

WILSON ORDERS LINERS ARMED

Calls Extra Session of Congress to Meet on April 16.

TO PROTECT MERCHANTMEN

Navy Yards, With Equipment Already Assembled, Will Hasten Preparation of Ships For Sailing.

Washington.—President Wilson ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare, and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of Congress to meet April 16.

The President's decision was made following the action of the Senate in revising its rules to permit prompt action on important questions and the submission of formal opinions by Secretary Lansing and Attorney-General Gregory that he has the power to arm merchantmen without action by Congress.

Mr. Wilson has the backing of the entire Cabinet in taking the step. Guns for arming merchantmen have been assembled at navy yards along the Atlantic Coast and everything is ready to carry out the policy announced by the President.

Action To Be Taken Without Delay. Details of the Government's armed neutrality plans for defending the merchant marine were withheld to avoid endangering Americans and their ships by permitting the information to reach Germany. The only statement at the White House and the Navy Department was that the President was determined fully to protect American rights.

It was learned definitely that some American merchant ships sailing for the submarine zone will be armed by the Government at once. Preliminary arrangements have been completed and it is expected that vessels will be ready to sail in the near future.

The decision, coming at the end of a period of tense waiting, was generally hailed as the natural and unavoidable next step in the policy adopted by the President when he broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and gave warning that the United States could not tolerate attacks on American ships and citizens in violation of international law.

Fraught with the grave possibility of war with Germany, the President was taken by President Wilson. He was convinced that Germany was proceeding with her policy of ruthlessness, and had made efforts to plot with Mexico and Japan against the territorial integrity of the United States.

President's Proclamation. The text of the proclamation follows:

"Whereas public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 2 o'clock noon on the sixteenth day of April, 1917, to receive such communications as may be made by the Executive.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol in the city of Washington on the sixteenth day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

"Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America, the ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and forty-first."

All Sailings To Be Secret. Washington.—Lacking legal authority to establish general censorship, the Administration appealed to the patriotism of the country's newspapers and cable companies to suppress publication and transmission of information about the movements of American merchant craft, now to be armed against German submarines.

Might Jeopardize Life. "The best news that readers can have," Secretary Daniels said in a formal statement to press representatives, "is that the Government will protect the rights of America to the freedom of the seas.

"The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life."

MINISTER ECKHART GOT NOTE. Zimmermann Plot Misperceived Him, Declares Authority.

Washington.—It was stated on high diplomatic authority that the Zimmermann note to German Minister Eckhart in Mexico City reached its destination. The informant asserted that two methods were chosen by the German Foreign Office for the transmission of the note. One of these methods was said to be the wireless telegraph, the other the sea. It was believed that one copy of the note was sent direct to Mexico on board a German submarine, the other message reaching Mexico by wireless.

CHINA LIKELY TO ACT SOON. Break With Germany Is Expected This Week.

Peking.—Tuan Chi-ju, who resigned as Premier several days ago and went to Tien-tsin, has returned here and conferred with the Cabinet and the President. A compromise has been reached so that Parliament may decide whether China shall break relations with Germany and join the Entente. It is expected that there will be a severance of relations between China and Germany this week.

U. S. MARINES LAND IN SANTIAGO

Will Protect Americans and Their Interests.

400 IN CHARGE OF CITY

Cane Fields Afire; People In Terror. People Of San Luis, Expecting Rebel Attack Barricade Streets.

Santiago, Cuba.—Four hundred marines from American warships have landed and taken charge in Santiago. The people of San Luis are greatly alarmed and have built barricades in the streets, expecting an attack from the rebels.

Munoz Called For Aid. The men from the warships were landed at the request of Garcia Munoz, Civil Governor of Santiago, who appealed to the American Consul for aid when he learned that Colonel Betancourt, of the Meneol forces, was preparing to attack the city. The Consul communicated the request to Commander Belmont, of the United States naval forces in the harbor here. The landing of the men from the warships soon followed. It is reported that the Palma has been destroyed.

The Americans were landed from the mine layer San Francisco, the cruiser Olympia, the gunboat Petrel and the gunboat Machias.

The people of Santiago have regained confidence since the landing of the Americans. There has been no fighting here as a result of the arrival of the American guards. Heavy fighting is reported in the vicinity of Palma Soriano. Many civilians are leaving the city to join the Constitutionalist army.

FIVE YEARS FOR GUARDSMAN. Minnesota Militiaman Furnished Military Information To Germany.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Officers of the First Minnesota Infantry, returning to Fort Snelling from the Mexican border, announced that Paul L. Scharfenberg, of St. Paul, a private of L Company, First Minnesota Infantry, was sentenced to five years imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, February 5, by a court-martial at San Antonio, Texas, for furnishing military information to Germany.

