

Conquering the Forest Fire Demon. What the Government is doing to preserve the great timber areas of the West. Fighting fire in the national forest reserves. IN THE SUN next Sunday.

THE SUN



THE WEEKLY FORECAST. Fair and somewhat warm today; fair. Highest temperature, 72; lowest, 61. Detailed weather, reports on page 13.

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

PRESIDENT IS STRONGER THAN HIS OWN PARTY

His International Policy Helps Him Throughout the Country.

HE IS WEAKEST IN THE EASTERN STATES

Business Conditions and Mexican Problem Are His Adverse Factors.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—President Wilson is much stronger politically with the people of the United States than is his party. He is stronger than he was six months ago, due generally to his treatment of the European situation, particularly the Lusitania incident.

Whether or not this popularity is of a kind that can be turned to political account in the election in 1916 is uncertain, depending largely upon future developments in the foreign relations of the United States. The President's economic and domestic policies and his Mexican record are unpopular.

These conclusions are based upon letters received in response to inquiries sent out by THE SUN'S Washington bureau to more than 500 political friends and acquaintances throughout the country.

It was a feature of the canvass conducted by THE SUN'S bureau to ascertain Presidential preferences, the political situation and business conditions. These inquiries were sent to all classes of people for the purpose of getting varied points of view and to men of all shades of political belief.

Full and Frank Replies.

Some of them were Senators and Representatives, others formerly prominent in national or State politics. Several Senators were asked for opinions on the situation in their localities and they replied fully and frankly. Bankers, heads of commercial exchanges, county seat lawyers, county editors, as well as editors of large magazines and farm weeklies, are included in the list of correspondents who generously responded to THE SUN'S inquiries with the understanding that their names were not to be used.

THE SUN told this morning of the drift among Republican leaders toward ex-Senator Ethus Root, with Senator Weeks or ex-Senator Burton as second choice, for the nomination in 1916. Here are given the results of THE SUN'S inquiries as to President Wilson's popularity.

In the 500 letters sent out were these questions: "Is President Wilson strong with the people or weak, and if he is weak, what are the causes?" "Is the business situation improving?" "Do the people generally believe that the President is doing better than he has done in the past?" "Do you believe that the President is doing better than he has done in the past?"

In many localities the Republicans say frankly that unless a proper choice is made a candidate against him the President will succeed. It is evident that if anything like a strong revival of business should occur he would be very fortunate. It is indicated also that Mr. Bryan's retirement from the Cabinet has not injured the President politically, but on the contrary has helped him.

Some of the Replies.

A progressive Republican Congressman who has been speaking in the State of North Dakota writes to THE SUN as follows:

"Wilson is very strong out here. The farmers are prosperous, the price of wheat is high, prospects for a good crop are bright and President Wilson's conduct has been faultless. Germany has been humiliated very greatly."

A conservative Republican and a friend of Senator La Follette writes to THE SUN as follows:

"President Wilson is very strong in Wisconsin, but the continued depression in business is likely to weaken him as a candidate at the polls."

A Democratic leader in southern California, but a man whose judgment is highly good, writes:

"President Wilson undoubtedly would lose this State against any opponent. He would draw heavily from both Progressives and Republicans. The business situation is unusual because of the two seasons being held in the State this year. Trade conditions, the result of the European war, are already slowly changing and are about the same as they have been for some months past. Many cities are unfavorably affected. Many Eastern travel to the exhibitions here in the State have been considerably off. The general unfavorable condition of trade."

A Republican editor in central Indiana writes:

ASKS ENGLAND TO BUY ALL OUR EXPORT COTTON

Sir Henry Dalziel Proposes in House of Commons Expenditure of \$150,000,000 for Purchase of the Entire Supply Available Here.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, July 12.—Sir Henry Dalziel suggested in the House of Commons today that Great Britain buy up the entire American cotton crop available for exportation. He estimated that 13,000,000 bales (\$150,000,000) would be required to make the purchase. The suggestion was made in the course of a debate on the cotton contraband question.

Lord Robert Cecil, speaking in response to Sir Henry Dalziel, said the question undoubtedly was one of great importance and was causing grave international differences. He pointed out that not only are Great Britain and Germany faced with the cotton problem but also such great producing countries as America and other neutral countries, which consume as well as raise large quantities.

