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The Daily Gate City.

THE WEATHER
Fair. Temperature unchanged.
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KEOKUK, IOWA, FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 1916

TEN PAGES

GRAVE PROBLEMS TO BE DECIDED

PRESIDENT ASKS CONGRESS TO GIVE HIM FREE REIN

Wishes to Give His Policy Toward Germany a Chance to Work Out, Before Other Action is Taken.

MIGHT EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION

Resolution Warning American Passengers is Expected to be Postponed Until Some Later Time.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—President Wilson today asked congress not to break the course of his negotiations with Germany.

Having done this by letter to Senator Stone, the president took the matter up again this morning in conference with Speaker Clark, Democratic Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the house foreign relations committee. Postponement of action on the resolution to warn Americans of armed merchantmen was the probable upshot of the conference. The president gave no evidence of having modified his position as outlined in his statement to Stone that this nation would "have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be," if Germany should kill or injure American citizens in her proposed campaign against armed merchantmen. This was uniformly interpreted today as notice to congress, to the American nation and also unequivocally to the central powers that he is prepared to break off diplomatic relations with the Teutonic allies if their new U boat warfare endangers American lives.

Today's conference was expected temporarily to allay the clamor in congress for modification of the president's policy. The action of the president in making public his letter to Senator Stone and conferring with the house leaders was thought to bridge a difficult situation. Profound effects were evident from the president's letter to Stone. Increased control by the administration to head off action on warning resolutions was the pronounced surface development.

As a result of the white house conference this morning and the executive's letter to Stone, administration leaders believed the following program will ensue: Congress will postpone action on any warning resolutions until the outcome of the president's policy is definitely ascertained.

No action will be provoked to embarrass the administration for the present. If it finally and conclusively develops that a break with Germany is threatened—then and not until then—will congress renew its efforts to passing a warning resolution.

This was the program favored today by the leaders. However, instead of lulling agitation of pacifists in congress favoring a warning resolution, the president's action caused a fresh determination to obtain such a resolution eventually.

What exact former Secretary of State Bryan's statement from Miami, Fla., favoring excluding Americans from armed merchantmen, Americans have been problematical. Most of the so-called "Bryan faction" in congress already have been committed to the plan for adopting a warning resolution.

COMMERCE RAIDING VESSEL IS NOW IN SAFE HIDING

German Cruiser Moewe Has Been Busy Along South American Coast.

Forty residents of neutral countries are among the 206 prisoners released when a German prize crew from the steamer Westburn to this port and then scuttled her outside the harbor.

The Moewe, the captain said, encountered the 4,629 ton British steamer Flamenco while she was enroute to Valparaiso from Newport, England. The Flamenco attempted to escape and sent out wireless calls for help.

The Moewe overtook the fleeing steamer and shelled her, sending her to the bottom within a few minutes. One of the Flamenco's crew was drowned and two wounded in this encounter.

Titanic Struggle in Meuse Woods May be War's Turning Point

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The French are now checking the great German drive on Verdun and appear to be holding their own except at a few minor points, according to a special dispatch from Paris today. The crown prince's legions, sweeping southward, are now under heavy fire from three of the Verdun forts. At the same time they are exposed to a murderous fire from the French field redoubts and trenches in advanced positions before the fortress. The French artillery has maintained such a heavy bombardment that the Teutons have been unable to bring up needed supply trains, according to Paris despatches. All Paris despatches today agreed that the Titanic struggle in the Meuse woods marks the beginning of the Germans greatest offensive blow since the drive on Paris was defeated at the Marne early in the war. One despatch was quoted from what purported to be an order of the day issued by a German corps commander, informing his troops that they were bent on their "last offensive in France."

"It is probable," wired the Paris correspondent of the Chronicle, "that the whole German force numbers three quarters of a million or more. Both sides being fully equipped and prepared, the weight of artillery fire now continuous since Monday morning, is almost without precedent. The greatest confidence prevails in Paris, according to latest advices from the French capital. The French have been aware of the German preparations for the Verdun offensive for many weeks. It was stated, French officials have kept daily tabs on the building of new German supply railroads north of Verdun for the express purpose of rushing up troops and munitions for a grand assault on Verdun. By capturing Samogneux, six miles north of Verdun, and other positions

GERMANY

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Besides Champ Neuville, which lies on the east bank of the Meuse, one mile southeast of Samogneux, the Germans have captured the villages of Cotellette, Marmont, Chambrettes and Ornes, lying east of the Meuse on an eight mile front.

