

to his Cabinet to-morrow was a matter of wide conjecture to-night in official and diplomatic quarters. There was a noticeable confidence, however, that Germany has failed to settle in principle or fact the American point of view. The President would suggest a course following logically the strong expressions in the note of May 13. Some of those familiar with the position of high officials and the note to the United States would probably be very brief and would be dispatched by Thursday, certainly before the end of the present week.

The German government's request for an agreement on the facts as to whether the Lusitania was armed or unarmed and whether the vessel's owners violated American laws by carrying passengers on ships carrying munitions would be answered, it was said, with the statement that an official investigation showed the ship carried no guns, either the United States or federal statutes to carry small arms and ammunition on passenger ships.

Reiterating that the Lusitania, therefore, was a peaceful merchantman, entitled to a peaceful visit and the transfer of her passengers and crew to places of safety previous to any attempt to destroy any contraband of war aboard her, the United States is believed, will insist on a disclaimer of such acts and a guarantee that German submarine warfare will be conducted in the future along humane lines, protecting the lives and the safety of their lives and their ships on the high seas.

Proposals on the part of Germany to retract the argument with affidavits that it is in the possession of the German Embassy here to prove that the Lusitania carried guns will not be considered, in view of official knowledge here that the ship was unarmed. Moreover, the government is expected to point out that during the recent discussion the American steamer Nebraska has been torpedoed by a German submarine.

Gulflight Shows Danger. The admission of the German Admiralty, announced officially to-day in a report from Ambassador Gerard, that the commander of the submarine which torpedoed the Gulflight did not notice until after he had fired the torpedo was another circumstance to which it was thought probable the United States would refer in the second note to which American vessels were subjected by the reckless methods of German submarine commanders.

The conference between the President and Count von Bernstorff was arranged by the latter after a visit to Secretary Bryan. It is believed he wishes to improve the American attitude to everything possible to avoid a rupture in friendly relations between Germany and the United States. The ambassador has had much difficulty in communicating with his Foreign Office, as the cables are in possession of the Allies, and some of his friends state that his efforts to induce the German government to send a conciliatory answer to the note of May 13 failed largely on that account.

The embassy officials did not talk for publication, but there was direct communication between the American and German embassies here at the character of the German reply. Both ambassadors were understood to have endeavored to obtain a response that would satisfy both sides. The American note of May 13 might have been interpreted in Berlin as meaning a demand for the cessation of all submarine warfare against enemy ships, instead of, as the note was intended to convey, a suggestion for the modification of submarine activity so that non-combatants and neutrals would not be endangered. The attitude of the German Foreign Office, it was also hinted, might have been due to the domination of the German Admiralty and war staffs, because diplomats are not so powerful now as in the event of a deadlock over the note.

In further suggestion made by well informed diplomats was that the German government had become convinced of a fixed purpose of the United States to remain at peace, and eventually, if this impression had followed from the Washington government's passive attitude toward Mexico.

Seeks to Learn Attitude. There was a report current in diplomatic circles to-night that the ambassador wished to know the attitude of the German government do, and that Count von Bernstorff, moreover, might seek to learn what the position of the German government would be in reference to foodstuffs and shipments of conditional contraband if Germany were to be believed, to the United States. It is probably would seek to impress on the President the opportunity now presented for the United States to secure an adherence to international law by the Allies as a gradual stages to point the way to general peace. Count von Bernstorff is known to have told friends that through an agreement of a freedom of a free trade zone, the foundation stones for the restoration of peace in Europe would be laid.

From all quarters familiar with the German point of view, the attitude of Germany to continue the negotiations was apparent, the hope being that further exchanges would bring the two governments to closer understanding. In the event of a deadlock over the facts in the Lusitania case the suggestion of reference to the dispute to the Hague for arbitration has been mentioned frequently in German circles, but such a course would be unacceptable to the United States has been asserted by some of the advisers of President Wilson.

In the event of another unfavorable answer from Germany the severance of diplomatic relations by the United States is regarded by many as the natural step. Beyond that, however, the diplomats here indulged in little speculation so far.

GULFLIGHT ATTACK GERMAN 'MISTAKE'

Berlin Officially Admits Submarine Commander Thought It British Boat.

(From The Tribune Bureau.) Washington, May 31.—The German government officially admitted to-day that the attack on the American steamer Gulflight by a German submarine was a "mistake." This means that Germany will afford damages without first instituting a procedure action, as outlined in the German circular of May 11. The announcement of "mistake" was in a cable dispatch from an Ambassador Gerard at Berlin to the State Department, it is said.