It will therefore be necessary, he said, to devise a policy which will respect the rights of neutral countries and at the same time safeguard the legitimate interests of Great Britain and prevent cotton from being imported into Germany.

He declared, however, that he doubted whether it would be reaching Germany and said that the Government is now acting on a plan which it believes will prove reasonably and substantially effective.

Ready for Better Scheme.

"If it should turn out that we are unable to reach a country that could possibly transship it to Germany, but that he did not believe such a request could have been made seriously, as it was quite indefensible from his point of view."

He concluded by saying that the Government had been asked to see that no cotton goes to a country that could possibly transship it to Germany, but that he did not believe such a request could have been made seriously, as it was quite indefensible from his point of view.

Such a measure would make it necessary for the Government to prevent the importation of cotton into Sweden, Norway and Denmark, which would of necessity be a most serious infringement of the rights of these countries as neutrals.

The speaker said that any plan to purchase from America the normal supply of cotton taken by Germany and Austria would be doomed to failure because there would be nothing to prevent the exportation of the home supply at the tempting prices which undoubtedly would be offered. He thought that it might be possible to permit neutral countries adjacent to Germany to receive a stipulated amount of cotton which would be just enough for their own needs and no more, but added that such a scheme would involve endless complications, while to attempt to purchase America's entire export cotton crop would be a very serious financial undertaking.

Lord Robert then explained that the Government had made an agreement with the Netherlands Overseas Trust in Holland by which no cotton is allowed to go to Holland that is not consigned to that trust, the trust undertaking to guarantee that no part of the shipments reaches Germany.

Agreement Covers Entire Supply.

Other members interrupted at this point to say that this agreement applied only to cotton exports from this country, but Lord Cecil insisted that the agreement referred to all cotton going to Holland.

Under the terms of our proclamation.

Under the terms of our proclamation, the President is stronger than his party. He is stronger than he was six months ago, due generally to his treatment of the European situation, particularly the Lusitania incident.

Where Wilson is Strong.

In the agricultural communities the President is stronger than his party. He is very strong in the States of Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and California. In New England and the East generally the President, who is admired for his stand on the European situation, is less popular. The business depression seems still to be lingering in the minds of the voters in these sections of the country. The same is true in a lesser degree in the middle West.

Throughout the replies sent to THE SUN tonight, the suggestion that the President is stronger than his party, that he is held in high personal esteem by all classes and that he has increased his popularity by recent international policies.

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PLANS AFOOT TO OUST MR. ASQUITH

Friends of Lloyd George Think Time is Ripe to Urge Him for Premiership.

MOVES THINLY VEILED

Sir Henry Dalziel's Attack on Ordnance Chief First Open Attack.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, July 12.—Prime Minister Asquith in the House of Commons tonight had to listen to an avalanche of questions from every part of the House, answers to which would have explained every political charge, scandal and intrigue, voiced publicly or privately, in England in the last two months.

The shortage of munitions, neglect to have a Minister of Munitions ten months ago, the charges against Major-General von Donop, chief of the Ordnance Department, and hints of other matters were included in the questions which descended upon him, but to all of these the chief of the Coalition Cabinet returned a steady refusal.

It would be hard to say the growing opinion that there is a movement well backed to force Mr. Asquith out of the Premiership and have him succeeded by Mr. Lloyd George. There is no announced leader in this movement, but it is in the air, and in this recent Haldane-Lloyd George controversy only adds to the strength of the belief.

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Open Admission Seen.

That the army has not adequately been supplied was openly admitted in the appointment of Lloyd George in the coalition Government as Minister of Munitions, whose duty it is to rectify past faults.

Mr. Lloyd George himself in every speech admits this and only says that he is not to be blamed for the late Government's failure to supply the army with the munitions which it needs for the war.

It is, however, simple, obvious, not discussed and not discussable that England is ten months late in realizing the need for munitions in the way of supplying her troops at the front with what would enable them to push victoriously forward, except as regards the munitions and medical care, all of which are beyond question unsurpassed.

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EDISON HEADS NAVY BOARD OF ADVISORS

Accepts Secretary Daniels' Invitation to Prepare Country's Defences.