A letter addressed to relatives in Germany, asserting that 10,000,000 Germans in this country were ready to rise up against the government in the event of war with Germany, was intercepted by British authorities and turned over to Washington officials, according to statements by the officers. Scharfenberg is a native of Germany.

Col. Erle D. Luce, commanding the regiment, and Capt. P. L. McClay, regimental adjutant, in confirming the story of Scharfenberg's activities, declared that he had predicted in his letter that President Wilson would "soon be put out of the way," and had stated that "the 100,000 troops on the border would not stand up if put against an efficient force."

MASTER MIND IS SOUGHT BY U. S. Sensational Arrest Expected To Be Made—Code Messages.

New York.—As a Federal grand jury began to probe the activities here of Dr. Chandra Chakrabarty and Dr. Ernest Skunner, Federal Secret Service agents throughout the country were believed to be rapidly closing in on the "master mind" who carried out German plot orders from 76 Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin Secret Service headquarters.

Revelations to Secret Service agents here and in Washington indicate that there is fast coming to light a plot which stretched its mysterious tentacles into Mexico, Cuba, the Philippines and wrapped themselves around the Panama Canal. Sensational disclosures are expected soon when a new arrest is made. The identity of the man now under surveillance has not been disclosed, but his arrest is expected to be a profoundly surprising disclosure.

U. S. ARMY GROWS RAPIDLY. About 5,000 Men Have Enlisted Since German Break.

Washington.—With the shadow of war hanging over the nation all army enlistment records for peace times were broken during February. Approximately 5,000 men signed up for service. The actual figures to date show 5,852, but figures are still coming in from field camps and the enlistments. The figures are especially gratifying to the department. Practically all of the enlistments came after the diplomatic break with Germany, on February 3.

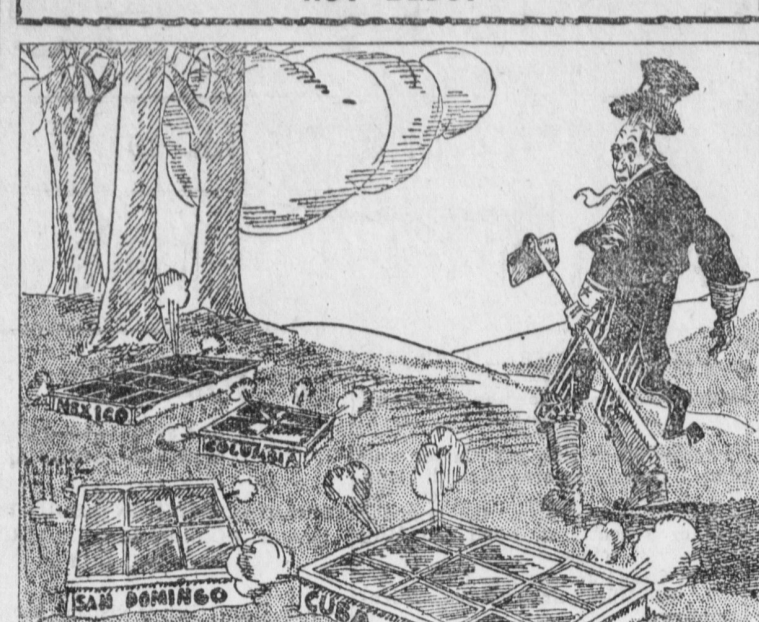
TROOPS FAST LEAVING BORDER. Last Of Guardsmen To Depart On March 25.

Washington.—The War Department announced that schedules of departure have been so arranged that the last National Guard organization will leave the border March 25. General Pershing finds it necessary to use chair cars and day coaches, but is arranging for the least possible discomfort.

AN AMPUTATED ARM RESTORED. Amazing Operation On British Soldier Said To Be Successful.

London.—A son of the Hon. J. O'Grady, a member of Parliament, was wounded several months ago in France in such manner that his arm had to be amputated. The surgeons cut off the arm, removed the shattered bone and then put the arm back again, setting the bone and sewing the tendons. The arm has now healed and is gaining strength. The patient can use it effectively.

HOT BEDS!



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CLOTURE RULE IS QUICKLY ADOPTED

Way Opened for Possible Extra Session of Congress.

THREE VOTE AGAINST RULE

Extra Session Now In Prospect—Belief Grows That President Will Call One Immediately.