"The American Ambassador at Berlin reports that the chief of the Admiralty staff, Admiral Behne, has informed him that the commander of the submarine which torpedoed the Gulflight did so through a mistake, because two boats similar to trawlers, one carrying wireless apparatus, were apparently conveying the Gulflight. The commander, therefore, did not notice the American flag on the stern until just after giving the order to fire."

The Gulflight was attacked in the English Channel on May 18, while bound from Port Arthur, Tex., for Rouen, France, with a cargo of oil. Two members of the crew were drowned while taking to the boats, and the captain died the following day from heart trouble brought on by his experience.

BERLIN WRITER SAYS REPLY IS NOT BACKDOWN

Perseus Declares Horror Over Lusitania Will Die Out.

GERMAN PAPERS HERE CALL NOTE FRIENDLY

"Opens Way to Further Discussion"—Insist United States Ought to Be Satisfied.

Berlin, May 31.—All the newspapers of Berlin publish to-day the German government's answer to the Washington communication on the Lusitania incident, but very few of them make any comment on it.

Captain Perseus, naval expert of the "Berliner Tageblatt," expresses thorough approval of the tone of Germany's reply to the United States. The reply, says Captain Perseus, while completely friendly, leaves no doubt of Germany's firm determination to continue her submarine warfare unless Great Britain returns to the principles of the London Declaration. He replies the American government on the defensive to answer for "the criminal, light-mindedness" which allowed its citizens to sail on a steamer carrying ammunition and exposed to the attacks of German submarines. The attempt to pass the responsibility on to Germany, the writer says, is an old device of those whose consciences are now shattered on their firm reply.

The writer says every clear thinking German will be pleased at the government's moderate language, because too brusque language toward any or all the neutral countries would scarcely be advisable in an era when Germany's enemies are going to every length to win their favor.

In conclusion Captain Perseus says: "Time will pass and the opportunity will be given for cooler consideration of the Lusitania case. The cries of horror over American women and children will die down, and I hope the views of peaceful neutral persons will prevail." The "Berliner Zeitung" prints a mild editorial article, reiterating that the responsibility for the loss of lives lies with those who "took on board passengers to use them to a certain extent as hostages against attack."

The "Jagaz Zeitung" publishes an extended comment from the pen of Count von Reventlow, its writer on naval affairs, who says that the German government's earlier assurances of willingness and good will will be erroneously taken to indicate preparations to give in, and will lead to "a more threaten" demand for obedience.

Submarine War to Go On. To those who expect signs of giving in on the part of the submarine boats, Count von Reventlow quotes from the war zone declaration of February 4 the phrase which warns vessels they are likely to be torpedoed, and he intimates that this will be enforced in the future as has been in the past.

The "Welt am Montag" says: "Soon after the torpedoing of the Lusitania the United States filed a complaint with Germany, that sounded almost threatening. More than that, the field agents of American diplomats won for themselves the title of 'shirt-sleeved diplomats.' Consequently, one judges the tone and the contents of the American note to be a warning, not a demand, as customary in Europe. The German government, therefore, has not become excited over the Washington note; on the contrary, it has replied in all calmness."

German Papers Here Call Note "Friendly" Comment from some of the German papers in the United States follows:

CHICAGO FREE PRESSE.—The German government goes further in its answer than our government in Washington could have expected. Despite the fact that the American government has demanded that the Lusitania be treated as a victim of a German torpedo and that such proof might well be demanded under international law, Germany agreed to demand proof, and to accept the demand in full. This is a fact which alone ought to prove that Germany is in the highest degree concerned in maintaining friendly relations with our republic, although she has long received anything but proof of such neutral friendship.

CINCINNATI FREE PRESSE.—The German note is a curious one and the hand of its author does not say that the American position is untenable. It merely demands that the facts of the case be first established. It takes the good old American view that the complainant must bring forth the evidence of the guilt of the accused.

MILWAUKEE GERMAN HERALD.—The German note is a friendly and friendly manner, there seems to be absolutely no cause for serious differences between the two countries.

"All to Be Expected." CHICAGO ABENDPOST.—The American note really was an indictment based solely upon British and pro-British testimony, and asked of Germany that she should be satisfied with that, without further ado. In view of this, the German note is all that was to be expected.

INDIANAPOLIS DAILY TELEGRAM.—The German note is a friendly and friendly manner, there seems to be absolutely no cause for serious differences between the two countries.

