

GERMAN REPLY TO U. S. IS FRIENDLY BUT FIRM

Upholds Position of Empire as Already Announced—Action Made Necessary by British Policy of Trying to Cut Off Food Supply.

Berlin (via London), Feb. 18.—The reply of Germany to the blockade of the United States against a blockade of British waters was given out today. It is couched in the most friendly terms, but firmly maintains the position of Germany as already announced.

The imperial government has announced the communication from the United States government in the same spirit of good will and friendship by which the communication appears to have been dictated in accord with the United States government that for both parties it is to a high degree desirable to avoid misunderstanding.

With regard to the assuring of these friendly relations, the German government believes that it may all the more readily be accomplished with the United States, as the procedure announced by the German Admiralty, which was fully explained in the note of the 4th inst., is a way directed against legitimate commerce and legitimate shipping of neutrals, but represents solely a measure of self-defense.

WILHELMINA'S HOLDUP RESENTED BY GERMANY

The American government, as Germany readily acknowledges, has protested against the British procedure. In spite of these protests, and protests from other neutral states, Great Britain could not be induced to depart from the course of action she had decided upon.

Germany is as good as cut off from her overseas supply by the silent or protesting violation of neutrals, not only in regard to such goods as are absolute contraband, but also in regard to such goods as are only conditional contraband, or not contraband at all.

Proofs of Traffic in Arms. The German government feels itself obliged to point out with the greatest emphasis that a traffic in arms, estimated at many hundreds of millions, is being carried on between American ports and many of her enemies.

RESOLVED TO SUPPRESS IMPORTATION OF ARMS

Moreover, the German government is resolved to suppress with all the means at its disposal the importation of war material to Great Britain and her allies, and she takes the greatest care to prevent her own government from doing so.

Acting from this point of view, the German Admiralty proclaimed a naval war zone, whose limits it exactly defined. Germany, to the extent of her power, is taking action based upon this over-riding point of view, keeps it herself removed from all international destruction of neutral lives and property.

Interest of Great Britain. America, in fact, is requested to convey supplies to Germany with her navy and to send to British ports only those commodities which Germany chooses to permit.

It is not in the interest of Germany to let pass American merchant vessels proceeding under convoy to Germany. This is a fact, though not in the paper blockade.

disclaims all responsibility for such accidents and their consequences. Germany has further expressly announced that merchant vessels found within the war zone, but not the destruction of all merchant vessels, as the United States erroneously has understood.

READY TO DELIBERATE WITH UNITED STATES

Germany is ready, finally, to deliberate with the United States concerning any measures which might secure the safety of legitimate shipping of neutrals in the war zone. Germany cannot, however, scrupulously observe that all its efforts in this direction may be rendered very difficult by two circumstances.

The Use of Neutral Flags. Regarding the latter point, Germany is ready to enter into further consideration with the United States after further consideration corresponding to the spirit of real neutrality.

GERMANY RECOMMENDS USE OF NAVAL CONVOYS

In order to prevent in the surest manner the consequences of confusion—though naturally Germany does not recommend that the United States make their ships which are conveying peaceful cargoes through the British war zone discernible by means of a flag.

How this method of convoy can be carried out is a question which Germany is ready to open negotiations with the United States as soon as possible.

FRIENDLY RELATIONS CALLED UNJUSTIFIED

Count von Reventlow, the German naval attaché in Washington, in a weekly compliance or fear, as plainly is hoped in Washington.

The "Tägliche Rundschau" says that neutrals must either accept Great Britain's right to search their ships out of the war zone, or else they must be prepared to accept the consequences.

The "Vossische Zeitung" says the note does not make use of the excited tone indulged in by America when a recent note from Berlin was delivered in Mexico by Germany.

The "Kölnische Zeitung" declares the German point of view cannot be presented in a conciliatory manner. It meets America's wishes as far as possible, especially with the advice to have warships convoy merchant vessels.

The "Morgenpost" says the German note leaves no doubt of Germany's intention of exercising its rights and making reprisals on Great Britain.

Amsterdam (via London), Feb. 18.—"If Germany had only to do with the United States," says the Amsterdam "Telegraaf," "the German note would have been drawn up in somewhat kinder terms."

Christiania, Feb. 18.—The German Minister at Christiania, Count Oubandorf, today published the following announcement: "England has proclaimed our merciless annihilation, fighting not only our people but still more by every means to starve us."

RUSSIAN POUR MEN IN TO HOLD 200-MILE LINE

Reinforcements Rushed to Check Advance of Foe in Far North.

64,000 PRISONERS, GERMAN'S CLAIM

Invaders Threaten Railways to Warsaw—Czernowitz Now Occupied by Austrians.

