments until the domestic situation is cleared. They claimed that the British admiralty has had fourteen ships waiting for more than a week in eastern ports for nearly 4,000,000 bushels of different grains.

DEATH COMES TO GEN. FUNSTON

Commander of Troops at the Border Stricken in Hotel

WAS HERO OF PHILIPPINES

Military Man Had Just Finished Dinner in San Antonio, Tex., and Was Playing With Child When He Fell.

Major General Frederick Funston died suddenly in San Antonio, Tex., Monday night. He collapsed in a hotel and soon expired.

General Funston had gone to the hotel with a party of friends. Attending physicians said the cause of death was acute indigestion.

General Funston had just finished dinner and was playing with a child when he fell unconscious.

Major General Funston was fifty-two years old. He had been farmer, college student, railroad conductor, botanist, lecturer, newspaperman, explorer, trapper, soldier of fortune, filibuster, and finally United States soldier.

He saw service in the Philippines and was in command of the detachment which captured Aguinaldo.

In the spring of 1914 he was sent to Vera Cruz at the head of the army of occupation. When the chase for Villa began Funston was placed in command of the southern department.

Funston was born in Ohio but grew up on a farm in Allen county, Kan. At twenty he went to the University of Kansas.

General Funston's military career began when he was thirty-one years old. He joined the Cuban insurgent army in the spring of 1896.

This Cuban fighting was in some ways the most interesting of Funston's whole career. It was hand-to-hand fighting, with the cannon pushed up under the very noses of the Spaniards. Sometimes Funston fired at a distance of less than 200 yards.

Funston was in Cuba eighteen months. He was wounded in one lung, suffered a broken arm and his hip was injured when a horse fell on him, jamming him for some months.

Funston never got to Cuba during the Spanish war. He was commissioned colonel of the Twentieth Kansas.

The Twentieth went to San Francisco and stayed till November. It drilled on a sandy, wind-swept parade ground; hoped, grumbled, lost hope; decided it would never get to the front. Peace was concluded with Spain and still the Twentieth kept drilling. It was a weary grind, but it was making soldiers of the farmers, school teachers, printers, salesmen, lawyers and young collegians who had formed the Twentieth.

Drill regulations, Funston said with charming frankness, were Greek to him when he reached San Francisco. The officers hired horses from local livery stables and on the Fourth of July, when a parade was planned, Colonel Funston's horse ran away with him.

At a time when it was expected to be ordered home and be mustered on the Twentieth Kansas was sent to the Philippines.

Fighting started Feb. 5, 1899, with a night attack by the Filipinos. The following the fighting on the river at Malolos, which included the crossing of the Tubacan and the Bag-Bag rivers. Troops swam from the broken end of a bridge about forty feet to the opposite bank of the Bag-Bag and were under fire at the time. Funston swam himself.

FEAR BIG STRIKE IN CAMBRIA

5,000 Miners Now Out; Many Thousands More May Quit.

With nearly 5,000 miners on strike twenty-five mines idle and the possibility of the strike spreading, the coal situation in Cambria county, Pa., assumed the most serious aspect in years. There are 20,000 miners in this district, all under control of the United Mine Workers of America and a strike spread is feared.

Thirteen coal companies are already affected. The strike started when the miners of the Portage district refused to enter the mines and declared a strike on as the result of the refusal of the companies to abandon the standard weight system of loading coal cars. Under the standard weight system the miners do not get paid for any more than 3,000 pounds of coal regardless of whether they load more than that upon the car.

\$3,000,000 From 1917 Auto Tags. Automobile license fees for 1917, as received by the Pennsylvania state highway department Monday, totaled \$1,677,000, or \$447,000 more than of the same day last year. Indications are that the total for the year will be close to \$3,000,000.

Harvester Company Case Collapses

The government's case against the Independent Harvester company collapsed in Chicago when Judge A. L. Sanborn ruled there was no evidence to convict and ordered the jury to bring in a verdict of "not guilty."

Knapp Nominated as Rear Admiral. Captain Harry S. Knapp was nominated by President Wilson as a rear admiral. Several lesser naval promotions also were sent to the senate.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR



Photo by American Press Association.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR

The big entente offensive along the Somme front has apparently resumed. The British during the last few days have shown great activity and have succeeded in making important gains. The English are said to be now only six miles from Bapume, one of the objectives of last year's offensive.