ST. LOUIS WESTLICH POST.—The President has the right, after careful reflection, to dismiss the grounds submitted to him for a rehearing, but first he must accord them his most respectful attention, and, if he finds things, must not regard it as an insult that a nation, striving for its very being, seeks to justify its methods of warfare. We believe that the call of the American public, to whom the call of the German public is sacred, expect toward Germany neither sympathy nor generosity, only justice.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL.—The German preliminary reply is meant to open the way to further discussion. It is a fair inference from the contentions as to the character of the Lusitania that there is no intention of pursuing such attacks on passenger liners that confine themselves to their proper business of carrying passengers.

OFFICIAL DEFENDER OF SUBMARINE WAR.



Gottlieb von Jagow, the Kaiser's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to whom has fallen the task of defending the German submarine war, is a young man, so far as diplomacy goes. He has been at the head of the Foreign Office since 1913, previously for four years.

"QUIBBLE" AND "INSULT" U. S. PRESS CALLS NOTE

Continued from page 1

zens cannot legitimately be construed as contingent upon a readjustment of war conditions to meet the necessities of Germany.

PITTSBURGH DISPATCH.—The points raised may seem trifling compared to the main issue set forth in the "Brower Zeitung," but can we, as consistent advocates of the arbitration of international questions, deny the further consideration which Germany asks?

BALTIMORE AMERICAN.—The German note is but a reiteration of propositions concerning which the American attitude has been stated definitely and with a finality of conclusion from which there is no retreating.

"Note Is a Quibble." LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL.—The German answer to the American note is a quibble. The time is at hand when the President must meet the demands of his countrymen that nothing must happen to trail our majesty before any other majesty and that the United States shall lay down to belligerents certain rights and laws of neutrality which they shall be required to obey, if need be, by all the force we are able to put in the field.

ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT.—No more yielding a reply could have been written with proper regard for diplomatic amenities.

CHICAGO JOURNAL.—The claim that the Lusitania was an armed vessel is an insult to the United States and a merchantman, but the request for an investigation of circumstances already known to the civilized world is as shifty as its insinuation.

OMAHA BEE.—The diplomats of Wilhelmstrasse must have known the note would not be satisfactory. Further correspondence may serve to relieve a situation that just now seems serious.

INDIANAPOLIS STAR.—Level-headed Americans will await the progress of the investigation, but they will not be satisfied until they have received any facts or information to justify its assumption that the Lusitania was armed or carried explosives it should be permitted to offer them.

DES MOINES TRIBUNE.—If the German contention is right the situation is very different than it would be if the English contention is sustained that the Lusitania was engaged in strictly lawful commerce. In any event, there should be a careful and painstaking determination of the exact status of the Lusitania.

SKILLFUL PROCRUSTINATION. FRESNO (CAL.) REPUBLICAN.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's note is most oriental in its skillful procrustination. It is now for President Wilson to insist on a definite answer.

CHARLESTON EVENING POST.—The German reply to the American note is a polite and almost friendly notification to the United States that if the contention made by Mr. Wilson's recent note is put in the form of a demand the answer will be an emphatic negative.

"United States Will Back Wilson." MOBILE (ALA.) ITEM.—Uncle Sam is a plain, blunt citizen who knows little and cares less about evasive diplomacy. If Herr Jagow's note is a feeling or Germany will not remain long in ignorance that the whole American people are behind President Wilson.

KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR.—There is nothing in the German note to alter the position of the United States as set forth in President Wilson's communication of May 13. This government would fall in its duty to its citizens and to the cause of humanity if it did not stand by the terms of its great protest.

HATTANOOGA (TENN.) NEWS.—The situation is by no means easy to adjust, but we cannot see in it any ground for apprehension that there will be more than a war of words.

MINNEAPOLIS (MINN.) JOURNAL.—The German note is a quibble, an

BRITISH EXPECT WILSON TO INSIST ON HIS DEMANDS

Whole German Case Is Considered to Be Fallacious.

PRESS SEES NOTE AS EFFRONTERY

Declares Ammunition Argument Is Answered by Attack on Megantic.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, May 31.—The crisis between America and Germany has become ascendant and to-day stands above all other war problems. Many believe that America will almost certainly engage in the war. Germany's response is generally considered wholly unsatisfactory, as not giving an adequate reply to America's specified demands.

"America's course is being watched with the most intense interest. It is believed that even should America now go no further than the severance of diplomatic relations, it will be only a short time before there are further outrages affecting Americans, just as the Lusitania sinking did. Germany's recent actions, as well as the note she now sends, indicate an inclination toward the cessation of the submarine war, but modifications which would bring protection to neutrals.