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to the east, the Germans have arrived within less than two miles of the fort of Goumont and within easy range of Tavannes and Vaux, whose guns are now reported trained on the thick masses of advancing Teutons. "It was not until Wednesday that all the German effectives were fully deployed and utilized," said a Paris dispatch today. "On Wednesday night the battlefield extended on a line twenty-five miles long from Metancourt on the west, half way between the Meuse river and the Argonne beyond Fromey to the east. "The center of the struggle has remained between Brabant and Ornes. Here dense masses of the Fifth German army, rank after rank in old phalanx formation, were thrown against the French trenches above Haumont in the Caures wood, at Herbe forest and north of Ornes. "Everywhere at first, they were thrown back with terrible losses except in the wood of Woville, marking the eastern end of the Caures wood. Withdrawal from this position left two acute and dangerous French salients, Caures-Herbehols and the village of Brabant-Sur-Meuse left somewhat in the air by the evacuation of the village of Haumont. A rectification of the line being necessary the French were safely withdrawn from Brabant under cover of darkness."

BATTERING ASSAULT. LONDON, Feb. 25.—By a battering assault, the Germans have smashed their way forward on an eight mile front, capturing six villages and farms north of Verdun and taking thousands of prisoners, Berlin reported this afternoon. Not only the French wings, but the French center has been hurled back to within six miles of Verdun, the German war office reported. The crown prince has stormed and taken the heights of Champ Neuville, barely five miles from Verdun, in the bend of the Meuse river. The Germans claim the capture of Champ Neuville, Cotellette, Marmont, Chambrettes and Ornes, villages or groups of farms extending in a line east from the Meuse and less than two miles from Verdun's forts.

END OF WAR BY APRIL 15

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WASHINGTON IS EXCITED OVER WAR SITUATION

Every Department of the Government is on Tip Toe in Discussing Program to be Adopted Over Disputes.

BRYAN THREATENS TO COME TO CAPITAL

Question is Whether United States Shall Warn Americans to Keep Off Armed Merchantmen or Not.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Excitement raged through every department of the government today as conflicting forces fought over the program to be adopted by the United States in her dispute with Germany.

The president, after an hour's conference with house leaders, obtained a promise only that they would refrain from interfering up to the point where they thought it necessary to avoid war.

The president's cabinet, after a two hour session, declared itself solidly behind the president's determination not to concede to the demand that American relations with Germany be severed until she agreed to keep off armed merchantmen. It was resolved that the Lusitania case should not be closed while Germany's new decree threatened to invalidate her promise already given.

Opposition in the senate to the president took a new form—a resolution by Jones of Washington, asking the president not to break off diplomatic relations with any country and not to place the country in a position where it could not with honor, avoid war.

The Jones resolution recited that the honor of the nation being in the custody of no one man, but in the people through their congressional representatives, it is the duty of the president to lay before congress full details of any complications which might lead to war before taking an irrevocable position.

Senator Gore, immediately on the senate's convening this afternoon, introduced his bill to make it illegal for Americans to travel on armed ves-

sels in times of war and his resolution warning Americans to stay off such vessels. Both the Jones and the Gore resolutions were introduced amid marked excitement, but Senator Gore at once disposed of all discussion on either of them by insisting that they lie on the table for a day.

The feeling of excitement over the whole opening of the session. Two senators asked unanimous consent for the consideration of local bridge bills, but Senator Stone fearing that under the senate's liberal rules they might lead to some discussion bearing on international situations, would not give his consent. The bills were laid over.

The senate was kept from an outbreak over the issue by being thrown into an executive session to consider the president's nomination of Henry P. Fletcher, for ambassador to Mexico. Former Secretary Bryan plunged into the fight with a telegram to friends in the house supporting the agitation for a warning resolution and announcing his intention to come to Washington.

The limitation the house leaders, Speaker Clark, Representatives Kitchin and Flood had put on their support promised the president, was not understood until this afternoon when one of the conferees explained: "We told him that sentiment of the house was overwhelmingly in favor of passing a warning resolution. We told him the house would pass such a resolution if necessary to avoid war with Germany. But we told him we would not embarrass him at present and would postpone any action until a war crisis is reached."

GERMANY PREPARING TO YIELD RATHER THAN CAUSE BREAK

Hopes to Prolong Dispute Until She Can Gracefully Make Back Down.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Germany, in her reply to the latest representations from America, asks the United States to define offensive armaments, according to an unconfirmed Amsterdam dispatch received here today.

It is believed, too, that Germany hopes in this manner to prolong the negotiations until excitement in both countries over the new armed merchantmen crisis has subsided, when German diplomats will find a graceful way of extricating themselves from an awkward position.

The report has entirely upset English forecast of the Kaiser's plans. Previously it was believed Germany had completed a new flotilla of submarines and had trained new crews intending to defy America by a renewal of submarine operations until the latest submarine flotilla had been destroyed by allied warcraft.

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AUTO MEETING AT 7:30 TONIGHT

Formation of Good Roads Organization is to be Discussed at This Session.

There are over 200 owners of automobiles in Keokuk, and they are all invited to attend the meeting which will be held in the superior court room tonight to talk over the formation of a good roads club. All of the auto owners of the city and those who are interested in good roads are requested to come to the meeting and to lend their advice and support in the proposed movement.

The meeting will be held in the superior court rooms and will be called to order at 7:30 o'clock. The maps and route sheets will be there for distribution and it is hoped by those who are calling the meeting that there will be a big delegation in attendance.

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