OTHER NOTED MEN TO AID

Way to Fight Submarine Peril Will Be Sought—Inventor Approves Plan.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Relations of the United States with Germany are in a grave but not critical situation. A note in rejoinder to Germany will be sent, but probably not for some time, at least not for a fortnight.

These are the views of President Wilson, which THE SUN correspondent is able to state upon high authority. There is nothing in Germany's reply to this Government's protests against her submarine warfare that makes imminent a breach of diplomatic relations or more serious results.

The President feels that the Administration must proceed slowly and carefully. He does not believe any crisis in United States relations with Germany is present or imminent.

President Wilson received by mail from the State Department a copy of the official text of the last German note to-day. He spent the entire afternoon in studying it, instead of taking his usual afternoon automobile ride. He read and reread the German reply several times.

Asks Lansing for His Views.

A step taken to-day by the President toward this Government's response was a request sent to Secretary Lansing to prepare for the President's guidance a memorandum of his (Lansing's) views regarding what course shall be adopted and also a full statement of international law precedents governing the situation. The President was advised that Mr. Lansing has begun work upon the memorandum.

The President also decided that it will not be necessary for Mr. Lansing to come here. This decision is open to change, but unless unforeseen circumstances arise the Cabinet premier's proposed trip here is definitely abandoned.

Further delay in returning to Washington was also decided upon by the President. It seems probable that the President will not leave here before the latter part of this week or the first of next week, but almost certainly in time to meet his Cabinet on Tuesday of next week for the consideration of what course of action the United States shall

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U. S. Reply to Germany in About a Fortnight

President Asks Lansing to Prepare a Memorandum—Sees No Crisis.

FALSE REPORT OF ATTACK ON WILSON

WASHINGTON, July 12.—It is understood here that there is a rumor current that President Wilson has been attacked at Cornish. THE SUN correspondent is authorized to state that the report is without any foundation.

No orders have yet been sent for the President's private car to come north for the trip home.

It was learned that the President never read the unofficial text of the German note as published in the newspapers. He has, in fact, been reading very few newspapers while here, except editorials collected and forwarded from the White House.

Much interest was manifested to-day by the President in the many newspaper clippings and a few telegrams received. Among the latter was one from a German American society requesting that the shipment of contraband be stopped.

No Conclusion Formed.

During his study of the note this afternoon the President read certain phrases and paragraphs aloud and made notes. He was engrossed during the afternoon in the consideration of the one question of the reply to be made. It can be stated, however, that the President has as yet formed no definite conclusions and that none will be formed until after he consults his Cabinet and other officials at Washington. Meantime the President is maintaining his position of refusing comment.

Col. E. M. House, it is learned, is being consulted by the President in the situation. They are yet no plans, however, for a personal conference.

The President is maintaining a calm attitude. If he is worried over the situation he does not show it. This morning he played the best game of golf since he came north. He made the eighteen holes in about 90 strokes and overwhelmingly defeated Dr. Grayson.

Mr. Wilson has not sent any communication to be delivered to the German Ambassador by Secretary Lansing. It was stated to-night that such a step would be impossible, as the President has formed no conclusions and therefore could not give the Ambassador any idea of this Government's probable course.

It became known today that the President will get a series of formal opinions as to what measures should be adopted in the event that Germany commits further attacks on American lives.

While no word has come to any one here of what is in the President's mind, it has become pretty generally established that the President is prepared to do it, to continue the discussion with Germany without definite loss of prestige and that the note about to be considered must have a certain tone of quality.

Before such a note is despatched, however, it is considered imperative that a definite decision be reached as to what the Government is prepared to do in the event that Germany further violates those American rights for which the President has contended.

The President's attitude toward the German issue has been pointed out in these dispatches, without any decision being made as to what would be done with the German Ambassador. The President's attitude is, however, favorable result of the negotiations. Officials feel that this decision cannot wisely be delayed longer.

It is generally admitted, even in high official quarters, that the President is confronted with a grave dilemma.

The Country's Demands.

As public opinion has been interpreted here in the last three days it is believed the country is demanding two things:

1. The maintenance of the strong stand taken by the United States on the Lusitania case and the German practice of attacking American ships, but also—

2. Keep the United States out of any conflict with Germany.

A study of editorial expressions has convinced us that these two demands on the part of the newspaper commentators define the limits within which the Administration's course must be laid in writing the next note to Germany.