To-day the news is published of the sinking of the steamer Dixiana, which, while under British registry, is said to be owned by the Strathan Steamship Company, of Savannah. Several members of the Dixiana's crew were Americans.

It was confirmed in official circles to-day that a submarine chased the outward bound Megantic, on which there were several American passengers. Lieutenant Commander McBride, non-combatant, is tonight returning from the Nebraska, which has been drownded. It is understood that the evidence still is all against the ship is about thirty feet from the bow and its centre is about fifteen feet below the water line. Recent experiments have shown that ships will not contact with floating mines unless they hit them with the stem; otherwise the wash of the ship sweeps the mine outward.

The mine must come back in, but if so it would strike well aft and not in front of where the Nebraska was injured.

Will Insist on Guarantees. Germany's claims that the Lusitania was armed are denied absolutely here. It is stated she was unarmed; nor did she carry Canadian troops. Germany's whole case is considered fallacious, and it is not generally anticipated that the American government will be swayed from its original demands for the guarantee of the safety of American lives.

In response to Germany's suggestions that England is responsible for the sinking of the Lusitania, it has been time and again, that Germany started it. It is declared that the facts show that British reprisals establishing a blockade against Germany only brought about the German inception of submarine warfare.

The comment of a dozen American papers condemning the German note is published in the evening papers, mostly under the heading "The Lusitania," and is scattered throughout the streets here such notices as "A Grave Crisis," "America versus Germany," and "German Deliance of America."

"The Manchester Guardian" says: "The prospect of a prolonged war will last, but it is clear, if Germany has her way, that its end will find the negotiations with the United States over the submarine 'blockade' still doggedly being interminable length."

"The German note does not even reply directly to the American request that such actions as the sinking of the Lusitania should be discontinued. The note actually has the effrontery to add that the passengers probably would have been saved had it not been for the explosion of ammunition which, it is stated, was carried by the Lusitania, as though the submarine had torpedoed the ship without intending actually to sink her.

Controversy Over Details. "Almost as offensive is the suggestion that before the submarine can be condemned for not having given the crew and passengers time to escape it should be allowed to fire its guns, and to be equipped with lifesaving apparatus, as ordered by the Titanic conference.

In a word, the United States is offered the prospect of a prolonged controversy over points of detail, but no discovery of what has been done, or acceptance of the principles of naval warfare which she assumed Germany would be anxious to uphold, and another word to the same effect of mind or policy. The submarine was to be pursued as before, and American ships and citizens may take the risks."

No Argument for Frighthfulness. "The Pall Mall Gazette" says: "If the slaughter of the Lusitania's passengers is to be defended by the assertion that the vessel was carrying ammunition, it is a very poor argument. The Megantic was outward bound from Liverpool, and certainly she was not carrying warlike supplies in that direction. She escaped because of her superior speed, and not because of any German qualms about sinking an innocent passenger ship.

The German reply to the American message is exactly what was expected. It avoids any direct answer to the specific questions asked by the United States. The German government, in short, seeks to gain time."

New Form of Diplomacy. "The Evening Standard" says: "Germany has discovered a new form of diplomacy. This consists of glaring misstatements, so readily capable of being disproved as scarcely to be worth the trouble of refutation. The note to the United States is a masterpiece of this kind. The German government had guns concealed under her deck and carried trained gunners. Apart from other evidence to the contrary, President Wilson is not likely to accept this in fact, but the statement of the Collector of the Port of

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NEW YORK EDITORS DISAGREE ON NOTE

"Defiant," Says "World"; "Joke," "Herald's" View; "Sun" Mildly Condemns.

GERMAN WRITERS ATTACK AMERICA

Ridder Calls Neutrality Hypocrisy, While Viereck Asserts We Poison Shells.

Editorial opinion of the leading New York papers this morning points out definitely that Germany's note is tempering and weak, and that the United States should immediately take a decisive stand.

Never was there a period when public opinion in this country was better under control, comments the "Herald." It believes Germany is taking the present crisis as a great joke. On the other hand, "The Sun" believes American public opinion should wait for an investigation which would prove whether the Lusitania was a hostile ship.

"The New York American" urges an international conference, so that to no single nation be left the duty and the honor of defending human rights. "The World" says that the note is distinctly one of defiance, and should be treated by this country as such.