Washington.—After more than 100 years under rules permitting debate limited only by the physical endurance of Senators and the provisions of the Constitution, the Senate by a vote of 76 to 3 put power in the hands of two-thirds of its members in the future to limit discussion and to say when a vote shall be taken on a pending measure. Those voting in the negative were Senators La Follette, Gronna and Sherman.

Old Statutes No Bar. Both Secretary Lansing and Attorney-General Gregory have advised President Wilson that he has full authority to arm merchant ships against illegal attacks by German submarines.

It was to these two officers—the Government's authorities, respectively, on international questions and law—that the President referred the contention raised in the Senate that old statutes enacted to authorize merchantmen to resist pirates raised an insuperable bar to the step he desired to take to meet the submarine menace. They have reported that the statutes have no application to the present situation.

Senate's Action Prompt. Action by the Senate came unexpectedly after six hours' debate on the new rule, drafted by a bipartisan committee. Although both Democrats and Republicans had approved the change in caucus and Senator Martin, the majority floor leader, had given notice that the Senate would be kept in continuous session until a vote was taken, nearly everyone looked for a much longer discussion. Senators Cummins, Kenyon, Kirby, Lane, Norris, Stone and Vardaman, who were against the Armed Neutrality bill, voted for the amendment.

Indorsement of the cloture rule was given by Senator Stone, of Missouri, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who, however, expressed doubts as to its efficacy.

TOOTHPICK IN HIS STOMACH. Man Swallowed It Nine Years Ago. Cut Out At Hospital.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Nine years ago E. H. Barnhart, of Athens, swallowed a toothpick. Recently he was stricken with stomach trouble and doctors found that small abscesses were forming. Barnhart was told that only an operation could save him and he went to the hospital at Towanda. The toothpick was removed from his stomach. Barnhart's condition has improved and he will have a speedy recovery, his doctors state.

CIGARETTES UNLAWFUL. Kansas Senate Passes Drastring Bill. Amendment May Kill It.

Topeka, Kan.—The Kansas Senate passed the House Anti-Cigarette Bill with an amendment which prohibits the sale, barter or use of cigarettes by any one within the State. Friends of the measure declare the amendment will make the bill unconstitutional and urge its removal before the measure is taken up again in the House.

ZIMMERMANN NOTE APPROVED. Reichstag Committee Finds Efforts To Form Alliance Legitimate.

Berlin.—The expected criticism of the Government's ill-starred German-Mexican project failed to materialize in the Reichstag budget committee. After an executive sitting of six hours the committee unequivocally indorsed the action of the Foreign Office by unanimous vote.

American Doctors Stay. Berlin (via London).—The American physicians' expedition, under the direction of Dr. Edward F. Nippert, of Cincinnati, has returned to its base at Deutsch Eylau, where it will continue its work under the direction of the New York committee.

Guard U. S. Buildings. Pittsburgh.—The buildings of the United States Bureau of Mines and the Government Arsenal, have been placed under guard both night and day.

SHIPYARDS AGREE TO ACCEPT NAVY WORK

Pledge to Avert Commandeering of Plants.

GIVE NAVY PREFERENCE

Navy Department Wants Material, Men and Labor In Speeding-Up Program.

Washington.—American shipbuilders engaged on Government work entered into an agreement with Secretary Daniels to accept new contracts at a flat rate of 10 per cent. net profit and pledged co-operation to the fullest extent of their ability in rushing to completion the navy's construction program.

Virtually all of the larger private plants in the country were represented in the conference. The builders, who have been netting from 20 to 30 per cent. on merchant steamers, said they were willing to turn to Government contracts at 10 per cent. as a patriotic duty, and the Secretary on his part agreed to protect them from undue loss. As a result, for the present at least, the Government will not consider exercising the authority given by Congress to commandeering plants.

The next step of the department will be to call upon builders not engaged in Government work to undertake such tasks as they are equipped to carry out. For the most part this will consist of building submarine chasers and possibly some destroyers. An understanding also will be sought to prevent yards doing private work from drawing men from those with navy contracts.

Navy Needs To Come First. When the problem of placing new ships in yards best fitted to do fast work has been studied out, the question of getting ways clear of merchant tonnage now under construction will be taken up. Wherever it is possible such ships will be pushed to completion and delivered to their owners. No new merchant ships will be laid down, however, until the needs of the navy have been satisfied.

In some instances it is expected that because of shortage of skilled labor and the demand for structural steel, merchant ships now on the ways would be completed only to the point of launching and then held up while navy vessels took their places.

YAGER TO "FELLOW-CITIZENS." Governor Of Porto Rico So Addresses Islanders In Message.