Many prisoners and guns have been taken. Berlin officially admits the loss of ground in this region.

Official announcement was made in London that the British forces on the Tigris front have established a line across the Tigris bend west of Kut-el-Amara, completely hemming in the Turks.

Russian positions in the Meste Canesti sector of Rumania were stormed by Teutons under command of Archduke Joseph, says the German official statement. The captured ground was held despite violent counter attacks.

More than 1,200 Russians were taken prisoners and the booty captured by the Austro-Germans included three cannon and twelve machine guns.

Three civilians were injured and a small amount of damage was caused by the recent raid on Karlsruhe by French aviators, the Overseas News agency reports. German aviators on Feb. 10 dropped 7,300 pounds of explosives on a railway station at Amiens, setting fire to the building, and 3,300 pounds on the station at Aveluy.

British troops in strength continued their attacks against the German positions on the north bank of the river Ancre in France. Two British attacks south of the town of Serre were repulsed after violent hand-to-hand fighting, according to the official announcement.

Troops of the German army prince in an attack against French positions south of Bapaume in the German zone. The Berlin war office announced, on a front of about a mile and a half, captured ground to a depth of a half mile. The Germans took 555 prisoners, including 21 officers.

The attack, which was preceded by intense artillery fire, was made mainly against French positions at Maisons de Champagne farm and Hill No. 185, about one-third of a mile south of the farm. Four lines of French positions were stormed in the attack. The French made counter attacks, but were repulsed with losses. The German losses are said to have been small.

BERNSTORFF ON HIGH SEAS

Former German Ambassador Given Farewell as He Leaves For Home.

The Scandinavian-American line steamship Frederik VIII, carrying Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, is today on the high seas bound for Halifax, the first stop on the long ocean voyage to Copenhagen, whence the count will proceed to Germany.

Von Bernstorff had his last view of American shores late Wednesday afternoon, when the Frederik VIII passed Sandy Hook and swung east into the Atlantic. Shriek blasts from the whistles of river craft resounded as the ship got under way and took a course which would circle her around the Statue of Liberty.

The crews of the great German liners tied up here climbed on the rails and waved a farewell to their departing compatriot. On American ships officers and crews were on the decks, and along the shore hundreds of lighters watched the vessel swing down the river.

The former German ambassador and his party stood at one of the rails of the liner and waved responses to the farewell demonstration.

Through Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port of New York, Count Bernstorff sent ashore the following signed message:

"I cannot refrain from a last expression to the American people for the wealth of flowers and gifts sent to the countess and myself. It is hard to tell of the good will sent us both. No expression of gratitude would be adequate to speak an affectionate farewell. Bernstorff."

Mike, Yet Very Different.

On Seventh avenue the other evening I saw a small red headed fool of a boy throwing cans. "An excitement craving, empty headed kid," I said to myself, driving by. On the next block I saw a girl with red curls, dressed in furs, rather dashing, who gave me a little provocative smile as I passed. Did I say to myself that she was an excitement craving, empty headed kid? She was, but I didn't. On the contrary, for the moment at least, I felt quite drawn toward her. Yet she and that boy might easily have been brother and sister and twin rowdies at heart. Why did one of the two so attract me and the other repel?

The strange lure of sex. It was ready to blind me to the mental defects of that girl. It was ready to fix my thoughts on her cheeks or her hair if I'd sat with her. Now, isn't that odd? I should never have given a snap for her kid brother's hair or cheeks naturally. I'd have looked him well over and seen at a glance he hadn't much character and maybe less brains, but could I have seen what she lacked once I'd felt her attraction? Clarence Day, Jr., in Metropolitan Magazine.

Wonders of Color.

A small and simple experiment can be made by any reader which will go far to convince him or her what a good thing it is we have sunlight, which enables our eyes to take advantage of the beautiful hues of nature. Make a room quite dark and then burn some carbonate of soda in the flame of a bunsen gas burner. It will burn with an orange yellow light sufficiently strong to illuminate everything in the room but you will realize with a sudden shock that, bright though the light is all distinctions of color have vanished. Only light and shade remain. A crimson carnation, a blue violet, a red to be cloth, a yellow blind—all look gray or black or white. The faces of those present look positively repulsive. For all natural color has disappeared. No other experiment will so well convince those who have witnessed it how great a loss would be that of our sense for color.