The editorial extracts follow: "The American": "We urge that the United States Government secure, through an international conference, or otherwise, the agreement of all neutral nations upon a definite code of neutral rights. Not merely the right involved in this issue with Germany, but the right of neutrals to trade with belligerents without vexatious delays, and, further, the explicit definition of contraband should be affirmed. With this code once explicitly defined, there should follow the agreement of all to defend it as a unit in any way necessary against any infringement of the code by any nation whatsoever. The rights to be defended will be the rights of peaceful humanity, and to no single nation should be left the duty and the honor of defending human rights."

"The Herald": "German statecraft since last July has been smitten with some terrible malady. It may be the obsession of 'Deutschland ueber Alles.' It may be the paralysis of one set of brain cells which we may know to the contrary, but as it may, moral blindness has come in the treatment of the Lusitania case.

"Germany cannot conceive that this country regards her exploits in the submarine fields as murderous piracy and mistakes the polite terms of the note of May 13 as merely a friendly interchange. Her hands are dripping with American blood, and yet it is coolly proposed from Berlin that we shall talk about it as if it were a question of joint control of the Samoan Islands or the percentage of chemicals which we should allow in imported fertilizer.

"There never was a period when public opinion in this country was so strong nor a time when it was under better control. The sense of a great wrong which is general has been greatly intensified by the opera bouffe tone in the note from Berlin."

"The Sun": "The preliminary reply of the German government is based on its alleged knowledge that the Lusitania was not of the class of non-combatant vessels described by the italicized word in the American note. Now, it is a fact that whatever we may know to the contrary, whatever evidence we may have in the statements of Collector Malone and other witnesses that the Lusitania carried no cannon, that evidence is not yet, except by hearsay, in the possession of Germany. If she has knowledge or belief to the contrary, the right is certainly hers, as the defendant in the case of a specific charge, to call for the proof that the Lusitania was really unarmed. It is not a matter of 'the world'; 'The United States has

BRITISH SHIP LOSS, 130; SUBMARINES SINK 62

London, May 31.—An Admiralty statement giving the number of British merchant and fishing vessels sunk or captured since the beginning of the war shows that fifty-six merchant ships have been sent to the bottom by cruisers of the enemy, twelve by mines and sixty-two by submarines, a total of 130.

Eighty-three fishing craft have been lost, and of these twenty-four were sunk by mines. Since the submarine attacks began on merchant shipping, January 27, the merchant vessels sunk by them number fifty-nine and the fishing craft thirty-one.

Looking at these losses from the standpoint of tonnage, it is seen that since the war began Great Britain has lost 458,065 tons in merchant shipping and 13,355 tons in fishing craft.

fulfilled all its duties under international law. The German government says its own citizens cannot be subject to the customary regulations of the prize law. The customary regulations of the prize law contain everything for which the United States is contending. Germany cannot recognize them, she cannot recognize anything so far as we are concerned. There is no ground of mediation between law and anarchy.

"The answer of an outlaw who assumes no obligations toward society, but expects society to recognize obligations toward him. There can be no diplomatic negotiations on such terms. The German note is not final, but on this issue President Wilson's reply should be final. The United States cannot barter, as with bandits, for the lives of its citizens."

"The spirits of the men who fought and died under Sigel and Schurz for the maintenance of the Schurz union can feel but slightly honored when the same hand that places wreaths above their dust to-day, tomorrow turns again to make its England's chestnuts out of the bodies of their kinsmen on the other side of the Atlantic. We weep over the dead of one war. To-morrow we busy ourselves filling graves for other wars. Wherein are we logical, or consistent or humane?"

"The war of the states was prolonged at least two years by the malignant activities of Great Britain, Germany placing into the hands of Great Britain, to whom we owe nothing but hundreds of thousands of dead graves we decorate to-day, the means of filling hundreds of thousands of graves in the future. It is not, it is hypocrisy, superimposed upon greed for gold. Without the loyalty of the German-Americans who fought under the Stars and Stripes from 1861 to 1865 we should not be here to-day. Great Britain would have had her own divided sovereignty south of Canada, both sections of which she could control without fear and without much trouble."

"The German answer to the highly pleasurable friendship between Germany and the United States to continue without interruption," said George Spies, ter Viereck, editor of "The Fatherland," last night.

"In spite of heavy provocation on the part of the United States," he continued, "Germany has kept her temper. Not content with furnishing the implements of murder to Germany's enemies, we actually asked Germany to commit suicide. A modification of submarine warfare, as suggested in Mr. Bryan's note, would be tantamount to self-destruction on Germany's part."

"It may be said we were actuated by no selfish motive, for our action was not merely in the interest of the United States, but in the interest of humanity, while its manufacturers poison shrapnel and pierce and add, and as many thousands of German lives as the legend, 'Made in America.'"