That these two desires on the part of the country are somewhat paradoxical is the opinion of the President's advisers. They would not over-night the condemnation of those who have been praising him so highly for defending American rights abroad.

On the other hand, it is felt by officials here that the country is not prepared at this stage of the controversy to engage readily and enthusiastically in a stronger course involving the risk of war with Germany.

The political experts in the Administration feel that were the President now to concede to a break with Germany, he would incur over-night the condemnation of those who have been praising him so highly for defending American rights abroad.

ROUNDOFF TO PRESIDENT ON THE NOTE

Wilson Will Get a Series of Opinions on What He Should Do.

HE AND LANSING WILL CONFER FIRST

After That the Problem Will Be Threshed Out in Council.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Officers of the State Department and others are now engaged in drafting memoranda for the use of the President in reaching a decision on the German crisis. These will include not only a discussion of the legal aspects of the submarine issue in its present status, but also recommendations as to policy.

This procedure indicates the deliberateness with which the President and his chief advisers have decided to approach the grave situation which the unresponsive German note has created. There is going to be no haste in arriving at a decision, and consideration of the action to be taken will cover every possible contingency.

A conference between the President and Secretary Lansing will be the first step toward an actual decision as to the course of this Government. The conference probably will not take place before the latter part of the week.

The President and Mr. Lansing are much alike in their mental processes, in one respect at least, both seeking a considerable period for undisturbed reflection as a preliminary to exchanging views with others. In the present instance both feel it would be wiser to defer their conference until each has had opportunity to arrive at his own conclusions independently.

Consequently, whether Mr. Lansing will go to Cornish or not will depend upon whether the President prefers to have the meeting in Washington, where he can also confer with his cabinet, or whether he would rather see Mr. Lansing first and defer discussion with his other advisers until next week.

Will Get Advice.

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NEW U. S. SHIPS TO BAFFLE TORPEDOES

Besides Protective Nets the War Vessels Will Have Special Construction.

NEW YORK AND NEWPORT NEWS COMPANIES GRATIFY DANIELS BY NEW MOVE.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—All American warships soon will be equipped with nets for protection against submarine attack. In addition important changes are to be made in the design of American ships of war with a view to providing a more successful safeguard against torpedo attack.

While Navy Department officials decline to discuss details it is believed that the battleships built hereafter will have more compartments.

There is good reason to believe that another important change has been decided upon as a result of studies conducted by Admiral Benson, Chief of Operations, Admiral Fletcher and other officers of the navy. This change involves the addition to every ship of an extra bottom, a plan, it is understood, which has been followed by Great Britain, Germany and other first class naval powers.

Some of the vessels of the navy are equipped with the wire nets that are believed to afford a measurable degree of safety against submarine attack. The fact that all ships of the navy are to be equipped with such nets in the near future was made known to-day by the Secretary of the Navy.

This net, when released for protection, materially retards speed. When not in use it may be drawn tightly to the sides of a ship, thus permitting the vessel to make its full speed. Nearly all the war vessels of other Powers are equipped with torpedo nets.

Chief of Operations Benson is conducting with other naval officials extensive studies with a view of making changes in the design of warships. Lessons taught by the war in Europe prompted this course.

Officials decline to indicate what lines Admiral Benson and his associates are proceeding. They admit, however, that lessons taught by the war point to the necessity for changes in design and the adoption of equipment that will more successfully safeguard dreadnaughts against submarine attack.

Admiral Benson has just returned from Newport, R. I., where on Saturday he had a long conference with Admiral Fletcher of the Atlantic fleet and officers stationed at the Navy War College. It is known that fleet operations as well as organization and the subject of ship designing were under consideration.

After his arrival in the city to-day Admiral Benson had a talk with Secretary Daniels. Despite the refusal of officials to comment on the Newport conference there is reason to believe that strategic plans as well as questions affecting the subject of submarine

warfare were discussed.

Several weeks ago the Secretary of the Navy organized an advisory council composed of himself, the Assistant Secretary, the Chief of Operations and the bureau officers. This is the military body of the navy and its plans will be put into effect by direction of Admiral Benson, the Chief of Operations.

That Admiral Benson communicated to Admiral Fletcher certain plans which will be tried out in practice in the coming war games is known, although Secretary Daniels declines to answer questions on the subject.

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