San Juan, P. R.—Governor Yager, in a special message to the Legislature, for the first time addressed the members as "fellow-citizens of the United States." He said: "I welcome you into our great national family, with high hopes of you in this new relation."

The Governor urged legislation increasing the pay of Government employees, extension of the educational system, and that the new citizenship and home rule laws be made operative.

ACCUSED OF PARENTS' MURDER. Son and Confidential Secretary Of Father Arrested.

Peoria, Ill.—William Becker, son and confidential secretary of John P. Becker, Sr., who, with his wife, was murdered in his home near Mason City, Ill., in December, was arrested at his home on a warrant charging first-degree murder. Becker was taken to the county jail at Pekin.

500 Become U. S. Citizens. Chicago.—Five hundred aliens took their first naturalization papers at a session of the Superior Court Tuesday night. This establishes a record for naturalization at one session of court in Chicago.

Suffrage Bill Signed. Little Rock, Ark.—Governor Brough signed the bill which allows women to vote in all primary elections in the State.

Bone Dry Bill Passes. Lincoln, Neb.—A "bone dry" prohibition bill passed the lower House of the Nebraska legislature, 84 to 3.

Only Spanish Used. Panama.—President Valdez signed a bill prohibiting any language except Spanish to be used in the correspondence of banking institutions. The law carries a fine of \$5,000 for non-compliance.

The dairymen of Colorado have found prohibition a great business asset. Their business in Denver alone has increased 42 per cent. since the State voted to abolish the liquor business.

32,176 Letters Opened. Berne (via Paris).—The Swiss Postal Department, in its report for 1916, says that 32,176 registered letters were opened or confiscated by the warring Powers.

AUSTRIAN REPLY LEAVES DOOR OPEN

Answer to American Note as to Armed Trade Ships.

BREAK MAY BE DELAYED

According To Her Declaration "Freedom of the Seas" In War Time "Applies Only To Neutral Vessels, Not To Neutral Persons."

Washington.—Austria's reply to the American request for a clearer definition of her attitude in the submarine situation was stated officially here to leave the door open for further negotiations, delaying, temporarily at least, the break which has been regarded as inevitable since the severance of relations between the United States and Germany.

Although in substance the long communication holds and defends the unrestricted warfare waged by Germany, it is couched in most friendly terms and points out that "Austrian submarines solely are operating in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean, and therefore an encroachment on American interests hardly is to be feared."

There will be a reply to this note, and unless an overt act precipitates the rupture both sides apparently earnestly desire to avoid, the United States probably will not be inclined to force the issue for the present.

Germany Forcing Austria. The truth is that Germany is credited with trying to force Austria to a step which that country does not wish to take. Germany naturally wishes, it is pointed out, to have the complete moral support of her allies to the submarine campaign and is using her great influence with Austria to that end.

This opinion is based not only on dispatches from Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, but on the whole length and spirit of the Austrian note.

Not Quite Clear. Austria's attempt in the communication to distinguish between the treatment which shall be accorded neutral and enemy merchant shipping is regarded in various quarters as being somewhat similar to Germany's effort to establish a "safety zone" for American liners between New York and Palmouth.

Although the Austrian communication declares that "there obviously is no reason to allow different principles for war on land and sea," the position of the United States is that different principles actually do govern because of different conditions, and the United States has contended and the various belligerents have during the course of the war, virtually admitted that during hostilities international law cannot be changed without the consent of all the nations involved.

Not To Armed Ships. Another portion of the communication which undoubtedly will not meet with the approval of the United States is that having to do with defensively armed merchant ships. Austria's assertion that her previous assurances did not apply to armed merchant vessels was received with some surprise. The broad declaration that armed merchantmen "are to be regarded as pirate vessels, which may be destroyed" regarded as being especially significant in view of the intentions of the United States regarding armament for its merchant shipping.

Notwithstanding the perplexity created in the minds of officials with a portion of the Austrian argument the extreme reluctance felt here for a break with Germany's chief ally and the fact that Austria also does not desire it, will assure the note a most friendly reading and every effort will be made to harmonize the relations of the two governments if it can be done without surrender by either.

Effect Of A Break. Officials here have felt throughout that a break with Austria would serve little purpose and do much harm. America's protest against Germany's illegal submarine warfare is thought to have been fully enforced by a severance of relations with that government.

A break with Austria probably would be followed by one with Bulgaria and Turkey, jeopardizing American interests in those countries; would lead to many diplomatic readjustments because of the belligerents this country represents in Austria and the Austrian interests represented elsewhere, and would endanger the million or more prisoners for whom this country has been caring, as well as cut off a line of communication from Berlin.

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