Artist and Counterfeiter.

There used to be an old German counterfeiter in this country who was a veritable wonder with the brush and pen. This man literally painted pictures of twenty dollar notes which were works of art. He used no tools except his pens and brushes, and it took him a week to do the portrait of a banknote. He figured that his handiwork was worth about \$3 a day and worked under the idea that the world owed him a fair living and should not object if his talent led him toward portrait painting, with twenty dollar bills for models. Even jail terms failed to impress him seriously with his wrongdoing. A collector of curios once offered \$500 for one of his specimens of bill portraiture, and the value of some others was said to be even greater, so marvelous was the delicacy of his brush work.

Helping Old Rubber.

Rubber that has lost its elasticity may be rejuvenated by immersing it for five minutes in a bath of glycerin mixed with twenty-five times its volume of distilled water and heated to 70 degrees C. and then drying it with filter paper.

A Fluent Talker.

Whangs—Is your wife a good conversationalist? Bangs—She would be but for one thing—she talks so fluently that she interrupts herself.

Alpine Shoes.

The shoes worn by Alpine mountaineers have steel soles with eight projecting points.

If They Could Keep It Up.

There have been big men in Wall Street who did all the work themselves, who attended to every minute detail, who were from Missouri in regard to each point in any proposition put up to them. One of these marvels was among the very greatest financiers the country ever had. But he didn't last long, and there have been few others like him. If a man with the first order of brains and ability could only keep it up there is nothing to prevent his owning the United States. If E. H. Harriman could have kept on fifteen or twenty years longer the pace he was going he would have gobbled up all that was worth taking. He had about all the railroads in sight, and he was just getting a strangle hold on the big banks. He conquered every square foot of territory as he went along. There was no force on earth to stop him except premature death, and now he is almost forgotten.—A. W. Atwood in Saturday Evening Post.

Most Buoyant Wood.

The lightest wood known, so far as any evidence attainable is concerned, is balsa wood, which grows extensively in the Central American and northern South American states. It is composed of very thin walled cells, which are barrel shaped, interlaced with each other and are almost devoid of woody fiber. These cells are filled with air, making a natural structure well adapted to prevent the transmission of heat because of the particles of air imprisoned in the material without interconnecting fibers. Various tests of the insulating properties for resisting the flow of heat have been made. Balsa wood has been used quite extensively in the past as a buoyancy product for life preservers and in connection with the fenders of lifeboats and rafts. Its life is short, under ordinary conditions, unless treated with antiseptic or preservative material.

Ariake Bay's Mystic Fire.

Shiranubi, the mystic fire of Ariake bay, Kyushu, has been famous for the past 2,000 years, the sight being considered one of the great wonders of the Japan seas. In a recent issue of the Taiyo Magazine M. Kaneko, a teacher in the Shimabara middle school, relates his impressions of the fire. According to Mr. Kaneko, when he witnessed the spectacle the first light appeared like a star about five miles distant. Suddenly the volume of light increased until it soon covered an area of many miles. The light moved with the waves and resembled electric lights being lighted, and then suddenly extinguished. Mr. Kaneko says that intermittent wave like movements are the chief characteristics of the mystic fire. He fails to find a cause for the origin of the fire.

Cheaping.

In parts of Switzerland the baker's wife carries round the bread in a sort of hamper, and she has not a fixed, immutable charge, but chaffers for a price with the customers. The old English word for this process was "cheaping," which in many places in England has been corrupted into chipping. Chipping Norton, for instance, is really Cheaping Norton, or the place where goods were cheapened—that is, sold by chaffer.—London Standard.

Congressional "Pairs."

The custom of legislative "pairing" is the practice of members of legislative bodies by which two members of opposing parties agree to refrain from voting on a prescribed subject or to be absent during a certain time. It was first used in the United States house of representatives in 1839.

Yellowstone Park.

Yellowstone park measures fifty-four miles from east to west and sixty-two miles from north to south.