Petrograd, Feb. 18.—As the Russian columns, now in their own territory after their retreat from East Prussia, are retiring more slowly, strong reinforcements are being rushed from the interior to aid them in checking the German advance on the 200-mile front across the Russian provinces of Vilna and Grodno.

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The line to the north of Warsaw, of Plock, Gorkiewsk and Sierok is well defended.

On the southern front, between the German column advancing toward Meselaborch and the force moving on Warsaw, there are virtually no troops of either side.

Prisoners in East Prussia. Berlin (via London), Feb. 18.—The official report on the progress of the fighting given in Berlin today says that the Russians taken prisoner by the Germans in East Prussia now amount to 64,000 men.

The President of the Province of East Prussia, at Königsberg, has reported to the Kaiser that the Emperor William, who has been on the eastern battle front:

ANOTHER GERMAN DIRIGIBLE FALLS

Eleven of Crew Saved Off Jutland Coast—Men of L-3 Interned.

London, Feb. 18.—According to two dispatches from Berlin, a dirigible received here from Copenhagen another German airship was destroyed today.

According to a Reuter dispatch from Copenhagen, eleven Germans yesterday presented themselves at the coast guard station north of Blawand, on the west coast of Jutland, Denmark.

Amsterdam, Feb. 18.—A dispatch received here from Copenhagen says the reported loss of the Zeppelin L-3. This message says the airship was reconnoitering on the west coast of Jutland, on account of a storm.

London, Feb. 18.—The Norwegian steamer Nordcap, it is reported, has struck a German mine in the Baltic Sea and foundered. All her crew were saved.

A wood shack on Fifth Avenue

It is just as conceivable, or as inconceivable, that the Equitable Building could be anything but a building of impressive architecture and superb construction, as it is to suppose that a property owner would erect a wood shack on a costly Fifth Avenue site.

The Equitable Building, erected on one of the costliest and most famous sites in the world, had to be worthy of its location, and there is no commercial structure in the world to-day which surpasses it in quality of workmanship and dignity of design.

Leases now being made from May 1, 1915.

Equitable Building Temporary Office, 27 Pine Street

J.M. Gidding & Co.

564-566 and 568 Fifth Avenue. 46th and 47th St.

Spring Modes—

TAILLEUR SUITS—for petite women—for women of usual size—and for women accustomed to having sizes made to order—

Belted and many-pocketed Tramping Suits and latest models from French designs—

COATS—Outing styles of golfing, English mixtures and new loose-weave "nub" materials—Conservative styles of English covert and whipcord, for wear over daytime dresses—and Men's or Steamer Coats to give comfort for the trip by land or sea.

FROCKS AND GOWNS for day or evening in modernized revolutionary motifs and the new Wilhelmiana effects, of plain and two-tone gros de Londres, silk gabardine, cachemire de soie and delightful figured silks.

BLOUSES in dainty lace effects—alored tub silk and taffeta mousseline, in stripes and checks—also Tailleur styles of silk mousellineux and plain or embroidered handkerchief linens, in white, colored and striped effects—\$7 to \$15.

Remining Winter Styles must be closed out regardless of former prices, in most instances Less Than Half.

"REPLY AN INDICTMENT OF U. S. GOVERNMENT"

London, Feb. 19.—An editorial in "The Daily News" describes Germany's reply to the American note as a curious document. Continuing, the editorial says:

"It is at once a reflection on the intelligence of America and an indictment of the American government. Germany shows contempt for America's understanding by the explanation she gives of the decision to adopt tactics which violate the rights of neutrals."

FOUR BRITISH SHIPS SUNK BY KRONPRINZ

Boat Brings Crews, Passengers and Men of Highland Brae to Buenos Ayres.

Buenos Ayres, Feb. 18.—The German steamer Holger, which has arrived here, reports that in January and February the German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, operating on the northern coast of Brazil, sank four British merchant vessels, the steamers Hemisphaere and Potaro, and the sailing ships Sumatra and Wilfred.

V. C. FOR IRISHMAN, ARMY IN HIMSELF

London, Feb. 18.—Among the British officers and soldiers to whom the Victoria Cross was awarded today is one, Lance Corporal Michael Leary, of the Irish Guards, who, the official report says, "practically captured the enemy's position by himself and prevented the rest of the attacking army from being driven upon."

GERMAN SUBMARINES TO STREW MINES

Copenhagen, Feb. 18.—The Kaiser, with Prince Henry of Prussia and Admiral von Tirpitz, left Berlin today for Wilhelmshaven, Helgoland and other naval stations to direct the arrangements for the blockade of British waters.

ZEPPELINS TO AID SUBMARINE RAIDS

Amsterdam, Feb. 18.—It is learned authoritatively that Germany intends to use big mine-laying submarines for this purpose during the last six months. Every submarine is able to carry more than one hundred mines, which are placed on deck, so they can be discharged quickly. The weight of each mine is believed to be about 1,200 pounds.